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WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 35.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

January 8th, 1901.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The West India Committee Circular will in future be published fortnightly, as far as circumstances permit. The Committee hope by this means that it will become more generally useful, and that Members, by introducing fresh subscribers, will support them in this new departure. Members are reminded that subscriptions to the Committee were due on January 1st. With a view to facilitating the work of the Honorary Treasurers, it is hoped that gentlemen will remit to the Secretary the amount of their subscription for the current year at their earliest possible convenience. Cheques should be made payable to order, and crossed "Messrs. Prescott, Dimsdale & Co."

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

We have nothing further to report as to the possibility of a re-assembling of the Conference. We learn that there is no truth in the statement made recently in a leading Austrian paper, that invitations had actually been sent out to an International Conference. Signs of opposition are not wanting in the French Chamber, but on the other hand it appears that French Economists are bestirring themselves in favour of the abolition of Bounties.

THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

It will interest our friends in the West Indies to hear that among the recipients of Birthday Honours is Mr. Charles Prestwood Lucas, upon whom the Queen has conferred a C.B. Mr. Lucas, who as Assistant Under Secretary of State, is head of the West Indian Department at the Colonial Office, is well known as the author of the Historical Geography of the British Colonies and has for many years had the welfare of the West Indies at heart.

GRASSHOPPER PEST IN ST. KITTS.

Our attention having been called to the damage caused to growing crops in St. Kitts by grasshoppers which—possibly owing to the throwing out of cultivation of some estates—have become so numerous that children have to be employed to catch them at so much per hundred, we addressed a letter to Mr. Chamberlain on 22nd of November last on this subject. We pointed out that in Rhodesia an attempt was being made to stamp out a similar pest by the introduction of the English starling, which has already proved of inestimable value in New Zealand as a relentless enemy of the locust, as well as being most serviceable in dealing with ticks and other insects, and that though it would doubtless be impossible to acclimatize the English starling in a tropical country, the "Myna" or Indian starling of the plains might be of service in this connection as being more likely to stand the climate than the English bird, and we asked Mr. Chamberlain to consider the advisability of addressing an enquiry to the India Office as to the habits of this bird with a view to finding out whether it would be suitable for the required purpose. Our letter was referred by Mr. Chamberlain to the India Office and the Zoological Society, and we have since received copies of their replies. Lord George Hamilton enquired how many pairs of Mynas should be despatched from Calcutta to St. Kitts and to what authority the birds should be sent, and forwarded a letter from Mr. E. W. Oates, author of the "Birds of India," now being published by the India Office, giving advice as to the species of Mynas that would probably answer in the West Indies as insect destroyers. In this letter Mr. Oates states that there are certain Mynas which are extremely common, easily caught, hardy, and living almost entirely on ground insects, such as locusts and grasshoppers. He then mentions four species—the Black-headed Myna, the Common Myna, the Black Myna, and the Pied Myna, which, "if they

did not clear the country of grasshoppers, would do much towards it." In Mr. Oates' opinion they would stand the voyage well and would thrive in any tropical part of the world, while the experiment would not cost much. The Zoological Society sounds a note of warning, pointing out that as a general rule naturalists are opposed to advising the introduction of animals from foreign parts into other countries because they disturb the "balance of nature" as shown by the rabbit pest in Australia and New Zealand and the "English Sparrow Plague" in North America. Mr. Sclater, the Secretary, adds, however, that there may be exceptions to this rule, and refers to the successful introduction of the Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) into Bourbon and Mauritius, where it still exists, to the great benefit of the Agriculturists in those Islands on account of its destroying the grasshoppers. Mr. Sclater recommends that before taking any practical steps in this matter advice should be sought from the Colonial Authorities of Mauritius and the Board of Agriculture of the United States, which is under the control of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, who has had great experience with locusts and grasshoppers. To these authorities Mr. Chamberlain has accordingly caused enquiries to be addressed.

PRAEDIAL LARCENY.

A circular letter was sent on November 27th last to all Honorary Correspondents urging that united action should be taken by the West Indian Colonies through the medium of the West India Committee, to remedy the evil of Praedial Larceny, which has continued unchecked for so many years in the West Indies to the detriment of all classes of the community. It was suggested that the Colonial Office should be called upon to cause an enquiry to be instituted with a view to devising a means of putting a stop to this wide-spread evil. Satisfactory replies have now been received from most Islands, but for any effective action co-operation is essential, and we sincerely hope that those Colonies which have not yet done so will give our letter their consideration not only in their own interests but in the interests of the neighbouring Islands.

RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA.

Over 100 Cocoa Merchants, Proprietors and Attorneys in Trinidad have signed a Memorial to their new Governor, Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., against negotiations being entered into for a reciprocal trade arrangement with Canada. This influential memorial, in conjunction with that already sent in by the Sugar Planting Community, plainly shows how strong the feeling in the Island is against any proposals for Reciprocity with Canada being entertained at the present time.

DEMERARA SUGAR.

As there appears to be some misconception as to the effect of the use of "Bloomer" in the manufacture of Demerara Sugar, we take this opportunity of republishing the following letters from Dr. Thomas Stevenson, F.R.C.P., F.C.S., which embody the result of certain experiments as to its effect on dogs, which he conducted in the year 1882. "Bloomer," it will be remembered, is used to fix the natural colouring matter imparted to the sugar by the fine layer of molasses which remains adherent to the otherwise white crystals, and which is affected by the use of lime. This molasses has a very distinct and agreeable flavour, and it is due to this flavour that "Demerara" sugar has become so generally popular. On February 10th, 1882, Dr. Stevenson wrote as follows:—

Guy's Hospital, London, S.E., February 10th, 1882.

"DEAR SIR,

"I have to report for the information of Mr. Lubbock and Mr. Hogg that on the 23rd December 1881, I received from them a sack full of sugar, stated to have been made by the 'Bloomer' process.

"This sugar contained tin, but was free from lead. It contained a very minute trace of copper, not more than is commonly present in vegetable products. The quantity of tin present was .0036% tin, or .255 grains per lb. This quantity is in accordance with the amount I have previously met with in Bloomer Sugar.

"Two full grown dogs were chosen, and on December 28th they began to feed upon the sugar which was supplied to them with their ordinary food. In fifteen days, viz., on January 12th, 1882, one dog was so ill with what was believed to be distemper that it was obliged to be destroyed. Its illness had, I believe, no connection with the sugar, as this dog had not eaten so freely as the other dog (which remained healthy) of the sugar.

"Up to this date, January 12th, the dogs had consumed about 15 lbs. of sugar, or 7½ lbs. per dog. The second dog was still fed on the sugar, which he took freely and became fat. To-day he was apparently in vigorous health. He had then consumed a further quantity of 14 lbs. of sugar, say at least 22 lbs. altogether in 44 days, or 8 ozs. per day. I had him killed.

"The viscera of both dogs were quite healthy in appearance. No lesion whatever was discoverable. The second dog has enjoyed throughout perfect health, and its secretions were normal. I will analyse the viscera of both dogs, and determine the amount of tin taken up into the liver.

" Faithfully yours,
(Signed) "THOS. STEVENSON."

Guy's Hospital, February, 15th, 1882.

" DEAR SIR,

"I have to report further that I have analysed the viscera of the two dogs referred to in my previous letter.

"The liver only of the first dog, which ate little sugar and was killed early, was analysed and found to contain a trace of tin not more than 1/100th of a grain.

"Two ounces of the blood of the second dog—the one recently killed—yielded a trace of tin not 1/100th of a grain. The liver 10½ oz., the heart 2½ oz., the two kidneys 2 oz., and the spleen ½ oz., of this dog yielded .067 grain (1/15th grain) of metallic tin in the aggregate, associated (is not unusual) with a little copper, viz. about 3/30th grain metallic copper. This amount of copper is not unusual in normal viscera and would not injure health.

" I am, &c., (Signed) THOS. STEVENSON."

Guy's Hospital, February 18th, 1882.

" DEAR SIR,

"The dogs took as much sugar as they could be got to take, and 8 oz. a day is a fair quantity, about as much as a human being takes on a average.

"The experiment (for I set the first dog aside as valueless) proves that no obvious effects result from the use of bloomer sugar, none of the irritant effects ascribed to tin, no pain, and within a period of 6—7 weeks, at all events, no signs of lesion of any organ or degeneration of tissue. The increased fatness of the dog was simply the result of the fattening food (sugar), and must not be confounded with fatty degeneration of tissues, of which there was none.

"The experiment also shows that no considerable quantity of tin is stored up in those organs in which metal usually becomes deposited—the liver, &c.—but that either it becomes quickly excreted, or more probably, is not even absorbed into the blood from the alimentary canal.

"The evidence, so far as it goes, is decidedly in favour of the harmlessness of Bloomer Sugar, and I hope that wider experience will confirm this.

"The laboratory man who fed the dogs has earnestly begged to be allowed to use the sugar for his own food and for the use of his mother who cleans my rooms. I have explained to him the risk and character of the sugar, but he seems bent on eating it. I shall therefore have the opportunity of noting its effects upon the human subject.

" I am, &c., (Signed) THOS. STEVENSON."

In reply to a further enquiry addressed to him, Dr. Stevenson wrote to us on December 5th, 1900, that the woman and the man referred to in the third of these letters consumed the remainder of the sugar—about 90 lbs.—during the year 1882, and that they did not suffer in the least from its use.

IMPROVEMENT IN SUGAR MANUFACTURE.

An important improvement in manufacture, which will tend to materially lower the cost of production of Sugar, is reported from France, where, at the well-equipped factory of "Souppes," the "Mangano Electric Process" of clarification has been put to practical test with successful results. Lack of space precludes us from giving a detailed account of this important innovation, the essence of which appears to be the passing of an electric current through the juice by means of a series of zinc plates inserted in a series of tanks, the juice being mixed with manganate of lime. The action of the electric current in connection with the manganate of lime has a wonderful effect on the clarification of the juice. We understand that the process is about to be tried on cane juice in Spain and in Trinidad.

THE RUM SURTAX.

The Secretary of State has acknowledged the receipt of the following letter on the above subject, and has informed us that we may expect a further communication when the matter has been considered:—

"December 3rd, 1900.

"SIR,—

"Our notice has been called to a letter on the subject of the Rum Surtax, addressed by the Treasury to you on September 4th last, which appears in the 'Further Papers relating to Cost of Local Excise Restrictions on the Production of Spirits,' C D 405, which were recently presented to Parliament.

"(2). In a letter to my Committee, dated August 5th, 1898, the Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted that the Surtax might operate in some measure to the disadvantage of the West Indian Colonies, and stated that he, 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.

"(3). On August 24th of that year we enquired of you, Sir, when the West Indian Colonies and British Guiana might expect such assistance, pointing out that none of the rum-producing Colonies, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad, had received any Imperial assistance.

"(4). To that letter you replied on August 30th, 1898, that you were unable to give a specific answer at that time.

"(5). We note, Sir, that in their letter above referred to (September 4th, 1900), the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury repeat the suggestion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for redressing the grievance, and state that 'the very liberal assistance recently given by Parliament to the West India Colonies, especially Jamaica, should render such action (the adoption of a system of allowances on exportation) by no means difficult.'

"(6). We trust, Sir, that you will point out to my Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, as we did to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a letter on October 21st, 1898 (to which an answer has not been vouchsafed), that of these principal rum-producing Colonies, British Guiana and Trinidad have received no Imperial assistance of the nature suggested, while the only assistance afforded to Jamaica has been hypothecated to objects wholly unconnected with rum.

"(7). The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury say 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, 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 spirits of a similar nature. This would appear to be an admission on the part of the Treasury that the Surtax of 4d. constitutes a differential duty in favour of this country. We cannot feel that 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 even then they would 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 we claim, therefore, to be entitled in justice and equity to be placed on the same footing as the British Distiller.

"(8). With regard to paragraph 10 of the Lords Commissioners' of the Treasury letter, I am to point out that with the large staff of officials employed in the West Indian Colonies there should be no difficulty in securing an absolute uniformity in the excise regulations.

"(9). As we have constantly pointed out this matter is of the greatest importance to the West Indian Colonies and British Guiana, especially in view of the fact that rum from those Colonies coming to this country is at present altogether excluded for methylating purposes, inasmuch as before it is admitted for methylation the duty of 4d. per gallon is exacted, though British spirit for methylation is duty free. We therefore trust, Sir, that this matter will receive your continued attention.

"I have, &c.,

"N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*"

BRITISH GUIANA IMMIGRATION REPORT.

We have received from the Immigration Department of British Guiana copies of the Hon. A. H. Alexander's (the Immigration Agent-General) Report for the year 1899-00. During the period under review, 7 ships arrived from Calcutta with 4,274 Immigrants under indenture, and 27 who paid their own passage. Among these were 161 Immigrants who had previously resided in the Colony, and 224 who had been in other Colonies, as against 106 and 88 in the previous season; and during the same season 105 East Indians came to the Colony from Surinam and the West Indian Islands. On the 31st December, 1899, a sum of £85,162 8s. 6½d. was standing to the credit of the East Indian Immigrants in the Government Savings Banks, a decrease of £2,772 16s. 10d. as compared with the year 1898-99. But, on the other hand, there was an increase of over £1,000 in Post Office deposits, and an increase in the value of property owned by East Indians of upwards of £4,750, while 15,247 cattle, and 4,930 sheep and goats were owned by Immigrants resident on estates. In his interesting report Mr. Alexander mentions that Rice cultivation has been still further extended and that progress is being made in the arrangements for granting land on the settlements of "Whim," "Helen," and "Bush Lot" to Immigrants in lieu of back passage.

A QUESTION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Colonel VICTOR MILWARD, on December the 15th, asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could give the House any information as to the Conference recently held in Paris to further the abolition of the Sugar Bounties, and whether Her Majesty's Government adhered to the statement of policy contained in the instructions to the British Delegates at the Brussels Conference, 1898, that it is the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to secure the suppression of all bounties on sugar, which they consider to be prejudicial to the general interests of the British Empire.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Her Majesty's Government have not been officially informed of what passed at the recent meeting at Paris between representatives of the French Government and the delegates of Germany and Austria Hungary. Her Majesty's Government still adhere to the statement of policy referred to by the hon. and gallant member.

RIND FUNGUS.

The Committee, consisting of Messrs. R. G. Duncan, Bethune, Scard, Monkhouse and Jenman, which was recently appointed by the British Guiana Planters' Association to enquire into the damage done to Cane Cultivation by the Borer and Rind Fungus has addressed a circular to all managers and head overseers in the Colony asking various questions bearing on the subject.

A FORTHCOMING MEETING.

Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., has consented to deliver an address upon the British West Indies before the Society of Arts (Colonial Section), on April 30th next.

THE MAILS.

Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," 27th January, 1901:—BARBADOS.—H. E. Sir J. S. Hay, K.C.M.G., Lady Hay, Lieut. Street, Master Colvin, Capt. and Mrs. Buckle, Mr. E. Worthington, Miss Stiven, Lieut. Lyne, R.N.R., Artificer Engineer, E. Rickard, R.N., Lieut. C. Copendale, Mr. R. Armstrong, Mr. J. Motherway, Mr. Geo. Hamilton, Mr. T. King, Mr. F. A. Carr, Mr. E. Fry. JAMAICA.—Messrs. F.W. Bournemann, W. Murray, H. Platt, G. Thornback, Sergt. Gibbons, Sister Elin, Miss Smythe, Sergt. Murray and wife, Sergt. Doig and wife. DEMERARA.—Messrs. H. Jameson, C. T. Berthon, J. Perkins, W. H. McGowan, A. Rahman, Miss Wyatt, Mrs. Luard, Mrs. Fred. May, M. Mooksad Ali, M. Abdul Aziz, M. Calid, M. Abel. TRINIDAD.—Miss F. Boissiere, Mr. E. C. Wilson, Mr. S. J. Wilson, Mr. Daneburg, Mr. H. Buckley, Mr. C. Wilson. ANTIGUA.—Mr. W. E. R. Edwards. GRENADA.—Mr. C. H. Etheridge, Mrs. E. Pegley. ST. LUCIA.—Mr. H. Elstead, 2nd Lieut. H. E. Henderson.

Departures per R.M.S. "Para," December 26th, 1900:—BARBADOS.—Mr. Hutson, Mr. F. Bardett. DEMERARA.—Rev. J. Rammie. JAMAICA.—Messrs. G. Withers, J. Rodriguez, C. Munton, H. Kennard, R. Sperling, A. Nash, G. Bowesman, Mr. and Mrs. Olivier and family. TRINIDAD.—Mr. and Mrs. Holler and child, Mr. and Mrs. G. Grant, Miss Fenwick, Mr. J. Sturge, Dr. and Mrs. Boucand, Mr. C. F. Ruxton, Miss Corsbie, Mr. A. C. Davies. ANTIGUA.—Mr. J. Udal. GRENADA.—Mr. Trotter, Mr. and Mrs. de Gale. DOMINICA.—Mr. J. Musgrove. ST. LUCIA.—Dr. Low. TOBAGO.—Mr. W. Cadbury.

Forward bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," leaving January 9th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Hall, Lady Bedford, Messrs. J. Baeza, G. Henderson, T. W. O'Neal, H. Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, Captain and Mrs. Haines, 2nd Lieut. Wildeblood. DEMERARA.—Miss and Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. J. Hill, Dr. and Mrs. Godfrey, Rev. D. Ferrar, The Bishop of Guiana, Rev. W. Farrar, Mr. C. A. Campbell. JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Kerr, Two Misses Paton, Mrs. A. Vickers, Mrs. Farquahson, Messrs. M. Lyon, S. Cavallio, A. W. Farquahson, A. K. Purdy, Pickering, Mr. and Mrs. Caresscann. TRINIDAD.—The Archbishop of Trinidad, The Bishop of Trinidad, Miss M. Smith, Mr. J. Redhead, Miss Buckingham, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Alston, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Lamont, Mrs. E. Roberts, Rev. M. Vanderyken, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

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

RUM.

Owing to the lighterman's strike, samples have been very slow in coming to hand, and with the holidays intervening, the business put through has been extremely small, viz., 1/8 to 1/9½ per proof gallon, being ½d. decline. There are now over 5,000 Puns Demerara and Berbice awaiting sale, and as the trade refuse to make any offers business is paralysed for the time being, quotations being quite nominal. Jamaicas, in sympathy with proof kinds, are extremely slow, but on the other hand there is now very little left unsold.

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	5,018,450	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	909,963	853,066	834,242	820,327
STOCK (Galls.)	30 Nov:	6,893,000	7,231,000	8,162,000	8,384,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
JAMAICA PUNS ..	8,338	10,861	12,761	11,810
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS ..	487	532	700	599
DEMERARA ..	4,609	2,607	4,533	5,709
FOREIGN ..	1,889	2,272	756	1,115
BRITISH EAST INDIA ..	1,264	1,558	307	233
VATTED ..	3,436	3,605	3,656	3,875
TOTAL ..	20,022	21,435	22,713	23,341

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—Business has been considerably interrupted during the last month owing to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, and no public sales have been held since the 18th ultimo. The tone of the market has been flat throughout, and with scarcely any demand either for the home trade or for export, only a small quantity has changed hands. Prices have further given way about 2/- to 2/6 per cwt., quotations being about 68/- to 69/- for low middling to middling; 69/6 to 71/- for good middling; and 72/- to 85/- for fine and superior. Deliveries for the year 1900 were 50,945 bags, against 40,927 bags in 1899. Landings 57,337 bags against 40,214 bags, and stocks on 29th December 26,027 bags against 18,635 bags.

GRENADA.—At the public sales held on the 11th ultimo about 1,000 bags new crop were offered, but with importers unwilling to meet the market it was nearly all bought in. Subsequently they have shown more disposition to accept buyers views, and about 600 bags have been sold at a decline of 2/6 to 3/- below the previously existing rates; latterly there has been but little business owing to the holidays. 68/- to 69/- is quoted for ordinary to good fair, and 70/- to 71/- for middling to fine. Deliveries for the year 1900 were 43,702 bags, against 40,486 bags in 1899. Landings 42,895 bags, against 36,882 bags, and stocks on 29th December 8,536 bags against 9,343 bags.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

PIMENTO 2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.	LIME JUICE 9d. to 11d.
GINGER 36s. to 62s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD £4 10s. to £4 12s. 6d. per ton, landed.
WAX £7 12s. 6d. to £8 per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 to £4 5s. per ton, landed.
HONEY 24s. to 28s. per cwt.	FUSTIC £3 15s. to £4. Roots £3 5s. per ton, landed.

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Gold. ozs.	Diamonds. Single Stones.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.	Asphalt. Tons.	Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
BRITISH GUIANA—												
Jan. 1st to 19th Dec., 1900	98,139	25,444	32,072	—	105,962	1,842	574	4,263				
Jan. 1st to 20th Dec., 1899	76,103	16,324	124,778	—	103,993	—	2,393	4,650				
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.	Puns.	lbs.	lbs.								
Jan. 1st to 19th Dec., 1900	378,235	579	28,433,682	3,540	136,366	—	8,219,256	7,609	72	579		
Jan. 1st to 19th Dec., 1899	478,926	1,480	24,431,040	8,640	128,651	—	10,964,350	12,385	293	1,480		

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.	1896 Tons.
United Kingdom 29th December	65,549	57,815	76,930	90,029	139,623
France 1st December.....	560,000†	600,000†	490,000†	427,666	506,811
Germany 1st December	939,579*	854,083*	851,293*	852,640*	773,583
Hamburg 2nd January	109,600	78,800	93,900	130,500	101,000
Austria-Hungary 1st December	554,059	461,419	520,486	456,752	485,801
Holland 1st December	46,236	42,047	54,555	90,188	61,585
Belgium 1st December	110,000†	140,000†	145,000†	93,343	122,095
	2,385,023	2,234,134	2,232,164	2,141,118	2,190,498
United States 2nd January, Total Stocks	69,000	208,472	116,093	231,859	237,234
Cuba, six principal ports, 2nd January, Total Stocks...	10,000	9,395	4,512	9,250	32,684
Cargoes afloat, 3rd January	25,885	39,633	118,868	85,640	17,100
Total.....	2,489,908	2,491,634	2,471,637	2,467,867	2,477,516

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

WORLD'S CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR.

The following figures giving the World's Consumption of Sugar for the past six years will be useful for purposes of reference—

1894-5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,400,000 tons.
1895-6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,100,000 ..
1896-7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,800,000 ..
1897-8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,900,000 ..
1898-9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,100,000 ..
1899-1900	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,500,000 ..

For 1900-1 the World's Consumption of Sugar is estimated by Mr. Czarnikow at 8,800,000.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS. (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Dec. 11th, 1900, "A few light showers have fallen ; but more rain would be acceptable." Dec. 27th, 1900, "Very dry, rain wanted."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co.), Dec. 13th, 1900, "Rain has fallen heavily. Think that rainy season has set in." Dec. 27th, 1900, "Weather showery and unsettled." Jan. 3rd, 1901, "Weather dry and rain much wanted." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), Dec. 11th, 1900, "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara County." (Berbice), "Weather fine, with occasional light showers." Dec. 27th, 1900, "Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message." Dec. 31st, 1900, "Weather dry and rain wanted."

TRINIDAD.—(The New Colonial Co.), Dec. 12th, 1900, "Showery and favorable for cultivation." Jan. 2nd, 1901, "Fine, with occasional light showers." (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) Dec. 15th, 1900, "Weather showery, very favorable and general."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books and papers and photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged under the above heading. The following received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms:—

Barbados Agricultural Gazette and Planters' Journal, November, 1900 ; *Instructions for the Prevention of Malarial Fever (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine)* ; *The International Sugar Journal*, January, 1901 ; *Jamaica and the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service*, by Thomas Rhodes (Messrs. Geo. Phillip & Son, 6d.) ; *The Louisiana Planter*, Vol. XXV., 20-25 ; *The Produce Markets Review*, Vol. XXXIX., Nos. 175-5 ; *Reports of the Bristol Deputation and Commercial Delegates to Jamaica (Bristol Chamber of Commerce)* ; *Report of the Immigration Agent-General, British Guiana*, 1899-00 ; *Seedling and other Canes in Barbados, and Sugar Cane Experiments in Antigua and St. Kitts*, 1899-00 (*The Imperial Department of Agriculture*) ; *Antigua Market Report (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.)* ; *Demerara Market Reports (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Messrs. Wieting and Richter)* ; *Trinidad Market Reports (Messrs. A. Cumming & Co., Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.)* ; *F. O. Licht's Circular and Annual Report (Magdeburg)*, and *Messrs. C. Czarnikow's, Gillespie Bros. & Co.'s (London and New York)*, *E. Kynaston's*, *E. D. & F. Mann's*, *Paines & Reia's*, *Park, Macfadyen & Co.*, *Wilson Smithett & Co.'s*, *C. M. & C. Woodhouse's Circulars*.

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.

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WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 36.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

January 22nd, 1901.

FRANCE AND THE BOUNTIES.

While no date has yet been fixed for the re-assembling of the Brussels Conference, it is worth noting that the Sugar Question came up in the Chamber of Deputies in Paris last month, when a Deputy from the wine districts, in defending a branch of the wine industry against an accusation of enjoying undue privileges, showed what an enormous sum the Beetroot sugar industry was receiving from the tax-payers of France. He gave the figures, which were only completed up to the end of last July, viz.:

		1899—1900.						
Sugar Production	869,200 tons.	
Quantity which enjoyed Reduction of Duty	249,644 "	
Ditto of Colonial Sugar	25,715 "	
Total indirect Bounty to Home and Colonial Sugar Industry	82,607,958 francs.	
Direct Bounties	18,769,341 "	
Total Bounty	101,377,299 "	
Consumption, 1899	447,614 tons.	
Exportation	370,357 "	
Duty levied	201,089,034 francs.	

This shows, as was pointed out in the debate at the Society of Political Economy in Paris on December 5th, that it will not be long before the whole revenue from sugar is absorbed in paying bounties.

Many French Economists continue to urge the advisability of lowering the tax on consumption which they think would give an important stimulus to consumption. M. Georges Dureau, in the current number of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, also holds this opinion, and points out that when, in 1880, the tax was reduced from fcs. 70 to fcs. 40, consumption went up in two years from 280,000 to 400,000. He adds that it is not too much to admit that if the present tax were reduced from fcs. 60 to fcs. 30, it would not require three years for the consumption in France to reach 700,000 tons. As far as the French Government are concerned, their main object in dealing with the sugar question will be the Revenue. This being so, the following figures, which have just been published, giving the product of the sugar duty for the year 1900 as compared with 1899, are worth reporting:—

		1900.		1899.	
		Fr.		Fr.	
Colonial	...	22,037,000	...	30,425,000	...
Foreign	...	149,000	...	353,000	...
Home grown	...	152,009,000	...	159,043,000	...
Total Francs		174,195,000		189,821,000	

The reduction in 1900 being 15,626,000 francs.

BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.

As we go to press we learn that the Annual Agricultural Conference, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, met at Barbados on January 5th-7th last. The Representatives of Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands were received in the Hall of the House of Assembly by Mr. Ralph Williams, C.M.G., the Acting-Governor of Barbados, at 10.30 a.m. on the opening day. In his inaugural address Dr. Morris, the President, said that their conjoined aim should be so to educate, according to his station, the peasant and the planter as to give to each the particular training and knowledge necessary to equip him for the battle of life. Reviewing the events of the past year, he reported the progress made with experiments with seedling canes, and expressed regret that no material

advance had been made with the question of Central Factories. The important Cacao industries at Trinidad, Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica were, he said, in a comparatively prosperous condition. Some anxiety was felt in reference to the "thrip" disease in Grenada, and fungoid diseases were also present on estates in most Islands, but they might be kept in check by skilful cultivation and prompt action on the part of the planters. Cacao planters must not accept high prices and good crops without putting back money into their estates, and keeping them in a thoroughly productive condition. The Lime Industry in Dominica and one or two other colonies had increased in value, and deserved to be fostered and improved. Fruit cultivation was not, he said, being extended in any of the smaller Islands. The establishment of a Direct Fruit Service could not fail to arouse interest in the capabilities of the West Indies to supply oranges, bananas and pine apples in large quantities to European markets. The proceedings of the Conference then commenced, and many important addresses were read under the heads of (1) Sugar Industry, (2) Educational, and (3) General. A large number of Delegates were present.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATIES.

It is stated, upon what appears to be good authority, that President McKinley has forwarded to the Senate a number of Treaties with Great Britain, extending for a year the period allowed for the ratification of the Reciprocity Conventions with certain of the British West India Islands and British Guiana which failed to be ratified by the Senate last Session. We have already pointed out that there was nothing in the Conventions, as provisionally agreed to, to prevent the United States according similar advantages to those afforded by the proposed Treaties, to other sugar-exporting countries, and we now learn that it is proposed at Washington to enter into similar treaties with Nicaragua, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and St. Croix. Inasmuch as Trinidad is not now included amongst the countries with which treaties are being made, it would seem that her sugar will virtually be penalised in the future to the extent of £1 a ton, as compared with that of most of the western sugar-producing countries.

CANE TRASHING.

A prize was recently offered, in connection with the Cairns Annual Show, by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company of Queensland, for the best set of answers to ten questions on sugar cane cultivation. The successful competitor was Mr. Thomas Binnie, cane farmer, of Hambledon, whose replies were published in *The Queensland Agricultural Journal* for November last. Many of the questions were of local interest only, but the reply to one—"State your opinion for and against top and bottom trashing," merits the careful attention of planters in the West Indies. We accordingly append it *in extenso* :—"In my opinion it is of the greatest advantage to the farmer to trash his cane when it has grown to the length of from two to three feet, as by so doing you let air and light into the cane both of which are conducive to growth, you allow the young suckers to come away and make cane, and prevent water in the wet season from lodging around the cane inside the leaves, causing it either to throw out rootlets from the joints or to shoot from the eyes. This trashing also leaves a protection on the ground for the cane when it falls over, and by keeping it off the damp ground prevents it from rooting where it touches the soil; it cheapens the top trashing required just before harvesting, and prevents loss by breaking, and finally assists and cheapens cutting, as if done properly, and the trash cleared well away from the stools, the cutter gets a clean blow at the roots of the cane, and thus does away with the evil of cutting high, and leaves him no excuse for not cutting below the ground. The great advantages of a top trashing or stripping, if done about a fortnight before harvesting, are that it enables the cane by exposure to the air to ripen up, it allows the cutter to top off the stick close to the green top, and enables the farmer to give satisfaction at the mill by not sending green unripened cane. This year I have tried an experiment in two trashings as against one. In one field I trashed early in April at a cost of 7s. per acre. I left one acre untrashed. This week I have stripped the field at a cost of 6s. 6d. per acre, and put two boys on to the acre untrashed. It has taken them four days to do the work, which at 6s. per day means 24s. per acre for one trashing as against 13s. 6d. for the two."

SEEDLING CANES.

In our Circular 29 we published an interesting letter from Dr. Morris, the Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, reporting the success achieved in Barbados with the variety of cane known as the B 147, and in a subsequent circular (No. 34) we gave the views of some of our correspondents as to the results attained by this cane in the other Islands and British Guiana. There can be no doubt that in the light of recent experiments the question of improvements in sugar cane is becoming one of increasing importance, and further developments will be eagerly awaited. We have received from Mr. Chamberlain copies of two letters from Dr. Morris on this subject and two pamphlets summarizing the results of the sugar cane experiments carried on during the past year in Barbados and the Leeward Islands respectively. At Antigua and St. Kitts, the experiments which were conducted by Mr. Francis Watts, assisted by Mr. F. R. Shepherd and Mr. William Lunt, proved very promising. In a letter to Mr. Chamberlain (Dec. 20th), Dr. Morris said that the Manurial experiments at St. Kitts were most instructive—they showed that if nitrogen was added to the soil beyond a certain point the yield of sugar actually diminished instead of increased; and this was the case also with other manures such as potash and phosphates. On the other hand, the judicious use of lime has been found distinctly advantageous. After the exhaustive examination of the merits of the several canes by Prof. D'Albuquerque and Mr. Bovell, Dr. Morris thinks that on estates where the B 147 can be successfully grown it is probable that it will yield about a ton more sugar per acre than any cane cultivated in Barbados; but he reminds Mr. Chamberlain that these results apply only to Barbados. In Antigua, for example, the D 95 has proved, after careful investigation, the better cane. Dr. Morris adds: "As these experiments are continued from year to year, it will probably be found that each Colony, and even each district, will require a cane specially suited to the soil and climate." Planters are accordingly advised in the first instance to select three or four only of the most promising canes likely to suit their district, and not to start the extensive cultivation of any particular variety until it has steadily stood the test of local conditions. Of the two pamphlets to hand that recording the Barbados experiments is perhaps the more concise, and its brevity will appeal to those planters who would hesitate to study a larger brochure. It would be useful if all experiments were uniformly tabulated in this form. In connection with these experiments, it must be borne in mind that comparison is now being made in Barbados between the new B 147 cane and the Bourbon in its decadent days, decrepit from disease, and not with the Bourbon in the heyday of its vigorous growth, when its yielding powers were fully equal to those of the new variety. Recent private advices seem to be all agreed that the seedling canes resist disease better than the old Bourbon cane. The experience of some planters in respect to the B 147 is that it does not ratoon well, which would, of course, practically make it an unsuitable cane generally. We have suggested to Dr. Morris that there might with advantage be added to his list of chief points for consideration in selecting a variety of cane for cultivation on a large scale: "How does it stand drought or excessive rain?" "Does it ratoon well?" the latter being a most important consideration.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS.

Sir Frederick Hodgson, who is about to assume the Governorship of Barbados, was present at a well-attended meeting of members of the West India Committee interested in that Island on Jan. 16th. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and amongst those present were Mr. H. K. Davson, Deputy-Chairman, Captain C. R. Harris, R.N., and Messrs. George Carrington, R. Rutherford, Colin M. Gillespie, C. Gurney, J. Hinkson, T. J. Wilkinson, H. Jackson (Messrs. Thos. Daniel & Co.), J. J. Law, John Price, W. P. B. Shephard, J. Rippon, and A. E. Aspinall, Secretary. A discussion took place upon various matters affecting the welfare of the Island, with special reference to the Sugar Bounties, the need for central factories, the cable question, and the good work being done by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Allusion was also made to the fact of the Committee having averted the closing of Codrington College and the need for a good Emigration scheme. Stress was laid by several speakers on the importance of technical education, and Sir Nevile Lubbock pointed out that opportunities for technical instruction were afforded in an admirable manner by

Central Factories which had their own laboratories, workshops, &c. Sir Frederick Hodgson, who sails for Barbados on February 6th by the R.M.S. "Atrato," will carry with him the best wishes of the West India Committee.

DOMINICA.

Mr. Hesketh Bell's letter to the *Times* of September 20th last, extolling the advantages afforded by Dominica for small capitalists, to which we referred in our Circular No. 32, has already resulted in two blocks of Crown Lands being taken up by new settlers. It is hoped that others will shortly arrive in the Island and follow their example. Work is to be commenced immediately upon a new road to open up the district.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL.

The first steamer of this new line to sail will be the "Port Morant," which will leave Avonmouth, Bristol, on February 16th next. She will proceed direct to Kingston, Jamaica, where she is expected to arrive on the 29th of the same month. The first homeward steamer will leave Kingston on March 6th, and is due at Bristol on March 18th. It will be seen that while the outward voyage will take 13 days the homeward will be accomplished in 12 days, and these times may, we are informed, be relied on.

IMMIGRATION.

The "Main," the fifth Coolie ship of the season, arrived off Georgetown on December 24th last, having on board 577 adult Coolie immigrants.

IMITATION DEMERARA SUGAR.

An important case under the Food and Drugs Act was heard at Tredegar Police Court on Tuesday, January 15th, 1901, before Messrs. E. J. Williams in the Chair, J. Stanfield and A. Barrett, in which Mr. Morgan Morgan, Grocer, was summoned by the Monmouth County Council for selling Demerara Sugar not of the nature, substance, and quality demanded, to the prejudice of the purchaser; in other words, sugar dyed with aniline dye to represent genuine Demerara Sugar. Professor Harrison, F.C.S., F.I.C., the Government Analyst of British Guiana, and Dr. M. Teed, B.L., attended at the request of the West India Committee, for the purpose of supplying the Court with information as to the nature of genuine Demerara Sugar, and they were furnished with certificates from 54 Sugar Estates in British Guiana and 15 Sugar Factories in Trinidad, which were received by the last mail, to the effect that no aniline dyes were used in the manufacture of Demerara Sugar, and it is largely due to their evidence that an exemplary fine of £10 with £15 costs was inflicted on the defendant. A full report of this case will shortly be published by the West India Committee.

THE MAILS.

Home arrivals, per R.M.S. "Orinoco," 16th January, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Lt. W. E. Ruck-Keene. JAMAICA.—Mr. H. E. Brett, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Anson. DEMERARA.—Mr. C. Webler, Dr. Welsh, Mr. T. J. Roy, Rev. H. A. Westropp. TRINIDAD.—Mr. J. R. Wilson, Miss Adam, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Elliott. ST. KITTS.—Lieut. W. A. Pickering, Lieut. H. E. F. Aylmer, Lieut. G. P. B. Withers.

Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," leaving January 23rd, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Law, Two Misses Law, Mr. and Mrs. DaCosta, Four Misses DaCosta, Mr. J. Allen, Mr. F. H. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Collymore, Mrs. E. Collymore, Miss Skinner, Mr. Brodie, R.N., Mr. McHardy, Miss McHardy. DEMERARA.—Mr. E. C. Hamley. JAMAICA.—Col. and Mrs. Gardner, Mr. F. J. C. Curtis, Mr. H. Highford, Mr. Heywood, Mr. E. Platt, Mr. H. E. Crum-Ewing, Miss. M. Pringle, Mr. Stockley, Mr. P. R. Ryley, Mr. E. R. H. Pollard, Sec.-Lieut. Cavendish, R.G.A. TRINIDAD.—Mr. E. Hiiton. TOBAGO.—Mr. R. B. Archibald. 65 DAYS' TOUR.—Mr. H. Ellis, Mr. J. Buchanan, Mr. E. Mager, Mr. and Mrs. R. Clayton, Two Misses Clayton, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Harrison, Lieut. P. S. Grieg, R.E., Sir Mitchell and Lady Thompson, Miss Darling, Miss Annie Deas, Mr. S. R. Worters, Mr. J. B. Pritchard.

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

BET PROSPECTS.

In France the weather has again become cold. A continued frost preceded by a fall of snow would be advantageous from an agricultural standpoint. Some factories are still in operation, but changes of weather can no longer have an appreciable influence on the final result of the crop. In other Countries manufacture is at an end in most factories. The results of the crop seem satisfactory for most planters and manufacturers.—*Journal des Fabricants de Sucres.*

RUM.

A large business has been effected during the past fortnight, amounting to some 3,000 Puns Demerara at 1/5d for common, up to 1/7 per proof gallon for fine. This marks a further decline of 2d. per gallon, or 3½d. from the highest point. The stock of Jamaica being almost exhausted, no business is reported.

We append the Board of Trade returns for the past year:—

		1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
LANDED	In Dec :	831,156	879,378	446,390	404,227
	12 months	6,279,813	5,627,359	5,486,417	4,937,816
HOME CONSUMPTION ..	In Dec :	525,587	608,543	546,259	564,689
	12 months	4,460,801	4,356,060	3,969,030	4,058,560
EXPORT	In Dec :	59,338	88,312	78,849	84,701
	12 months	969,301	949,355	913,360	905,028
STOCK (Galls.)	31 Dec :	6,980,000	7,331,000	7,942,000	8,087,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
JAMAICA PUNS	8,259	10,861	12,761	11,810
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS ..	485	532	700	599
DEMERARA	5,338	2,607	4,533	5,709
FOREIGN	1,787	2,272	756	1,115
BRITISH EAST INDIA ..	1,242	1,558	307	233
VATTED	3,409	3,605	3,656	3,875
TOTAL	20,520	21,435	22,713	23,341

COCOA.

TRINIDAD—Public sales were resumed after the holidays on the 8th instant, when a total of 2,765 bags were offered, and meeting with a more general demand, about 1,600 bags were sold at previous prices to a decline of 1/- per cwt. At the subsequent sales on the 15th instant, the tone was quieter, and only about one third of the 1,883 bags offered were disposed of, prices further giving way about 1/- per cwt. Since then holders showing a desire to realise, the greater part of the remainder has been sold at a further reduction of 1/- per cwt., closing quotations being 66/- to 67/6 for low middling to middling; 68/- to 69/6 for good middling, and 70/- to 85/- for fine and superior. Landings from 1st January to 12th January were 1,008 bags against 166 bags in 1900. Deliveries 1,267 bags, against 2,144 bags, and Stocks on 12th January 25,768 bags against 16,657 bags.

GRENADA—A total of 5,153 bags has been offered at the Public sales, and meeting with a fair general demand, has mostly been disposed of at and since the auctions, at a decline of about 1/6 to 2/- per cwt., ordinary to good fair being worth about 66/- to 67/6 per cwt., and middling to fine 68/- to 69/- per cwt. Landings from 1st January to 12th January were 499 bags, against 545 last year. Deliveries 1,247 bags, against 992 bags, and Stocks on 12th January 7,788 bags, against 8,896 bags.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.	LIME JUICE ...	9d. to 10½d.
GINGER ...	35s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ...	£4 10s. to £4 12s. 6d. per ton, landed.
WAX ...	£8 to £8 7s. 6d. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton, landed.
HONEY ...	20s. to 28s. per cwt.	FUSTIC ...	£3 15s. to £4. Roots £3 5s. per ton, landed.

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee. lbs.	Gold. ozs.	Diamonds. Single Stones.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.			
BRITISH GUIANA—											
Jan. 1st to 31st Dec., 1900	95,228	26,294	33,037	—	113,341	1,842	31,874	3,119			
Jan. 1st to 31st Dec., 1899	81,535	17,790	124,778	—	113,258	—	2,393	4,869			
TRINIDAD—											
Jan. 1st to 31st Dec., 1900	379,214	579	29,901,632	7,220	142,155	—	8,316,256	7,609	72	89	
Jan. 1st to 31st Dec., 1899	480,005	1,480	24,809,460	10,880	130,571	—	11,545,880	12,705	293	193	

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1900/1 Tons.	1899/1900 Tons.	1898/9 Tons.	1897/8 Tons.	1896/7 Tons.
United Kingdom 12th January	73,484	64,625	76,887	108,427	136,282
France 1st January.....	725,000†	700,000†	600,000†	550,000	617,000
Germany 1st January	1,094,710*	1,009,077*	1,010,625*	1,072,025*	993,352
Hamburg 16th January	95,600	58,000	75,700	118,200	83,900
Austria-Hungary 1st January	629,053†	609,643	619,267	527,581	602,406
Holland 1st January	110,888	77,455	84,813	125,162	95,003
Belgium 1st December	110,000†	140,000†	145,000†	93,343	122,095
	<u>2,838,735</u>	<u>2,658,800</u>	<u>2,612,282</u>	<u>2,594,738</u>	<u>2,650,038</u>
United States 16th January, Total Stocks	88,000	183,221	99,333	213,176	236,488
Cuba, six principal ports, 16th January, Total Stocks...	22,000	11,271	7,955	26,640	31,851
Cargoes afloat, 17th January	10,414	33,695	114,344	81,354	29,886
Total.....	<u>2,959,149</u>	<u>2,886,987</u>	<u>2,833,914</u>	<u>2,915,908</u>	<u>2,948,263</u>

* Total stocks, not Licht's. † Estimated

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), January 8th, 1901, "Rain much wanted, crops suffering." (Messrs. Thos. Daniel & Co.), January 14th, "Fine rains generally throughout the Island."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(New Colonial Co., Ltd.), January 5th, 1901, "Weather too dry, rain much wanted."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books and papers and photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged under the above heading. The following received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms, in addition to the current official gazettes, &c. :—

Handbook of Information (The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.), Journal des Fabricants de Sucre (42nd Year—Nos. 1, 2, 3), The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society (Vol. IV., No. 12), The Louisiana Planter (Vol. XXV., No. 26), Proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad, The Produce Markets Review (Vol. XL., Nos. 175-6), Address of H.E. Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., to the Legislative Council of Antigua, (Dec. 27th, 1900), Antigua Market Report (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), Barbados Market Report (Messrs. W. P. Leacock & Co.), Demerara Market Reports (Messrs. Wieting and Richter, Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), Trinidad Market Reports (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. A. Cumming & Co., and Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.

The Antigua Standard

The Barbados Globe

The Argosy (Demerara)

The Demerara Daily Chronicle

The Dominican

The Dominican Guardian

The Federalist (Grenada)

The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada)

The Gleaner (Jamaica)

The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica)

The St. Christopher Advertiser

The Mirror (Trinidad)

The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad),

The Voice (St. Lucia)

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.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 37.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

February 5th, 1901.

OUR LATE QUEEN.

The Empire and indeed the World have been plunged into the deepest grief by the death of our beloved Queen Victoria, which took place on January 22nd. In no part of our possessions will the loss, which the Nation has sustained, be more felt than in the West Indian Colonies, where her late Majesty's messages of sympathy upon the occasion of the hurricanes of 1898 and 1899 are still fresh in the memory of all classes. It was felt only right that the West India Committee should echo the spontaneous outburst of sympathy with our King, which has emanated from every West Indian Colony and British Guiana, and accordingly a Special Meeting was convened on Wednesday, January 30th, with that object in view.

Those present upon this occasion were: Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., in the Chair, and Messrs. Henry K. Davson, Deputy Chairman, Spencer H. Curtis (Curtis, Campbell & Co.), Colin M. Gillespie (Gillespie Bros. & Co.), Cyril Gurney (Thomson, Hankey & Co.), R. Rutherford, E. Anderson (Anderson, Anderson & Co.), E. G. Barr, R. T. Brown (West India and Panama Cable Co.), H. S. Clarke (Smith Bros. & Co.), C. C. Czarnikow, E. A. De Pass (E. A. De Pass & Co.), A. Elmslie, J. B. Elmslie, G. Macgregor Frame, (Frame, Alston & Arbuthnot), T. C. Garth, Goodman (Scholefield & Goodman), W. Goodwin, J. Hinkson, George Hughes (E. Packard & Co.), W. H. Hutchinson (Anglo-Continental Guano Works), Edward Kynaston, F. H. D. Man (E. D. & F. Man), E. Luxmoore Marshall (Boddington & Co.), A representative of the Mauritius Estates and Assets Co., Ltd., Boyd Alexr. Neilson (C. Neilson & Sons), E. Packard, J. W. Previt , John Price (Price Bros. & Co.), Joseph Rippon (Direct West India Cable Co.), A representative of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., W. P. B. Shephard, George Shute, Howard Smith, H. Franklin Smith, C. C. Tudway, T. J. Wilkinson (Wilkinson & Gaviller), T. B. Younger (Jones & Younger) and Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, while letters and telegrams of regret at their inability to attend were received from the Earl of Harewood, Mr. Alex. Crum Ewing, Chairman of the West India Association, Glasgow, Charles S. Parker, of the West India Association, Liverpool, Major Trollope, Captain C. R. Harris, R.N., and Messrs. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Quintin Hogg, H. E. Marsh, A. J. Pitman, R. A. Daniell, J. B. Alliot, Elliot G. Louis, and Allen & Baird. Sir Nevile Lubbock proposed in a few suitable words the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Henry K. Davson and carried unanimously in silence, all Members standing.

Resolved:—

"That this General Meeting of Members of the West India Committee respectfully requests the Secretary of State for the Colonies to convey to His Majesty King Edward VII. the expression of their heartfelt sympathy with His Majesty and the Royal Family in the loss they and the Nation have sustained through the death of our late illustrious Queen Victoria, and an assurance of their devoted allegiance and loyal wishes for the happiness and prosperity of his reign."

The Chairman announced that a telegram had been received from the Hon. E. G. Todd, Hon. Correspondent of the Committee for St. Kitts, Nevis, in the following terms:—

"People St. Kitts, Nevis, request you send Wreath, Windsor, token of respect, affection, from Mother Colony, West Indies."—Todd.

and the Secretary was instructed to purchase and send to Windsor a suitable wreath accordingly.

THE ST. KITTS WREATH.

The wreath which was purchased by the Secretary, at the request of the people of St. Kitts, Nevis, was forwarded to the Master of the Household at Windsor Castle, on Thursday last. It took the form of a handsome Chaplet, six feet in height, and was a perfect creation in the artistic arrangement of Choice Orchids, Harrissii Lilies, Lilies of the Valley, Arum Lilies and White Azaleas, interspersed with Asparagus and other Ferns, displayed upon a background of selected Croton leaves. It bore the following inscription upon purple streamers:—

"A TOKEN OF RESPECT AND AFFECTION FROM THE PEOPLE OF ST. KITTS, NEVIS,
THE MOTHER COLONY OF THE WEST INDIES."

Photographs of this wreath, which was made by Messrs. Warren & Craik, of Jermyn Street, will be forwarded to the Colonies.

THE QUEENSLAND SUGAR INDUSTRY.

We give below a resumé of an interesting article which appeared in *The Queensland Agricultural Journal* for December, 1900, upon the sugar industry in that Colony in 1899-1900. During the year 110,657 acres were under cane cultivation, and of that area 79,435 acres were crushed for sugar. The average tonnage of cane per acre was 14·81 tons. The average number of tons of cane required to make a ton of sugar for the whole Colony was 9·54. Much is looked for from the advent to the Colony of Dr. Maxwell, who has succeeded in greatly increasing the production of cane and of sugar in Honolulu. It is argued that if the production of cane on the 79,435 acres could be increased to only 24 tons per acre the result would, reckoning cane at 10/- per ton, be an addition of £5 per acre to the growers, or a total of £387,175 over and above what they actually received during 1899-1900. Further, the output from the mills would be increased by 79,435 tons which, at £8 per acre, would represent £635,680. These figures seem incredible; but it must be remembered that in Java the returns are given of 39·3 tons of cane per acre, the produce of which gave 3 $\frac{9}{10}$ tons of sugar per acre.

Reducing these quantities to a cash value on the basis of Queensland prices, for the purpose of comparison, taking last year's return of acreage crushed, the result shown is as follows: 79,435 acres at 39 $\frac{3}{10}$ tons of cane per acre gives a yield of 3,214,117 tons which, at 10s. per ton, represents £1,607,058, with a resulting sugar yield of 357,124 tons of a value at £8 per ton of £2,856,992.

Sir CAVENDISH BOYLE, K.C.M.G.

It is announced that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G., Government Secretary of British Guiana, to be Governor of Newfoundland.

While regretting his loss to the Colony, all connected with British Guiana will heartily congratulate him upon his appointment to a new sphere of usefulness.

THE BOUNTY QUESTION.

The Austrian papers continue to speak hopefully with regard to the reassembling of the Brussels Conference, and some go so far as to give a list of countries likely to be represented. The "Pester Lloyd" states that it learns from a trustworthy source that a Conference is to be held at St. Petersburg or Moscow, and that Germany, Austria, Hungary, Russia, France, Belgium and Holland have consented to send delegates. In this connection it is interesting to note that a resolution recommending "that effective measures be taken to bring about speedily either the abolition or nullification of the bounties" will be proposed by the Liverpool Chamber at the forthcoming meetings of the Associated Chambers of Commerce to be held in London in March next.

PROFESSOR HARRISON AND THE COMMITTEE.

Professor J. B. Harrison, F.C.S., F.I.C., Government Analyst and Professor of Chemistry of British Guiana, and Dr. M. Teed, B.L., who gave such important evidence at the recent prosecution at Tredegar, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, when a grocer was fined £10 with £15 costs for

selling as Demerara Sugar a sugar coloured with aniline dye, attended the fortnightly meeting of the Acting Committee, on January the 24th last. Those present were Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., in the chair, and Messrs. H. K. Davson, Spencer H. Curtis, Colin M. Gillespie, C. Gurney, R. Rutherford, M. Garnett, W. Goodwin, E. L. Marshall, E. Packard, W. P. B. Shephard and A. E. Aspinall, Secretary. In acknowledging a vote of thanks which was unanimously accorded to him for his attendance at Tredegar, Professor J. B. Harrison said that with regard to the recent Tredegar case the matter was a comparatively simple one, no attempt being made by the defence to prove that the sugar was derived from sugar-cane, or by the prosecution to show that it was, as it appeared to him to be, beet-root sugar. The certificate of analysis produced in court by the defendant admitted the presence of aniline dye in the sugar, but the analyst, misled by the published accounts of the evidence given in the Birmingham case by Messrs. Dyer, Hehner and Newlands, thought that Demerara sugars were commonly dyed by aniline dyes, and that sugars so dyed were in consequence known by the trade as "Demerara" sugar. The certificate which was produced for the purpose of throwing doubt on that of the Public Analyst for Monmouthshire was somewhat loosely worded and, assuming its accuracy, offered full and complete evidence that the sample in question was not "of the nature, substance and quality" of Demerara sugar. The certificate indicated the presence of "invert sugar" in some quantity which those members of the Committee who were conversant with the chemistry of the manufacture of sugar from the sugar-cane by the modern Demerara process were aware was found in only exceedingly small amount in this product, the reducing sugar present being entirely or almost entirely optically inactive glucose, a normal constituent of the sugar-cane when not absolutely mature; the state in which canes almost invariably were when used in the manufacture of Demerara crystals. Again, the proportion of mineral matters present were lower than they would have been in a normal Demerara sugar containing the proportion of reducing sugars shown in the analysis. The inference drawn by Dr. Teed and himself from the analysis was that the sugar consisted of more or less perfectly refined sugar derived either from beetroot, sugar-cane or from a mixture of both and coloured by means of a solution of an aniline dye in an invert sugar syrup. The Bench evidently agreed with this deduction from the analysis produced by the defendant, and marked their agreement by the very substantial nature of the fine and costs imposed. He most carefully impressed on the Bench that the colour of the sugar was a minor point, the value of true "Demerara" crystals being dependent on the flavour and aroma or "bouquet" retained by the sugar from the cane juice from which it has been made, the colour being used by the purchasers merely as indication of the sugars possessing these characteristic properties. This was illustrated by the differences between silent spirit faintly coloured and genuine "Scotch whiskey"; the sugar sold being a "silent" refined sugar coloured to represent the genuine "liqueur" Demerara product. It was further pointed out to the Bench that the defendant's analysis showed that the items moisture, "invert sugar," ash and cane-sugar added up to 100, thus suggesting that the constituents upon which the flavour and aroma characteristic of the West Indian product depend were either entirely absent or present in such a minute quantity that the eminent analyst who had made the analysis apparently had failed to detect their presence. The analyst called for the defence, admitted that he had been to a large extent guided, while forming his opinion on the sugar, by the statements as to West Indian sugars being most invariably dyed, which Messrs. Dyer, Hehner and Newlands are reported to have made on oath in the Birmingham case.

He impressed on the Committee the desirability of keeping before the public the fact that the specific value of Demerara crystals and, to possibly a greater extent, that of oscillated "muscovado" or Barbados sugar lay in their possession, to a marked degree, of the characteristic flavour and aroma obtained from its raw material—the sugar cane.

FAULTY RUM.

Touching on faulty rum he said that this had proved a most difficult problem to settle, and practically whenever an explanation appeared to have been found for it some point arose throwing

doubt upon its universal applicability. The Committee was doubtless aware that a most ingenious solution of the problem had been advanced by Mr. and Mrs. Veley, of Oxford, who had adduced the theory that cases of faultiness in rum arose from the growth in it of an organism—a bacterium—which not only survived or retained its vitality in rum but flourished and multiplied exceedingly therein. In collaboration with Mr. Scard he had devoted much time and attention during recent years to the question of the connection, if any, of this very remarkable organism with "faultiness" in rum. They had captured that microbe and had found it to be what might be termed "a common object of the sea shore" in tropical sugar factories and distilleries; and had obtained it not only from the bottoms of vats in which faulty rum had been shipped, but also and far more frequently from those which had contained rum about which no allegations of faultiness had been made. They had most signally failed in obtaining faultiness in sound rum by the addition of the organism, in fact not only had they failed to produce faultiness, but in no instance had they been able to get the organism to grow, increase, or multiply in rum. And not only had they failed with the organism when obtained from the bottoms of rum vats, but also when obtained from rum in which Mr. and Mrs. Veley had demonstrated its existence. Not satisfied with these failures they had attempted to grow the organism from the vat bottoms and from the rum above alluded to in sterilised sugar solutions containing minute amounts of nitrogen and of mineral salts. In this they had succeeded but when they added rum, in quantity to the solutions containing the organisms in active and apparently vigorous growth, the microbes not only ceased to increase but lost all vitality. The organisms which under the fostering care of Mr. and Mrs. Veley either increased and multiplied to a practically unlimited extent or in some cases entered into a state of suspended animation when placed in rum, in the experiments conducted in the tropics under similar conditions at once succumbed to what might be termed fatal attacks of acute alcoholic poisoning.

Their investigations on the whole indicated that, apart from well known causes of faultiness arising either from defects in apparatus, in fermentation, in distillation, or in the purity of chemicals employed in the wash, the main cause of the complaint usually lay in the varying nature of the staves used in making up the packages. For instance, they could at any time produce faultiness by soaking white oak staves in pure alcohol, and while some woods thus soaked, rapidly rendered the spirits faulty, others required to be soaked for a great length of time before producing a similar effect and this difference was very marked when comparing relatively uncured and thoroughly cured staves. In addition they had been able to test their results on a large scale; rum from the same vat had been shipped in casks made respectively of relatively uncured and of thoroughly cured staves, other conditions being identical; and on arrival in England the rum in the packages made of the less cured staves had been condemned as faulty while that shipped in the packages of cured wood was passed as sound. But while part of the rum in the latter packages was shipped from Demerara soon after being placed in them, other casks were stored there in the Bonded Warehouse for some weeks before shipment, and in some cases the rum which had been thus stored was complained about on arrival in England as being more or less faulty. Thus this experiment on a large scale fully confirmed their laboratory work as regards the influence of the varying qualities of the wood of the staves, and also of the effect of varying lengths of time of storage in packages made of apparently thoroughly cured wood. He ventured to remind the Committee that in certain wine-producing countries the suitability of woods for the preparation of staves for casks intended for the storage of spirits is tested by soaking pieces of the wood in brandy for some weeks and testing the spirits with water for the relative amounts of faultiness produced. Finally he impressed on the Committee the necessity of investigating every case of faultiness in rum independently and on its own merits, and strongly deprecated any attempts to assign all cases of faultiness to any one cause.

STANDARDIZATION OF POLARISCOPES.

The members of the Committee were doubtless all aware of the difficulties which from time to time had arisen with regard to the sale of sugar by its polariscopic value, and that these frequently

arose from the varying methods adopted by different chemists in the application of this test. At the present time this matter was engaging the attention of a court of law in the United States and he (the speaker) had had the honour, at the request of the United States Government, of giving evidence on behalf of the Treasury Department as to the mode of working practised in the Government Laboratories in the West Indies, which were, or had been, under his charge. In the summer of 1900 the matter was discussed in Paris by the International Commission on the Unification of Processes of Sugar Analysis. The result of the deliberations was summarised as follows, in a letter which he had received from Dr. Wiley, Chief of the Division of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture:—"A resolution was adopted favouring the standardization of polariscopes for the usual temperatures of the countries in which they are used, following exactly the plan which you have adopted in your country." It was gratifying that the system adopted by the late Mr. Francis in Demerara and by himself in Barbados nearly twenty years ago had been accepted by the International Commission as the standard one. He thought that the fact that the method which had been adopted first by the West Indian analysts and chemists was now accepted in this manner by the International Commission should do something towards dispelling the chimera raised at times by the pro-bountyites that their troubles in the West Indian Colonies were almost entirely due to their neglect of scientific and modern methods.

SEEDLING CANES.

The question raised by Mr. Carrington as to seedling sugar-canes and the cross-fertilisation of their parents was one of extreme difficulty. It had not been ignored by workers in the West Indies, and in fact he (the speaker) when they were first successful in raising seedlings of the sugar-cane considered that much of that success was due to natural cross-fertilisation; but his colleague, Mr. Jenman, doubted the correctness of this view. In order to gain some information as to whether the arrows might not be self-fertilised before leaving the arrow sheaf, they planted panicles taken from an unopened arrow and succeeded in raising plants from them. This, of course, settled the question that self-fertilisation might occur in the case of the sugar-cane and so intensified the difficulty of the problem as in their opinion to remove it from the sphere of practical experimentation. In the earlier nineties the question was approached by the Java workers, and a report was published that a problem had been successfully solved in the case of certain varieties. But about a twelvemonth after, a paper appeared which had been written by one of the ablest investigators in that island, in which the *pros* and *cons* of the question were fully considered and the conclusion arrived at that, mainly on account of the marked tendency to variation which characterises the seminal offspring of the sugar-cane, the method was not a practicable one, as it would, in the majority of cases, be quite impossible to decide whether the plant raised from seed was a true cross or merely a sport. He must remind Mr. Carrington that their present standard varieties of canes appeared to be mongrels with a remarkable tendency to throw back towards an unknown ancestry in their seedlings. He recognised fully—as fully, probably, as Mr. Carrington did—the importance of the question, and could assure him that it still received their attention. But in British Guiana with their very limited staff of scientific workers it was absolutely necessary to follow out the more promising lines of work for immediate practical results and to more or less neglect those fascinating lines of purely scientific research indicated by Mr. Carrington. Doubtless the Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies in Barbados with his very extensive staff of eminent scientists and his inexhaustible stock of enthusiasm would tackle the question, and, if possible, carry it to a successful conclusion.

Commenting on Sir Nevile Lubbock's assurance that the Committee was prepared at all times to give their consideration to matters affecting any of the industries of the West Indies, he briefly alluded to the great advantages which might accrue to the promoters of industries other than purely agricultural ones if their interests were more fully represented on the West India Committee, stating that in his opinion the time had gone by when they could afford to ignore

any of the resources of these colonies, and pointing out that the success of the gold and possibly of the diamond mining industries of British Guiana would undoubtedly lead to the agricultural development of the vast interior and hinterland of that province of the Empire.

SEEDLING CANES.

A cable summary of a leading article which appeared in the "Times" of January 9th, indicating that the increased yield of sugar to be looked for from the cultivation of seedling canes would reduce the importance of the Bounty Question appears to have caused little short of consternation in the West Indies. We have always recognised the importance of Seedling Cane experiments and have no wish whatever to minimise their value, but we do not think that any advantage can accrue from over-estimating the results attained. We maintain that the average result as yet achieved from Seedlings has been no higher than that obtained from the old "Bourbon" cane under favourable conditions. No doubt the Bourbon has of late years suffered much from disease, and it seems fairly well proved that Seedlings resist the attacks of disease far better than the Bourbon.

The following figures are the result of the experiments at Dodd's Station, Barbados :—

			Tom	Yield	
			per acre.	Sugar per acre in Muscovado.	
BARBADOS.—Bourbon	1886	29.95	2.44
			1888	37.45	2.72
			1890	36.50	2.78
B 147	1900	27.50	2.07*

* The "Times" quotes the available sugar as 3.31, this should be 3.10, and this figure is reduced to 2.07 under the Muscovado process.

We are glad to note that in its issue of February 1st the "Times" qualifies to some extent its former statements, and significantly states that "they (the planters of Barbados) must not regard our former remarks on the subject as indicating that the improving prospects of the seedling cane should, in our judgment, afford the Government any ground for relaxing such efforts as they can make for getting rid of the Bounties."

CANE v. BEET.

At the forthcoming Meetings of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, to be held in London on March 12th, 13th and 14th next, the following resolution will be proposed by the Birmingham Chamber.

"That in the opinion of this Association it is desirable that sugar sold by British retailers should be distinctly labelled 'Cane Sugar' or 'Beet Sugar,' in order that the public may be made acquainted with the description of sugar purchased."

THE MAILS.

Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," 30th January, 1901.—BARBADOS.—Captain Roche, Mr. Gurney, Mr. J. T. Browne, Mr. M. Hine, Messrs. D. Macintosh, F. Demuth, J. Barrow, Miss Dipnall. DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Lubbock, Hon. A. Weber, Miss B. Weber, Dr. W. K. Miley, Hon. B. H. Jones, Mrs. and Miss Jones, Miss Belsher. JAMAICA.—Mr. A. Malalien, Mr. A. Nash. TRINIDAD.—Dr. W. V. M. Koch.

Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," 6th February, 1901 :—BARBADOS.—Sir Frederick Hodgson, K.C.M.G., and Lady Hodgson, Captain Berthon, A.D.C., Mr. and Mr. Alleyne, Master Alleyne, Mr. F. N. Martinez, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. DaCosta and family, Misses M. and E. Peebles, Sub.-Lieut. E. Bruce, Mr. A. H. Eastby. DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mr. F. W. Hutson, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Gall, Miss Gall, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bullers. JAMAICA.—Mrs. Forrest, Mr. C. W. Banks, Miss B. Blackwood and Miss Frances Noel, Hon. E. Ellis, Rev. W. Ballie and family, Mrs. Bainbridge and Miss Wood, Mr. H. Tietz, Miss E. Campbell, Mr. D. C. Cockrane, Messrs. G. and F. Tite, H. Hammond, Mrs. Duncan and Sister. TRINIDAD.—Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Lange, Mr. E. Gerold, Mr. H. de Courcy Hamilton, Dr. C. and Mrs. E. Bovallius, Mr. C. B. C. Storey, Mr. Albrecht, Mr. C. T. White, Mr. Coode, Mr. and Mrs. C. Stanley, Miss C. Bowen, Mr. and Mrs. Ransome. ANTIGUA.—Mr. and Mrs. McAdam. DOMINICA.—Mr. C. Gilbertson, Mr. F. Gilbertson. GRENADA.—Mr. J. C. Ring, Mrs. Whiteman. ST. KITTS.—Mr. R. Carswell. ST. LUCIA.—Major Cowie, Miss Cowie, Miss Harrison. 65 DAYS' TOUR.—Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Wade, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Jarvis, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Spedding, Col. and Mrs. Lys, Mr. W. H. Pease, Mr. E. and Miss Buckworth, Mr. J. and Miss Bell, Mr. G. Sutcliffe, Mr. J. T. Ramsden, Mr. and Miss McNeight, Mr. and Miss Crompton, Miss Goff, Mr. Crailsham, Mr. D. F. C. White, Mr. G. S. Taylor, Mr. T. Homer, Mr. H. J. Lawrence, Mr. J. D. Murdoch.

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

COCOA.

February 1st.—The inquiry is of a quiet character and only a small business is passing at recent values. Guayaquil receipts for the second half of January amounted to 21,500 quintals against 12,360 last year, and for the month 42,500 against 25,100 quintals in 1900.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ... 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.	LIME JUICE ... 9d. to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
GINGER ... 33s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
WAX ... £8 to £8 7s. 6d. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 to £4 5s. per ton.
HONEY ... 23s. to 30s. per cwt.	FUSTIC £3 15s. to £3 2s. 6d. per ton.

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.			
BRITISH GUIANA—									
Jan. 1st to Jan. 16th, 1901	9,751	2,582	361	5,446	26,400	—			
Jan. 1st to Jan. 17th, 1900	2,438	434	—	3,403	78	137			
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.			Asphalt.		Puns.	Tres.	Brls.	
Jan. 1st to Jan. 16th, 1901	21	—	473,450	5,383	17,000	233	18	26	
Jan. 1st to Jan. 16th, 1900	—	3	556,920	3,408	337,080	353	—	—	

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom 26th January	65,861	60,455	69,816	107,361	128,375
France 1st January.....	715,000†	680,000†	600,000†	550,000	617,000
Germany 1st January	1,094,710*	1,009,077*	1,010,625*	1,072,025*	993,352
Hamburg 30th January	71,920	35,100	58,700	120,200	60,400
Austria-Hungary 1st January	629,053	609,643	619,267	527,581	602,406
Holland 15th January	112,785	82,960	82,648	122,183	105,591
Belgium 1st January	127,000†	147,000†	130,000†	129,456	157,302
	2,816,329	2,624,235	2,571,056	2,628,806	2,664,426
United States 30th January, Total Stocks	100,000	162,916	107,827	202,662	248,542
Cuba, six principal ports, 30th January, Total Stocks...	38,000	25,000	18,406	42,500	33,955
Cargoes afloat, 31st January	10,414	25,291	98,114	78,910	27,460
Total.....	2,964,743	2,837,442	2,795,403	2,952,878	2,974,383

* Total stocks, not Licht's. † Estimated

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Jan. 22nd, "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **JAMAICA.**—NOTE.—January 21st.—It was reported in the Press that a severe storm had passed over the Island, doing extensive damage to banana plantations, many of which were said to be ruined. (Messrs. S. Dobree & Sons), January 25th.—"No hurricane, strong wind with damage to bananas, but not serious." Montego Bay, St. Ann's Bay and Port Maria. **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co.), January 23rd.—"Weather fine for harvesting." (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), January 31st.—"Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books, papers, photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms, in addition to the current official gazettes, &c. :—

The Annual Colonial Reports for Leeward Islands, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, 1899, Barbados Agricultural Gazette (December, 1900), International Sugar Journal, (February), Journal of the Society

of Arts (Vol. XLIX., No. 2513), *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* (Jan. 23rd and 30th), *Louisiana Planter* (Vol. XXVI., Nos. 1, 2 & 3), *The New Liberal Review* (No. 1, Feb., 1901 with article—"An object lesson from the West Indies" by Mayson M. Beeton; 1-net., Earle & Bowerman, 33, Temple Chambers, E. C.), *Produce Markets Review* (Vol. XL., Nos. 1757-8), *West Indian Bulletin* (Imperial Department of Agriculture), *Antigua Market Report* (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), *Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer* (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.), *Demerara Market Reports* (Messrs. Wieting and Richter, Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., *The Chamber of Commerce*), *Trinidad Market Reports* (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. A. Cumming & Co., and Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and *Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co.* (London and New York), *E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers:—*

The Antigua Observer

The Antigua Standard

The Barbados Globe

The Argosy (Demerara)

The Daily Chronicle (Demerara)

The Dominican

The Dominica Guardian

The Federalist (Grenada)

The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada)

The Gleaner (Jamaica)

The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica)

The St. Christopher Advertiser

The Voice (St. Lucia)

The Mirror (Trinidad)

Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad)

Vaughan's Weekly (Trinidad)

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

Subscribers 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.

It is hoped that Members who have not already done so will remit the amount of their Subscription for the current year to the Secretary at their earliest convenience.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 38.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

February 19th, 1901.

THE KING'S MESSAGE.

Mr. Chamberlain has communicated, by command of the King, His Majesty's sincere thanks to the West India Committee for their Resolution of sympathy and loyalty which was adopted on January 30th last. The following Gracious Message has been forwarded by Command of His Majesty the King to all Colonies and Dependencies:—

Windsor Castle, February 4th, 1901.

To My People Beyond the Seas.

'The countless messages of loyal sympathy which I have received from every part of My Dominions over the Seas testify to the universal grief in which the whole Empire now mourns the loss of My Beloved Mother.

'In the welfare and prosperity of Her subjects throughout Greater Britain the Queen ever evinced a heartfelt interest.

'She saw with thankfulness the steady progress which, under a wide extension of Self-Government, they had made during Her Reign. She warmly appreciated their unfailing loyalty to Her Throne and Person, and was proud to think of those who had so nobly fought and died for the Empire's cause in South Africa.

'I have already declared that it will be My constant endeavour to follow the great example which has been bequeathed to Me.

'In these endeavours I shall have a confident trust in the devotion and sympathy of the People and of their several Representative Assemblies throughout My vast Colonial Dominions.

'With such loyal support I will, with God's blessing, solemnly work for the promotion of the common welfare and security of the great Empire over which I have now been called to reign.

'EDWARD. R.I.'

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

Advices from the Continent continue to point to an early reassembling of the Brussels Conference. M. Jean Dupuy, French Minister of Agriculture, presiding over a Meeting of the Société des Agriculteurs du Nord, at Lille, on Sunday, February 10th last, promised to urge the sending of two representatives of the sugar industry to the Conference when it should reassemble and made the following important declarations. First, that the Government did not look for an increase of revenue from a modification of the Tax on Sugar, but that the Minister of Finance was hoping to secure an increase of consumption by a marked reduction of the present duty. Secondly, that the stir produced in the Sugar and Beet world was not easily explained, inasmuch as the Sugar legislation could only be altered by a law, and, Thirdly, that it seemed impossible, whatever happened, that Parliament would be called upon to legislate on this question before the next sugar campaign.

THE QUEENSLAND SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The following summary of the official returns published by the Queensland Government giving the results shown by 11 Estates in Queensland producing 31,000 tons of Sugar (average of 2 years, 1898/9) per annum, will be of interest to our readers.

COST OF PRODUCTION.

Highest on any one estate (average of 2 years, 1898/9), £10 16 5½. Loss per ton, £2 0 2½.

Lowest on any one estate (average of 2 years, 1898/9), £6 8 2½. Profit per ton, £2 7 5½.

Average of all estates (2 years, 1898/9), £8 10 10. Profit per ton, 8s.

TONS OF SUGAR MADE.

Highest (average 2 years, 1898/9), 4,817 tons. Profit per ton, £1 2 10.

Lowest (average 2 years, 1898/9), 956 tons. Loss per ton, 1s. 10d.

Average (2 years, 1898/9), 2,787 tons. Profit per ton, 8s.

PRICE PAID PER TON CANES.

Highest (average 2 years, 1898/9), 14s. Average Crop Sugar, 2,333 tons. Cost £9 7 3½. Loss per ton, 10s. 1½d.

Lowest (average 2 years, 1898/9), 10s. Average Crop Sugar, 3,711 tons. Cost £6 8 2½. Profit per ton, £2 7 5½.

Average price (all estates), 11s. 2½d. Average Crop Sugar, 2,791 tons. Cost £8 10 10. Profit 8s.

THE CANE SUGAR MOVEMENT.

We continue to hear of prosecutions for selling dyed sugar as "Demerara." On January 30th two grocers were convicted, under §6 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, at the Clerkenwell Police Court, and fined £2 10s. and £1 5s. costs; while on February 7th, at the instance of the Borough of Camberwell, a grocer was fined for a similar offence £2 and 17/6 costs. A pamphlet giving a report of the recent Tredegar case with an introduction, has been published by the West India Committee. The Trustees of the West India and British Guiana Sugar Planters' Fund have decided that the support accorded them justifies their taking further steps towards making the importance of this movement more widely known among those interested, with a view to embarking upon active operations at an early date. Enquiries respecting it may be addressed to the Secretary of the West India Committee, who is acting as Hon. Secretary of the fund.

CUBAN PRODUCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Cuban Sugar Producers have petitioned President McKinley for a reduction of the duties assessed on their Sugars imported into the United States. Messrs. Willet & Gray, in their *Journal* dated January 31st, state that they have special advices from Washington to the effect that the War Department is giving this petition active consideration. The Secretary for War, with the President's approval, can increase or reduce duties on merchandise coming into the Island of Cuba at present, but no change can be made in the duties on goods imported into the United States from Cuba or elsewhere without the consent of Congress. Nothing is likely to be done for Cuba until the new Constitution is prepared by the Convention now in session at Havana; even then the proposed Constitution must be sent to the Government at Washington for approval.

As this session of Congress expires on March 4th, no action can be expected immediately, though it is possible that a special session may be convened soon after March 4th for the consideration of various matters pertaining to Cuba and the Phillipines. It will be remembered, from our *Circular No. 25* (January 8th, 1900), that in his annual message of 1899 the President recommended that Cuban

products should be admitted to the United States on as favourable terms as those of the British West Indies. Meanwhile a strong effort is being made by domestic producers of Sugar, Rice, Fruits and other articles to prevent the ratification of the various reciprocity treaties now pending. Sugar producers in Puerto Rico are hoping for a decision from the United States Supreme Court which will result in free trade being inaugurated with the United States immediately instead of as from March 1st, 1902, as provided for under the Law of April 12th, 1900.

THE WEST INDIES AND THEIR ATTRACTIONS.

The above is the title of a paper which will be read by Mr. W. R. H. Trowbridge, who has recently returned from British Guiana, at the Imperial Institute on Monday, March 18th, next. Lord Stamford has consented to take the chair upon this occasion, and the paper will be illustrated by limelight views of the West Indies lent by the West India Committee.

Under the auspices of the S.P.G. a Colonial Exhibition was recently held at Clifton, Bristol, extending over several days. The feature of the West Indian Court, which was arranged by Mr. Elliot G. Louis, a member of the West India Committee, was a stately and vigorous bundle of Sugar Canes specially sent from Barbados, while there was also a good exhibit of curios, photographs, and other objects of interest pertaining to the West Indies.

THE IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL.

The R.M.S. "Port Morant," the first steamer of the New Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, sailed for Kingston, Jamaica, from Avonmouth, Bristol, at 4 o'clock on Saturday, February 16th last amid great rejoicings. It is estimated that about 10,000 people were present to see her off, while the Town and Port were gaily decorated with bunting, bands were playing and Church bells ringing in honour of the occasion. The "Port Morant" which carried a full complement of passengers (a list of whom will be found on page 4), and a full cargo, is expected to arrive at Kingston on March 1st, whence she will start on March 6th on her homeward journey, arriving it is hoped at Bristol, where her advent will be eagerly awaited, on March 18th. It will be remembered that the steamers of the new line are furnished with cargo space for carrying 20,000 bunches of bananas and 40 First Class and 15 Second Class passengers, till January 16th, 1904, after which date accommodation must be found for 100 First Class and 50 Second Class passengers. Mr. Alfred L. Jones received many telegrams and letters of congratulation upon the successful inauguration of his new venture.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

We have received a copy of the Report of the Committee of the West Indian Club which has just been published. From this it appears that the Membership of the Club now amounts to 202, being an increase of 70 Members for the year. The Committee hope that the time is drawing nearer when more suitable accommodation may be provided for Members by the lease of larger premises or by affiliation to some other Club, but point out that apart from the question of Premises they feel that the mere existence of the Club as an organization for promoting sporting and friendly relations generally between the Islands of the West Indies and the Mother Country cannot fail to prove of great advantage to the West Indies. The Report deals fully with the social and financial aspect of the recent visit of West Indian Cricketers to this Country. Lord Harris, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., and their Excellencies Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., Sir Frederick Hodgson, K.C.M.G. and Sir Robert Llewellyn, K.C.M.G., have been elected Vice-Presidents of the Club since the last report was issued.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," February 14th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. S. R. Jopson, Fleet Paymaster H. W. Hunt, R.N. DEMERARA.—G. H. Van Ganderen, Mr. E. A. Rice, Mr. Graham Young and Child, Mr. J. Broadie, Mr. J. F. Bartholomew. JAMAICA.—Col. The Hon. J. P. Bouverie and Mrs. Bouverie, Dr. C. R. White, Mr. E. R. Sherman, Mr. & Mrs. McGeoch, Miss McGeoch, Miss Mackintyre,

Mr. M. Dobson, Rev. Dr. Caldecott, Mr. Pickering. TRINIDAD.—Rt. Hon. Sir James Ferguson Bart. M.P., Mr. H. Gauché, Mr. W. John, Mr. T. Breakell, Dr. Ireland. DOMINICA.—Mr. E. Fadelle. GRENADA.—Mr. C. H. Hagley. ST. LUCIA.—Lt. W. A. De C. King, R.E. ST. VINCENT.—Mr. J. R. Dasent, C.B., Mrs. J. R. Dasent, Rev. C. Stephen. Passengers booked per R.M.S. "Para," February 20th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. C. B. Gibbons, Mrs. O'Neal, Lt. Col. A. C. Foley, R.E., Mr. J. G. Knight, Sgt. Whitcomb and family, Sgt. Hailstone and family, Miss Cochrane, Mr. E. Hainbridge. JAMAICA.—Mrs. E. P. Dewar, Mr. Meagher, Miss Amy Main, Captain W. Goodsall, Mr. and Miss Crum Ewing, Mr. J. R. Pike, Mr. K. T. Meagher, Sgt. J. Parker and family, 2nd Lieut. J. Stirke, Sgt. Kobson and wife, Sgt. Bravin and family, Mr. C. F. Vlies, Mr. and Mrs. J. Morrison, Sgt. Parker. DEMERARA.—Miss Kennard, Mrs. Castor and family. TRINIDAD.—Mr. and Mrs. W. Crosswaite, Mr. J. W. Dowson, Mr. J. B. Dowson, Mr. H. de C. Hamilton, Mr. Bulpett. ANTIGUA.—Mr. E. A. Foster. GRENADA.—Mrs. Whiteman, Mr. R. P. Elliott. ST. KITTS.—Miss M. Reid, Mr. Luxmoore Marshall. 65 DAYS' TOUR.—Lady Alexander, Mr. Baume, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Blandy, Miss Blandy, Miss Goldsmith, Mr. Arthur Baume, Mr. Arthur Jackson, Mr. A. Gray, Miss Whiteway, Mr. K. B. Hope.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," Feb. 16th. JAMAICA.—FIRST SALOON—Mr. Barclay, Mrs. Barclay, Mr. Blood, Mr. W. Coman, Dr. Coutts, Mr. England, Mrs. England, Mr. Percy Fox, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Justice Lumb, Mrs. Lumb, Miss MacDermot, Mr. Menzies, Miss Menzies, Dr. Mott, Dr. Nicholls, Dr. Ransford, Mrs. Helen K. St. Aubyn and child, Mr. Stephenson, Mrs. Stephenson, Mr. H. Swayn, Mr. Swayn, Mr. W. W. Wynne. SECOND SALOON—Mr. Biggs, Mrs. Biggs, Mr. Beck, Mr. Frear, Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. Hampton, Mr. G. Jenkins, Mr. E. Smith, Capt. Wiltshire.

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

WEST INDIA TOPICS.

It has been suggested that we might usefully give in the *Circular* the names and dates of any well-known papers, containing articles or letters of especial importance on West India Topics during the fortnight. This we shall endeavour to do from time to time under the above heading. For the past fortnight, special attention may be called to the following:—"The Financial News," Feb. 5th, 8th, "The Projected Sugar Duties;" "The Morning Post," Feb. 12th, "The Jamaica of to-day."

RUM.

During the past month this market has continued in a very depressed state, principally owing to the unusually heavy arrivals of Demerara, stocks of which since the 1st January have risen from 4,600 to 8,800 Puns, with still further arrivals to be added. Under these circumstances the trade naturally have been reluctant to operate, buying only with the greatest caution, in consequence of which proof kinds have experienced a further fall in value, with sales only amounting to 600 Puns at 1/5 to 1/6, being a decline of 1/2d. per proof gallon, or fully 4 1/2d. from the prices current last autumn. Jamaica descriptions have suffered somewhat in sympathy, but stocks yet show a deficiency, as against last year, of about 1,500 Puns. For the first time since June, 1896, stocks of all descriptions show a surplus over the preceding year, which now amounts to about 2,000 Puns.

We append the Board of Trade returns for the past year:—

			1901.		1900.		1899.		1898.	
LANDED	++	++	In Jan.	1,089,708	..	602,175	..	523,420	..	705,256
HOME CONSUMPTION ..			"	418,175	..	540,226	..	372,297	..	343,169
EXPORT	"	47,696	..	84,504	..	66,033	..	55,758
STOCK (Galls)	31 Jan.	7,478,000	..	7,282,000	..	7,963,000	..	8,351,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

			1901.		1900.		1899.		1898.
JAMAICA PUNS .. ..	..	..	7,599	..	9,076	..	11,430	..	10,709
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS ..			415	..	463	..	636	..	508
DEMERARA .. ..	..	..	8,797	..	4,794	..	6,156	..	6,704
FOREIGN .. ..	..	..	1,946	..	2,158	..	665	..	1,129
BRITISH EAST INDIA ..	..	..	1,492	..	1,471	..	302	..	353
VATTED .. ..	..	..	3,198	..	3,537	..	3,350	..	3,743
TOTAL .. ..	..	..	23,447	..	21,499	..	22,539	..	23,146

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—During the past month the supplies at public auction have been light amounting only to 3,750 bags, which, with a fair demand from the Trade were chiefly sold. The market opened at a decline of 1/- per cwt. and remained steady at this reduction. Good middling red of the value of 68/- to 69/- per cwt. was most in requested, qualities of above 70/- being in more limited demand. During the last week the tone of the market has been very quiet. The figures from the 1st January are as follows, viz. :—

	1901	1900
LANDED	4,420 bags	against 2,891 bags.
DELIVERED	8,191	.. .. . 6,354
STOCK 9th February	22,236	.. .. . 15,172

GRENADA.— Since the date of our last report 9,151 bags have been offered publicly, of which about 8,000 bags found buyers at easier prices, the decline at the close being 2/6 to 3/- per cwt. Importers at first were not disposed to meet the market, but as there appeared no probability of any improvement they changed their views and with fair competition nearly all of the supplies found buyers. At the close the market is very quiet.

	1901	1900
LANDED	9,241 bags	against 5,014 bags.
DELIVERED	6,332	.. .. . 4,630
STOCK 9th February	11,445	.. .. . 9,727

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.	LIME JUICE ...	9d. to 10½d. per gall.
GINGER ...	34s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD...	... £4 10s. to £4 12s. 6d. per ton.
WAX ...	£8 7s. 6d. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
HONEY ...	24s. to 28s. per cwt.	FUSTIC ...	... £3 15s. to £4 per ton.
CON. LIME JUICE	£18 to £18 5s. per pipe (108 galls)	FUSTIC ROOTS ...	£3 5s. per ton.

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee lbs.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.	Asphalt. Tons.	Pans.	Tres.	Brls.
BRITISH GUIANA—											
Jan. 1st to Jan. 30th, 1901	14,028	4,933	361	—	6,907	55,000	231				
Jan. 1st to Feb. 1st, 1900	8,686	3,077	3,887	—	5,136	78	975				
TRINIDAD—											
Jan. 1st to Jan. 30th, 1901	1,021	—	1,993,084	2,960	16,363	398,550	237		18		27
Jan. 1st to Jan. 30th, 1900	507	3	2,346,390	—	5,940	749,430	623		—		—

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom 9th February	70,393	59,799	63,986	95,703	117,812
France 1st February	670,000†	635,000†	590,000†	545,000	623,865
Germany 1st February.....	1,046,800*	989,546*	969,014*	1,064,167*	1,030,785
Hamburg 14th February.....	60,050	49,600	53,400	116,400	49,100
Austria-Hungary 1st February	618,270	620,585	600,010	520,729	597,896
Holland 1st February	107,866	92,870	76,855	114,994	110,941
Belgium 1st February	105,000†	125,000†	122,265	122,056	142,660
	2,678,379	2,572,400	2,475,530	2,579,049	2,673,059
United States, 13th February, Total Stocks	128,000	156,329	99,698	209,590	280,447
Cuba, six principal ports, 13th February, Total Stocks	73,000	48,667	30,698	65,500	38,196
Cargoes afloat, 14th February	15,714	25,171	131,553	87,558	44,997
Total.....	2,895,093	2,802,567	2,737,479	2,941,697	3,036,699

* Total stocks, not Licht's. † Estimated

BEET PROSPECTS.

News from agricultural centres in France is satisfactory, though planters would have liked colder and drier weather. The assurance given by M. Dupuy, the French Minister of Agriculture, that it is now impossible for any alteration in the fiscal arrangements with regard to sugar to be made during the present campaign, can only encourage planters again to keep much land in beet. In Germany the weather has been variable. In many parts the snow has melted, and the winter cereals lack their natural protection against frost. It is thought that the production for the present campaign will only vary slightly from the latest estimates. With regard to the coming crop there are indications of a marked increase of sowings, though nothing definite can be said on this point till sowing time commences.—*Journal des Fabricants de Sucre.*

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), February 4th, "Very dry, rain wanted."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), February 6th, "The drought continues." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), February 12th, "Only a few showers, insufficient." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), February 16th, "The drought continues." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co.), February 13th, "Weather fine for harvesting."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books, papers, photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms, in addition to the current official gazettes, &c. :—

The Financial News, Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society (January, 1901), Journal des Fabricants de Sucre, The Laws of St. Lucia, 1889, Louisiana Planter, Produce Markets Review, Report on Technical Tests on a series of Timbers supplied by British Guiana to the Imperial Institute, "Trinidad and Tobago Year Book, 1901," by James Henry Collens, 1901, Messrs. Muir, Marshall & Co., Port of Spain, Trinidad. Antigua Market Report (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.), Demerara Market Reports (Messrs. Wicting & Richter, Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., The Chamber of Commerce), Trinidad Market Reports (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. A. Cumming & Co., and Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers :—

The Antigua Observer

The Antigua Standard

The Barbados Globe

The Clarion (British Honduras)

The Argosy (Demerara)

The Daily Chronicle (Demerara)

The Dominica Guardian

The Federalist (Grenada)

The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada)

The Gleaner (Jamaica)

The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica)

The St. Christopher Advertiser

The Voice (St Lucia)

The Mirror (Trinidad)

Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).

Vaughan's Weekly (Trinidad).

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

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It is hoped that Members who have not already done so will remit the amount of their Subscription for the current year to the Secretary at their earliest convenience.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.

March 5th, 1901.

THE BOUNTY QUESTION.

We have every reason to believe that the negotiations for the reassembling of the Brussels Conference referred to by Lord Cranborne, in his answer to Colonel Milward's question in the House of Commons on February 21st which is recorded elsewhere in the Circular, are progressing satisfactorily, and that the Conference is likely to meet in the near future.

A Meeting of Members of Parliament interested in the Sugar Bounties question was held in one of the Committee rooms of the House of Commons on February 18th last, Colonel Victor Milward presiding. Preliminary arrangements were made for an organised campaign during the present Session. Mr. James Reid (Greenock), who obtained fifteenth place in the ballot, gave notice of a resolution on the Bounty question for the first available Tuesday, but it has since been announced that every Tuesday in March will be appropriated by the Government for the discussion of Finance.

THE "TIMES" AND SEEDLING CANES.

It will be remembered that in our Circular No. 37, we made some reference to the consternation caused in the West Indies at a certain article which appeared in the "Times" of January 9th, indicating that the increased yield to be looked for from the cultivation of seedling canes would reduce the importance of the Bounty Question. This view was considerably modified in a subsequent article which appeared in the "Times" of February 1st. But the recent mail brought with it so many letters of protest from our correspondents and others, that on February 26th we addressed the following letter on the subject to the Secretary of State:—

Sir,

1.—Our attention has been called by many articles which have appeared in the West Indian Press, and by private advices received by the Mail, to the feeling of consternation which has been aroused in the Colonies at the interpretation, put by the Press at Home, upon certain recent utterances of the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, in regard to the results to be hoped for from the experiments with seedling canes. It is made to appear on the strength of these remarks, that the increased yield to be anticipated from the experiments now going on, would be such as to justify His Majesty's Government in regarding the Bounties as of comparatively minor importance in relation to the West Indian sugar industry.

2.—As we have already pointed out to you, Sir, on various occasions, we are very fully alive to the value of these experiments, but we cannot help feeling that in this case sufficient distinction has not been drawn in these utterances—which naturally command very great attention in this Country—between the eventual scientific possibilities to be hoped for and the practical results which have been so far achieved.

3.—It is obvious how much more difficult our task of educating Public Opinion in this Country on questions connected with the West Indies will be rendered unless the very greatest caution is exercised in all such official utterances to avoid generalizations which can by any possibility lend themselves to comments of this kind.

4.—In this connection we would refer you especially to articles which appeared in the "Times" of 9th January last, and 24th March, 1900. Also to a letter of the "Times" correspondent published in the "Times" of 19th March, 1900.

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

SEEDLING CANE EXPERIMENTS.

On January 24th inst. the following letter was addressed to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies on the above subject :—

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 270/1901 of January 11th instant transmitting by direction of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain for the information of my Committee copies of two letters from the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies forwarding summaries of the results of the Sugar Cane Experiments carried on at Barbados and the Leeward Islands respectively during the year 1900.

2.—While thanking you for these important papers, I am to say that my Committee fully realise that this question of improving the sugar cane is one of the greatest importance to British Guiana and the West Indies, especially in view of the fact that the seedling canes appear to resist disease better than the old canes, and that they will be prepared at all times to give the good work being done by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in this direction their fullest support.

3.—My Committee have suggested to Dr. Morris that of the two pamphlets submitted the smaller recording the experiments as conducted in Barbados is perhaps the more concise, and that it would be advisable if all the experiments were uniformly tabulated in this same form, which from its brevity is more likely to appeal to Planters than a lengthy pamphlet.

4.—Although my Committee are hopeful of important results being obtained from these experiments they do not wish to be over sanguine, for it must be borne in mind that comparison is now being made in Barbados between the B 147 cane and the Bourbon in its decadent days and not with the Bourbon in the heyday of its vigorous growth when its yielding powers were fully equal to those of the new variety.

5.—In conclusion I have the honour to call Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's attention to the accompanying extracts* from my Committees Circulars Nos. 34 and 36, which they hope will show the deep interest which they take in this matter.

I have, etc.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

The question of cross-fertilization of sugar canes to which Professor Harrison made reference at a meeting of the Acting Committee on January 24th (Circular 37, p. 5), has again been engaging the attention of the West India Committee at the instance of Mr. George Carrington, and a communication on the subject has been addressed to the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture. In this connection the following extract from Messrs. Garton's seed catalogue describing the Garton system of plant breeding which has been in vogue for 20 years at Newton-le-Willows in Lancashire will be of interest. It has there been demonstrated that all corn crops (cereals) and nearly all the other common crops of the farm are self-fertilizing. Each individual plant provides the pollen which is required in the process of producing seed, to fertilize the female organs of its own flowers. This natural process results in a perfect system of in-breeding which has been going on for an indefinite period, making it possible to grow the different varieties of crops of the same kind in close proximity to each other, and even as mixed crops, without any danger of crosses being produced. If crossing could have occurred in nature it would have been quite impossible to maintain the purity of any variety of crop plant for more than a year or two. As in the animal kingdom, in-breeding of plants tends to a decrease of constitutional vigour, so when cross-fertilization is practised the size and vigour of the selected progeny are increased in a remarkable degree. Not only have varieties of a

* Not printed in this Circular.

given species, but what were formerly regarded as distinct species belonging to the same genus, been successfully mated. The tendency to sterility in their progeny is overcome by introducing pollen from one or other of the original plants, it being the male organs of reproduction that are liable to be absent or defective in the progeny of two extremely divergent parent plants. As an example of the results obtainable at Newton-le-Willows from cross fertilization, a wild naked oat, *Avena nuda*, indigenous to China, has been used to produce new breeds which yield in some instances 100 per cent. more than their cultivated parents.

CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR PER HEAD.

F. O. Licht's monthly report for February gives the consumption per head of the supposed population of the undermentioned Countries as follows :—

	Population, millions.	Consumption lbs. per head.		Population, millions.	Consumption lbs. per head.
U.K.	40.7	91.75	Belgium	6.7	23.32
U.S. ..	74.4	65.28	Holland	5.1	32.48
Germany	55.8	33.92	Denmark	2.4	54.86
Austria	46.3	17.65	Sweden and Norway ..	7.2	38.27
France	38.6	37.00	Italy	31.8	6.09
Russia	107.0	14.00	Spain	18.2	10.61

CASTRIES HARBOUR, ST. LUCIA.

The support of the West India Committee has been accorded to an influentially signed Memorial from St. Lucia, praying the Government of the Windward Islands to undertake substantial improvements to the Harbour of Castries. The memorialists point out the immediate necessity of an extension of the existing wharves and the enlargement of available water area by dredging in order to cope with the expansion of the shipping and coaling trade, the extent of which, during the decade 1890—1900, is illustrated by the following figures :—

	No. of Steamers Entered.	Tonnage.	Bunker Coal Delivered.
1890	386	425,566	37,000
1900	672	1,200,000	107,000

The memorialists suggest that the cost of the dredging and wharf extension would properly be met by a loan of say £80,000, bearing interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. A letter on this subject is being addressed by the Committee to the Secretary of State who will be requested to give the Memorial his most favourable consideration.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

In the House of Commons on February 21st, Viscount Cranborne replying to a question asked by Colonel Milward said that suggestions had recently been received from the Belgian Government for the reassembling of the Brussels Conference upon certain bases. These suggestions were under the consideration of His Majesty's Government, but at the present stage it would not be desirable to indicate their exact nature. It was presumed that the above-mentioned suggestions had been made to the Powers represented at the last Conference, namely, Great Britain, Germany, Austria Hungary, Belgium, Spain, France, Holland, Russia and Sweden. On February 26th, Viscount Cranborne replied in the affirmative to an enquiry of Sir J. Leung, (Dundee), whether the British delegates at the Brussels Conference on Sugar in 1898 having reserved entire liberty of action to the Government, which the development of the sugar question might render necessary, it was open to Parliament to impose a duty on sugar at any time without notice to the Governments which took part in that conference.

MAIL NOTES.

From the recent mail letters of our Hon. Correspondents, we learn that in **Antigua** during the fortnight ending February 13th the weather was dry, only light showers having fallen. The good rains experienced in January were a great boon, and materially added to the prospects of the coming crop, as well as giving the young plant canes for 1902 an excellent start. Another Agricultural Show was to be held at an early date, for the exhibition of canes, sugar, rum, molasses and cereals, which were not *in evidence* at the last show, which was out of season for such commodities. At a meeting of the Agricultural Society, held on February 1st, a resolution was passed urging that immediate and universal remedies should be adopted for the extinction of praedial larceny. From **Barbados**, Mr. Forster M. Alleyne wrote on February 15th that practically no rain had fallen since January 14th, and the whole Island was excessively dry. The young canes continued to keep green and the old ones to hold. Most estates had made a little sugar from trimming round the fields, but reaping was not yet general, though it would be in another fortnight. The canes, so far as could be judged as yet, were juicy, and promised to give good results. It was cruel that disgraceful acts of incendiarism, of which there had been numerous examples during the past week, should tend to mar an otherwise fair crop. On the 9th inst. five fields at Staple Grove Plantation were set on fire simultaneously in broad daylight at 4 p.m., resulting in the loss of 47 acres, and the manager's house was pelted with stones. This was nothing less than a conspiracy, but no arrest had been made. On the 11th inst., in broad daylight, fire was set to canes at Ashford, in St. Thomas, when 34 acres were burnt, as also 14 acres on the adjoining estate, Westwood. This fire nearly involved the destruction of Holy Innocents Chapel and Vicarage, which is close by. These were the two largest, but numerous other fires had taken place in St. George's, Christ Church and St. Philips, involving the destruction of six or seven acres at a time. On February 12th Mr. Summerson wrote that the weather throughout **British Guiana** continued too dry, and although a few light showers had fallen during the fortnight, they had not been heavy enough for Estate's requirements. The last sale of about 1,000 tons of refining crystals was reported at \$2.40. At **Dominica** arrangements were in progress, when the mail left, for holding the Agricultural Show, the postponement of which was likely to effect seriously its success. From **St. Kitts**, the Hon. E. G. Todd wrote that it was impossible to estimate the extent of the crop until some further advance in reaping had been made. So far as reaping was concerned, the weather could only be considered as fairly favourable. The young crop was at the same time being satisfactorily established. In **St. Vincent**, according to advices received from Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., it appears that cane planting for 1902 has been begun pretty extensively in some districts, but the appearance of disease among the plants for 1901 has been a disappointment to many. Writing from **Trinidad**, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick said that the weather was dry and sugar-making was in full swing. Cocoa Planters in some districts were beginning to fear that such dry weather would prevent the young cocoa then on the trees from maturing.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

Mr. Theodore H. Wardleworth, F.L.S., will deliver an illustrated lecture entitled "Jamaica: the Isle of Springs," at the Imperial Institute, at 8.30, on Monday, March 11th next, when the chair will be taken by General Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G. Admission to this and to Mr. Trowbridge's lecture on the "West Indies and their Attractions" (Monday, March 18th, 8.30 p.m.), will be free without tickets. The Secretary of the Imperial Institute has, however, placed a limited number of reserved seat tickets for these lectures at the disposal of the West India Committee, and which can be had on application.

THE IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL.

The R.M.S. "Port Morant," whose departure on her maiden voyage to Jamaica was recorded in our last Circular, arrived at Kingston, Jamaica, early on Friday, March 1st, having accomplished the voyage in 12½ days.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," February 27th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. L. Randon, Rev. and Mrs. Rac and two children, Mr. H. Evans, Mr. M. Paschen, Mr. S. A. Turner, Rev. Father Wolsely, Miss Mills, Miss Swaby, Mrs. Peck, Miss K. Garrett, Miss Goodwyn, Messrs. J. Johstone, W. J. G. Langlands, I. Langlands, G. Dawson, J. Sturge, W. Cadbury, Mr. and Mrs. C. Faulkner, Mr. H. Bennett, Mr. S. R. Worters, Mr. J. B. Pritchard, Lt. A. C. B. Gray. JAMAICA.—Messrs. B. Isaacs, E. Platt, J. A. F. Suter, J. W. Dyson, H. W. Trickett, W. B. Scott, Mr. Flint and Miss Watson, Dr. and Mrs. Coppinger and two children, Commander Allenby, Capt. Barchard. Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," 6th March, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Major Drummond, Mr. T. Wilkinson, Mr. J. Wilkinson, Miss Wilkinson, Sergeant Clements, R.E. DEMERARA.—Mr. P. Hemery, Mr. and Mrs. Swain, Mr. A. Allt, Mr. and Mrs. Rice, Mrs. A. G. Spain, Mr. R. W. Grieg, Mr. and Mrs. Hodge. JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Simons, Mr. S. Kaye. TRINIDAD.—Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. W. F. Stoddart. ANTIGUA.—Mr. and Mrs. Bryson, GRENADA.—Miss Commissiong. ST. KITTS.—Lord Dynevor, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Montgomerie, Dr. Le Fleming.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," March 2nd, 1901.—JAMAICA.—Dr. J. Grimes, Mr. W. Crooke, Mr. C. Crooke, Mr. and Mrs. Nation, Mrs. B. L. Woods, Mr. Birks, Mr. Mason, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Thursfield, Miss Shearer, Mr. H. E. Acklom, Mr. Tylecott, Mr. C. J. Picton, Mr., Mrs. and two Misses Dorman, Mr. H. Bell, two Misses Bell, Mr. Cyril Maude, Col. Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Cull, Mr. J. L., Mr. R. and two Misses Beck, Mr. H. Russell, Mr. W. J. Forster, Mr. Payne, Mr. E. Milliken, Mr. E. H. Garnett, Mr. P. W. Elkington, Mrs. Withers and two children, Mr. Hichen.

WEST INDIA TOPICS.

For facility of reference we append a list of papers which have contained important articles on the West Indies during the past fortnight. "The Times," Feb. 21st, Leading Article on Imperial Direct West India Mail Service. "The Morning Post," Feb. 25th and March 2nd, "Colonial Affairs."

BEET PROSPECTS.

In France the weather has again been very cold for the time of year, but on Saturday (Feb. 23rd) it became decidedly milder and it has since been normal and dry. On February 15th, four factories were still at work as compared with two in the previous year. The total weight of beets dealt with amounted to 1,313,716,866 kg. more than in 1900, while the production amounted to 155,716,703 kg. more than last year. The total production of sugar will, it is thought, amount to about 1,045,000 tons as compared with 869,200 tons in 1899-1900. In Germany there have been sharp frost and fall of snow, followed by thaw and rain. A slight increase of sowings over last year is anticipated. In Austria Hungary (Feb. 20th), fresh snow has fallen, and the watercourses are frozen.

COCOA.

A quiet tone still prevails in this market and transactions are only small, but prices show no change.

The Guayaquil receipts for the second half of February were 12,591 quintals against 9,850 last year, 10,000 in 1899, 11,000 in 1898, and 15,100 in 1897. The total for the season amounts to 67,791 quintals against 46,600 a year ago, 36,400 in 1899, 44,250 in 1898 and 46,965 quintals in 1897.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.	LIME JUICE ...	9d. to 10½d. per gall.
GINGER ...	34s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD... ..	£4 10s. to £4 12s. 6d. per ton.
WAX ...	£8 7s. 6d. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
HONEY ...	20s. to 28s. per cwt.	FUSTIC	£3 15s. to £4 per ton.

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee lbs.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.	Asphalt. Tons.	Puns.	Tres.	Brls
BRITISH GUIANA—											
Jan. 1st to Feb. 13th, 1901	14,211	5,285	361	—	9,785	55,000	255				
Jan. 1st to Feb. 14th, 1900	8,820	3,127	3,887	—	8,213	78	1,102				
TRINIDAD—											
Jan. 1st to Feb. 13th, 1901	22,952	—	3,098,424	9,120	21,724	1,304,190	238		18	27	
Jan. 1st to Feb. 13th, 1900	687	3	3,424,310	—	11,119	1,056,730	844		—	—	

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom 23rd February	76,921	58,221	57,107	87,838	105,203
France 1st February	670,000†	635,000†	590,000†	545,000	623,865
Germany 1st February.....	1,047,000*	989,546*	969,014*	1,064,167*	1,030,785
Hamburg 28th February.....	51,650	49,400	58,300	116,500	43,100
Austria-Hungary 1st February	619,797	620,585	600,010	520,729	597,896
Holland 15th February	101,450	86,462	70,372	107,424	106,701
Belgium 1st February	105,000†	125,000†	122,265	122,056	142,660
	2,671,818	2,564,214	2,467,068	2,563,714	2,650,210
United States, 27th February, Total Stocks	146,000	149,501	136,824	223,172	286,835
Cuba, six principal ports, 27th February, Total Stocks	115,000	77,000	44,822	82,500	53,191
Cargoes afloat, 28th February	15,714	22,833	107,659	76,278	10,277
Total.....	2,948,532	2,813,548	2,756,373	2,945,664	3,000,513

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

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), February 18th, "Very dry, rain wanted."

BRITISH GUIANA. (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.), February 18th, "Weather continues unfavourable." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) March 1st, "Only a few showers, insufficient."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books, papers, photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms, in addition to the current official gazettes, &c. :—

Colonial Report, Grenada, 1899, West Indian and Commercial Advertiser (February, 1901), "To-Day," (February 21st), The Financial News, Harmfulness of Bush Fires, Pamphlet No. 4, Imperial Department of Agriculture, Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information, January, (Botanical Department, Trinidad), Report on the Geology of the Mazaruni and Puruni Rivers, British Guiana, Report of the Acting Commissioner of Mines on his visit to the Diamond Concession in the Mazaruni, British Guiana, Louisiana Planter, Produce Markets Review, Journal des Fabricants de Sucre, Antigua Market Report (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.), Demerara Market Reports (Messrs. Wieting & Richter, and The Chamber of Commerce), Trinidad Market Reports (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. A. Cumming & Co., and Messrs E. Tripp & Co.), and Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Mau, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers :—

*The Antigua Diocesan Gazette.
The Antigua Observer.
The Antigua Standard.
The Barbados Advocate.
The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).
The Barbados Globe.
The Clarion (British Honduras).
The Argosy (Demerara).*

*The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).
The Dominican.
The Dominica Guardian.
The Federalist (Grenada).
The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).
The Gleaner (Jamaica).
The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).*

*The St. Christopher Advertiser.
The Voice (St. Lucia).
The Sentry (St. Vincent).
The Times (St. Vincent).
The Mirror (Trinidad).
Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).
Vaughan's Weekly (Trinidad).*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

Subscribers 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.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

March 19th, 1901.

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

There still appears to be some uncertainty as to the date of the reassembling of the Brussels Conference. At the General Meeting of the Syndicat des Fabricants de Sucre held at Paris on March 7th and 9th, M. V. Viéville, the President, in the course of his inaugural address said that their great danger lay in the reassembling of the Brussels Conference of which the idea was not abandoned. This Conference disturbed them more than ever, because they were sure of the nature of the instructions which would be given to the French Delegates to it. On the other hand M. Ribot, an Ex-Minister, is reported to have said in a letter published in the *Echo du Nord*—"We are not on the verge of changes in the Sugar Legislation. The threats which disturbed us some months ago are now withdrawn, thanks especially to the united efforts of the representatives of the sugar districts following on the meeting held at Arras through the initiative of the Federation of the Pas de Calais. But the future remains uncertain. It is important that growers should as soon as possible discuss on equal terms the conditions of the mutual interests which bind them to the sugar factory."

ROMOURED SUGAR DUTIES.

The belief is gaining ground that in his forthcoming Budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer will suggest to Parliament a tax on sugar—possibly amounting to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound—as a means of raising fresh revenue. The West India Committee has been in communication with the Colonial Office on this matter, and has pointed out that the imposition of a uniform duty upon sugar would practically amount to the prohibition of the importation of any sugar other than refined to this Country, and would therefore be in the highest degree detrimental to the interests of our sugar producing Colonies. The Committee also pointed out that in the event of a duty being imposed no scheme would be just which comprised less than at least four different rates of duty for sugars of different qualities—the quality to be determined by the simple process of polarization, colour being no longer a test. Further, that it would be necessary that glucose, invert sugar and saccharine should be taxed proportionately. It is anticipated that the Budget will be presented about April 15th or 16th.

POST OFFICE DELAYS.

General dissatisfaction is felt at the delay in the delivery of the West India Mails in London. It will be remembered that in March, 1900, we had occasion to address the Postmaster-General on the subject, when the R.M.S. "Tagus" arrived at Plymouth at 7.30 p.m. on February 28th, and the letters were not delivered in London till 4 p.m. next day. The Postmaster-General replied that special trains were only employed for the carriage of mails when by such means, and no other, an interval for reply by the next outgoing mail could be afforded, and that in the instance cited there had been an interval of a week for reply—which was not the case. Since then similar delays have been repeatedly experienced, the latest example being afforded in the case of the last Homeward Mail. The R.M.S. "Orinoco" arrived at Plymouth at 8.40 p.m. on March 13th, but the mails were not despatched till 3.40 a.m. on March 14th—seven hours after the arrival of the Steamer, and the first delivery of letters did not reach this office till 5.50 p.m. on that day, over 21 hours after the arrival of the Steamer at Plymouth, and over 11 hours after her arrival at Southampton, whence the passengers left for London in a special train at 10 a.m., reaching London at noon! In these circumstances it may be advisable to recommend the discontinuance of the call of the Homeward Steamers at Plymouth, but in any case it is felt that united action must be taken to remedy the present state of affairs for which it appears that the Post Office alone is responsible.

GASTRIES HARBOUR, ST. LUCIA.

In support of the Memorial from the Merchants of St. Lucia, urging the need of steps being taken to improve the wharf accommodation and enlarge the water area of Castries Harbour by dredging, to which reference was made in our Circular, No. 39, we addressed a letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 12th last, in the following terms :—

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18th February, 1901, signed by certain shipowners in London, respectfully calling your special attention to a Memorial addressed by the Merchants of Castries, St. Lucia, to the Governor of the Windward Islands, dated January 21st, 1901, urging the necessity of Improvements to Castries Harbour being undertaken.

2.—These shipowners, owning a total of 214 Steamers, representing an aggregate net registered tonnage of about 360,000 tons, express their conviction, having regard to the increasing requirements of British Steamers passing through the West Indian Islands *en route* for American and Canadian Ports and also of the constantly increasing size of modern steamships, of the necessity of the improvements advocated by the Memorialists being at once taken in hand.

3.—I am to say that the terms of this influentially signed Memorial and covering letter are fully endorsed by my Committee who recognise the importance of the improvements therein specified being undertaken with as little delay as possible, and am to express a hope that you will be pleased to give this matter your careful consideration.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK,

Chairman.

The following is the text of the letter of the Ship-owners of London, which was dated February 18th, 1901 :—

SIR,

We, the undersigned ship-owners of London, having read the Memorial addressed by the Merchants of Castries, St. Lucia, to the Governor of the Windward Islands, dated 21st January, 1901, of which a copy is annexed, are convinced, in view of the increasing requirements of British Steamers passing through the West Indian Islands *en route* for American and Canadian Ports, and also of the constantly increasing size of modern steamships, of the necessity of the improvements advocated by the Memorialists being at once taken in hand, and we respectfully beg your special attention to this matter.

We are, SIR, &c.,

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET Co.
SCRUTTON SONS & Co.
WM. JOHNSTON & Co., Ltd.
STEEL, YOUNG & Co.
CARLISLE & Co.
HARRIS & DIXON.
MacINTYRE BROS. & Co.
WALTER RUNCIMAN & Co.
J. TEMPERLEY & Co.
PYMAN BROS.
DILLON, HARROWING & Co.

H. B. & A. GOURLAY.
THE COMMERCIAL STEAMSHIP
Co., Ltd.
TURNER, BRIGHTMAN & Co.
WATTS, WATTS & Co.
FARRAR, GROVES & Co.
GLOVER BROS.
THE CUBAN STEAMSHIP Co., Ltd.
ANDERSON, ANDERSON & Co.
BUCKNALL & NEPHEWS.

To the above, we received a reply on March 16th to the effect that the proposals referred to were receiving the careful consideration of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.

RIND FUNGUS.

The Committee appointed by the British Guiana Planters' Association to investigate and report on the subject of attacks of Borer and Fungus on Cane cultivation, have now issued a preliminary report signed by Mr. R. G. Duncan, Chairman, which we give *in extenso* :—

1st. In answer to Circular issued, 75 replies were received from Managers and Head Overseers of Sugar Estates. A Synopsis of these replies is attached hereto.*

2nd. It is evident from the majority of the replies that the subject which has only recently become of serious importance in British Guiana has not yet been carefully studied.

3rd. From the evidence available, the Committee consider themselves justified in stating :

- a. That climatic conditions have much to do with the prevalence of attacks of Borer or Fungus.
- b. There is no evidence at present that tillage or manures have practically any influence in the matter, but further investigation is necessary.
- c. That canes on certain soils, and more particularly on poor front lands, are more liable to attack than others.

4th. A large number of replies received suggested no remedies, but from the suggestions that were made, the Committee select the following as worthy of consideration :

- a. Destruction of Borers by various methods, viz., cutting out and destroying dead hearts, collection of eggs, destruction of moths, &c.
- b. To burn fields of cane attacked before reaping, or trash in fields after reaping.
- c. To collect and burn all rotten canes, cane tops, &c.
- d. To trash the canes regularly, carefully removing all dead leaves.
- e. The cultivation of Seedling Canes, which are regarded as less liable to attacks of Fungus than the Bourbon. The Committee cannot, however, recommend any seedling for general cultivation known to possess the all round good qualities of the Bourbon.

5th. The Committee will continue in office during the current year, and will feel obliged if those interested will study the question connected with attacks of Borer and Fungus, and communicate the result of their observations to the Committee, through the Secretary of the Planters' Association.

This question is also ably dealt with by Mr. Albert Howard the Acting-Mycologist and Agricultural Lecturer to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies in the latest number of *West Indian Bulletin* (Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 46), for which we are indebted to Dr. D. Morris, C.M.G.

THE KING'S THANKS FOR WREATHS.

We learn that in addition to the handsome chaplet forwarded to Windsor by the people of St. Kitts, Nevis, upon the occasion of her late Majesty Queen Victoria's funeral, a beautiful wreath, subscribed for by the ladies of Barbados, was also presented through Lady Hay, the wife of the late Governor of the Island. The following message of thanks for these floral tributes has been published :—

"His Majesty the King desires to express his sincere thanks to all those who were good enough to send floral tributes from all parts of the Empire to Osborne and Windsor in memory of his beloved mother, Queen Victoria.

"His Majesty has been much touched by the kind feeling that prompted these beautiful offerings, which numbered over 2,000."

* Not reproduced in the Circular.

"TRINIDAD AND ITS FUTURE POSSIBILITIES."

Sir Hubert Jerningham, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Island, and now a Member of the West India Committee, has consented to read a paper entitled—"Trinidad and its Future Possibilities," under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute at the Whitehall Rooms, on Tuesday, April 16th next, at eight p.m. The Chair upon this occasion will be taken by General Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., and the paper will be illustrated by lantern slides lent by the West India Committee. The Institute has courteously placed at the disposal of the West India Committee a certain number of tickets for this lecture which can be had upon application to the Secretary.

PRAEDIAL LARCENY.

It will be remembered that on November 27th last, we addressed a circular letter to all our honorary correspondents, strongly urging that united action should be taken by the West Indian Colonies through the medium of the West India Committee, to remedy the evil of Praedial Larceny—the theft of the growing crops—which has been very much on the increase throughout the West Indies. Replies to this letter have now been received from all the Colonies, with the exception of Grenada. Resolutions on the subject have been passed very generally, and an early opportunity will be taken of laying the facts before the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It is gratifying to note how cordially the Colonies are co-operating with one another in this matter, and it is to be hoped that the strong consensus of opinion shown may result in a remedy for the widespread evil being found.

THE IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL.

The R.M.S. "Port Morant" left Kingston on her homeward voyage on the evening of March 6th with 20,000 bunches of Bananas, 14,000 packages of oranges and pineapples, and a large general cargo of Island produce. She is expected to arrive at Avonmouth this morning. Her cargo will be discharged immediately at the West India Shed into vans on the rails, and it is expected that by two o'clock the fruit will be despatched to traders at Bristol, London, Birmingham, and Manchester, who bought it in advance and will at once place it on the retail market. The "Port Maria" sailed on her maiden voyage to Jamaica on Saturday last. Her departure was witnessed by large crowds of people.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Those Members who have not already done so are particularly requested to forward the amount of their subscription to the Secretary at their earliest convenience. At a Committee Meeting, held on March 7th, 1901, Sir Edward Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., proposed by Mr. Elliot G. Louis, and seconded by Mr. Colin M. Gillespie, was elected a Member of the West India Committee.

BEEET PROSPECTS.

In France the temperature has been generally lower than normal. There have been snow, storms and rains, occasionally very copious. For the moment the humidity is more than sufficient, and fine weather is required for cultivation. The state of the winter sowing has so far only given rise to moderate complaints. As regards future beet sowings the news is confirmed that the cultivation of beet for the distilleries will this year undergo a considerable reduction owing to the low price of alcohol and the dearness of coal. A more important area of sugar beet will accordingly be prepared than last year. Speaking generally the cultivation of sugar beet ought not to lose ground because even at the lower prices of this year it offers appreciable advantages both direct and indirect which are vainly sought from other crops. In Germany, (March 8), the weather has been changeable. There have been some frosts and then rains and wind with a higher temperature. The thaw has been rapid and there are indications of floods in many districts; as soon as the water resumes its normal course navigation can be reopened. Field work cannot be thought of at present owing to the wetness of the ground. In Austria, March 6th, the weather has been milder with abundant rains. If this weather continues the opening of navigation can be looked for about the middle of this month. Everywhere field work is suspended.

MAIL NOTES.

From **Antigua** the Hon. C. A. Shand wrote on February 27th that the weather during the month had been dry, as could only be expected at that time of year. The Exhibition of Canes and Products of Canes was fixed to take place in March. Mr. Morrison, an expert in bee culture, had been holding a series of lectures under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture upon that interesting subject. Writing from **Barbados** on February 28th Mr. Forster M. Alleyne informs us that the weather during the fortnight was very dry, as during the previous one, but that during the last two days light showers had fallen almost generally. They could not fail to do good. The Spring of young canes throughout the Island was excellent and showed no signs of suffering except in a few spots which were planted late. Reaping was in general operation and it might safely be said that in no previous year had there been so promising a commencement. Two hogsheads per acre was the general rule upon well equipped estates, but they rarely looked for more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ from the trimmings at the beginning of a crop. The crop, therefore, promised to be a fine one, and it was to be regretted that the price of sugar seemed to indicate that so poor a benefit would be derived from it. Molasses, which it was hoped would again yield a good return, had fallen to 12 cents. per cwt., and might go lower. The new Governor had arrived and the former House of Assembly had been elected. From Mr. A. Summerson we learn that in **British Guiana** (February 27th) the drought still continued, and rain was much wanted in town and country. A very light shower fell in Georgetown on February 26th—the first for weeks, but only just enough to lay the dust. Nothing was doing in the sugar market. The report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the "Rind Fungus" was submitted to a meeting of the Planters' Association on February 25th. From Mr. E. A. Agar we learn that the Agricultural Show was opened by his Excellency the Governor in **Dominica** on February 14th and 15th. Owing to its unavoidable postponement for a fortnight the number of exhibits was much less than was anticipated, being little more than one third of the number sent in last year. The standard of exhibits was higher throughout than in former shows, and the Exhibition was considered very successful. A little rain, which was badly needed, was falling on February 25th. Members will be glad to hear that Mr. George Levy, our esteemed correspondent in **Jamaica**, who was taken ill on December 31st last has now been restored to health. The Hon. Edward G. Todd wrote on February 26th that the weather in **St. Kitts** was very favourable for all sugar growing and grinding operations. A meeting of the local branch of the West India Committee was held at Basseterre on February 14th, when resolutions were passed on the question of Praedial Larceny. The Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick wrote on February 27th from **Trinidad** that the weather was much too dry, following a very dry January. Cocoa Planters were already complaining, and if the dry weather continued much damage would be done to the immature fruit on the trees.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco" March 14th, 1901:—**BARBADOS**.—Mr. H. E. Thorne, Mr. L. E. Boxill, Mr. M. Noeldecken, Mr. W. A. Thorne, Mrs. Burn. **DEMERARA**.—Sir Cavendish Boyle, Capt. R. Fenton, Hon. and Mrs. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. F. A. Darlington, Mr. and Mrs. D. Ritchie. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. H. V. Carden, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and children, Mr. and Mrs. Hoff, Mr. and Mrs. Wayman, Mr. D. C. Cochrane, Rev. J. E. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Vital, Mr. H. Pereira, Mr. J. E. Cox, Dr. E. H. McCherry, Miss W. Hewlett, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bentley, and two Misses Bentley, Capt. Dix, Mr. H. Rosenheim & Son, Rev. D. Cross. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. Toppin, Mr. A. Harrison, Mr. E. Hilton, Mr. A. Hayward, Lt. P. S. Greig, Mr. P. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. H. De R. Walker, Mr. Trotter. **GRENADA**.—Hon. and Mrs. L. Probyn. Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco" 20th March, 1901:—**BARBADOS**.—Mr. Coad, Lt. A. Bredin, Miss Veacock, Staff Surgeon Acheson, R.N. **DEMERARA**.—Mr., Mrs. and Miss Woodgate Jones, Mr. Baxter, Mr. C. Sheppard. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. J. Hasling, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Miss Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Kempson, Rev. Wynn, Mr. H. Russell, Sergt. Johns and family, Sergt. Hawkins and family. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. Holman and two Misses Holman, Mr. and Mrs. St. Hillare, Mr. Pitman, Miss Hume, Miss Commissiong. **DOMINICA**.—Miss Everington. **ST. LUCIA**.—Captain Barton, Mr. C. Barton. **65 DAYS' TOUR**.—Rev. H. P. Fitzgerald, Mr. S. Langton.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Maria."—JAMAICA.—Miss A. M. Bavin, Mr. B. Collier, Mr. C. Combe, Mr. W. G. Coombs, Mr. P. Cortes, Mr. J. Greig, Mr. C. W. Herdman, Mr. S. Hull, Mr. E. G. Imgrams, Mr. G. H. Law, Mr. N. E. Lloyd, Mr. T. F. Macmillan, Dr. and Mrs. Moseley, Mr. and Mrs. Ramage.

ST. KITTS' COMMITTEE.

Under the auspices of the local branch of the West India Committee, a public meeting was held at the Court House, Basseterre, on February 14th last, the Hon. Edward G. Todd presiding. Various important resolutions were passed regarding praedial larceny and the bounty question, the Government being urged to provide assistance for the introduction of the Central Factory System into the Island, and to secure the neutralisation of the foreign sugar bounties, the necessity for the abolition of which "is as urgent now as at any period in the history of the sugar industry." Copies of these resolutions were sent to the Secretary of State.

RECIPROCITY.

The United States Government has signified its willingness to extend the time for the ratification of the Reciprocity Treaties now pending, and we learn that the Secretary of State is informing the Colonies concerned accordingly.

RUM.

The deadlock in the proof market continues, and with the exception of a few parcels of Demerara, sold early in the month at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. per proof gallon, no business is reported. Importers, on the other hand, do not seem anxious to press sales, and some offers, on a low basis, for considerable quantities have been refused. The imports from Demerara since the beginning of October are just double those of the preceding year.

Jamaicas, in spite of the good statistical position, are naturally affected by the unfavourable condition of the proof market, and it is very difficult to obtain reasonable offers.

We append the Board of Trade returns, and the latest returns of stock in London:—

		1901.		1900.		1899.		1898.
LANDED	In Feb.	629,979	..	500,307	..	242,447	..	520,740
	2 months	1,715,787	..	1,102,482	..	765,867	..	1,225,996
HOME CONSUMPTION ..	In Feb.	719,206	..	542,046	..	493,359	..	333,620
	2 months	1,137,381	..	1,082,272	..	775,656	..	676,789
EXPORT	In Feb.	67,530	..	87,060	..	78,960	..	63,613
	2 months	115,226	..	171,564	..	144,993	..	119,371
STOCK (Galls)	28 Feb.	7,238,000	..	6,908,000	..	7,618,000	..	8,473,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1901.		1900.		1899.		1898.
JAMAICA PUNS	6,875	..	7,440	..	10,254	..	10,017
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS ..	487	..	432	..	923	..	460
DEMERARA	9,973	..	5,041	..	4,475	..	7,813
FOREIGN	2,044	..	1,665	..	577	..	1,093
BRITISH EAST INDIA ..	1,369	..	1,030	..	327	..	321
VATTED	3,110	..	3,452	..	3,498	..	3,792
TOTAL	23,858	..	19,060	..	20,054	..	23,496

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—The Market during the past month has been fairly steady, and prices on the whole show no quotable change, although occasionally they have been slightly in favor of buyers; the total quantity offered at auction during the last few weeks was 4,140 bags, of which about 3,200 have been sold.

The large deliveries shown below are occasioned to a considerable extent by heavy clearances being made in case of an increase of duty, and do not necessarily indicate an increased consumption.

	1901	1900
LANDED	7,644 bags	against 10,192 bags.
DELIVERED	14,514	" " 10,725
STOCK 9th March	19,157	" " 18,102

GRENADA.—Only 1,700 bags have been offered at auction during the month, but the tone has been very dull, and prices for good to fine have declined about 1/6 per cwt. Ordinary to fair, however, are about unchanged.

	1901	1900
LANDED 1st Jan. to 9th March..	14,815 bags	against 9,946 bags.
DELIVERED	15,410	9,927
STOCK 9th March	7,941	9,362

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.	LOGWOOD	£4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ...	33s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
WAX ...	£8 10s. to £8 15s. per cwt.	FUSTIC	£3 15s. to £4 per ton.
HONEY ...	22s. to 30s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ...	£3 5s. per ton.
LIME JUICE ...	9d. to 10d. per gall.		

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee lbs.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.		
BRITISH GUIANA—									
Jan. 1st to Feb. 27th, 1901	17,892	7,807	361	—	12,586	55,000	255		
Jan. 1st to Feb. 27th, 1900	13,352	6,364	7,431	—	10,745	78	1,102		
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.				Asphalt. Tons.		Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
Jan. 1st to Feb. 27th, 1901	33,875	—	4,306,794	9,120	30,154	1,865,370	268	18	27
Jan. 1st to Feb. 27th, 1900	8,805	3	6,503,180	—	18,389	1,499,030	1,037	—	—

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom 9th March	87,706	58,338	53,330	78,143	104,272
France 1st March	565,000†	578,000†	570,000†	516,000	601,798
Germany 1st March	998,000*	854,433*	874,348*	1,004,983*	945,088
Hamburg 14th March	57,320	42,300	53,200	122,600	95,800
Austria-Hungary 1st March	581,576	581,434	535,215	494,475	567,899
Holland 1st March.....	93,025	79,772	63,149	100,705	108,570
Belgium 1st March	75,000†	105,000†	106,671	127,328	120,498
	2,457,627	2,299,277	2,255,913	2,444,234	2,543,925
United States, 13th March, Total Stocks	183,000	149,950	167,216	257,739	302,879
Cuba, six principal ports, 13th March, Total Stocks ...	164,000	99,648	63,000	101,615	67,124
Cargoes afloat, 14th March	15,714	26,853	97,858	70,858	32,310
Total.....	2,820,341	2,574,728	2,583,987	2,874,446	2,946,238

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

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), March 5th, "Very dry, rain wanted."
(Messrs. T. Daniel & Co.), March 9th, "Weather dry over the whole Island, rain much wanted."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co), March 14th, "Nice showers, more wanted." March 15, "Favourable rains." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), March 15, "Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message." (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.), March 15th, "Weather favourable for growing crops."

TRINIDAD.—(The New Colonial Company), March 12th, "Fine, with occasional light showers."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books, papers, photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms, in addition to the current official gazettes, &c.:—*Barbados Agricultural Gazette and Planters' Journal, January*; "The Empire Review," Vol. 1, No. 2, with Article—"America and the West Indies" by Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., 1s. net, Macmillan & Co., *The Financial News, The International Sugar Journal (March, 1901), Journal des Fabricants de Sucre, The Louisiana Planter, Proceedings of the Victoria Institute, The Produce Markets Review, West India Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 1, Antigua Market Report (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.), Barbados Market Report, W. P. Leacock & Co., Demerara Market Reports, Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co., (Messrs. Wieting & Richter, and The Chamber of Commerce), Trinidad Market Reports (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. A. Cumming & Co., and Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co., (London and New York), D. Q. Henriques & Co., E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen and Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers:—*

The Antigua Observer.
The Antigua Standard.
The Barbados Advocate.
The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).
The Barbados Globe.
The Clarion (British Honduras).
The Argosy (Demerara).

The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).
The Dominican.
The Dominica Guardian.
The Federalist (Grenada).
The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada),
The Gleaner (Jamaica).
The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).
The St. Christopher Advertiser.

The St. Christopher Gazette.
The Voice (St. Lucia).
The Sentry (St. Vincent).
The Times (St. Vincent).
The Mirror (Trinidad).
The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).
Vaughan's Weekly (Trinidad).

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

NOTE.—FULL PARTICULARS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION MUST BE PROPOSED BY ONE AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY. SUBSCRIBERS 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.

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

As we go to press, we learn from Herr F. O. Licht's latest monthly report that according to a statement in the "St. Petersburger Zeitung," the French government has notified the Belgian cabinet of the Convention concluded between France, Germany and Austria-Hungary, regarding the question of the Sugar Bounties in which France agrees to do away entirely with the open bounties, and with one half of the hidden premiums. The French government asked at the same time that a new Sugar Conference might be called to meet at Brussels, but it added, that only the Powers represented at the Brussels Conference of 1898 might be invited. The Belgian government agreed to this, and will invite the Conference to meet at Brussels in the second half of April. The question is now, to get Italy to take part in this conference. In the year 1898 Italy did not possess any sugar industry worth mentioning, but during the last three years it has developed so rapidly, that at the present time more than twenty large factories are running. According to the programme of the Brussels Conference, Italy cannot be invited directly, but means will surely be found to get Italy to take part in the discussion. Though no great hopes in regards to the result of this Conference are entertained, the prospects are considerably better in consequence of the measures America has taken against Russian and Belgian sugar, and of the countervailing duty taken in view in England on foreign bounty-fed beet sugar.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 41.

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 LONDON, E.C.,

April 2nd, 1901.

LORD LANSDOWNE AND THE BOUNTIES.

Conflicting reports continue to arrive from the Continent as to the date of the re-assembling of the Brussels Sugar Bounties Conference, contradictory telegrams having been received from Brussels and Vienna on the same day on the subject. Meanwhile, Conferences are taking place in the House of Commons among the Members interested in the Sugar Bounty question, to decide upon the steps to be taken in the event of Sugar Duties being included in the forthcoming Budget with or without countervailing duties.

On March 25th last Colonel Milward, M.P., Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Mr. C. McArthur, M.P., and Mr. Reid, M.P., had a private conversation at the Foreign Office with Lord Lansdowne, to whom they represented the serious injury caused to several of our colonies and also to this country, especially to such districts as those of Liverpool, Bristol, and Greenock, by the existence of the foreign sugar bounty system. The deputation did not make any specific request to the Foreign Secretary in the matter, nor did they ask for any immediate reply to their statements, being content to place the salient facts of the case before the Foreign Secretary. It is understood that Lord Lansdowne was favourably impressed by the manner in which the case was laid before him. Lord Cranborne, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Sir Martin Gosselin, were also present.

THE RUMOURED SUGAR DUTIES.

On March 19th last we received the following Cablegram from the Unofficial Members of the Federal Council of the Leeward Islands, then sitting at Antigua:—

"POSITION VERY SERIOUS, URGE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES."

This message was considered at a Meeting of the Executive Committee on March 21st, and a letter on the subject was subsequently sent to the Marquis of Salisbury, while an enquiry was addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies as to what progress had been made with the negotiations for the erection of Central Sugar Factories in the Island. Copies of the letter to Lord Salisbury were sent to Lord Lansdowne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain.

At Bristol on March 26th, a meeting of working men on the Sugar Bounty question expressed itself in favour of a countervailing duty on bounty-fed sugar, and a resolution was passed calling on the Government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to redeem their pledges on this subject. The Budget will be presented in the House of Commons on Thursday, April 18th next.

THE INDIAN SUGAR TARIFF.

Sir Edward Law, in explaining the Budget to the Legislative Council at Calcutta, on March 20th last, made special reference to the countervailing duties on imported bounty-fed sugars in the following terms:—"The imports of sugar generally increased greatly during the past year. The United Kingdom, Mauritius, the Straits Settlements, and Hong Kong all show much higher returns. The German imports have risen from 60,526 cwt. in 1899-1900 to about 300,000 cwt. Austria-Hungary from 777,821 cwt. to over a million. The Government expect to encash upwards of 17 lakhs from countervailing duties, it being remarked that it is perhaps not an unsatisfactory reflection

that this addition to our revenue has been realised at the expense of European taxpayers, taxed by their respective Governments to provide bounties which enable foreign sugar refiners to sell their sugar in India at prices below the cost of production. The fact is that the Government of India has added 17 lakhs to its resources by taking for revenue purposes the approximate difference between the cost price and the artificially maintained selling price of bounty-fed imported sugars, whilst the Indian consumer pays no more for his sugar than he would have to pay if the bounty system were abolished." A question is to be asked in the House of Commons at an early date, as to the effect of the Indian Countervailing Duties in restoring confidence and stability to the indigenous sugar producing and refining industries of India.

CANE FIRES IN BARBADOS.

The following is the text of a letter sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 12th last, upon the subject of recent cane fires in Barbados :—

Sir,

1.—I have the honour to call your attention to the prevalence of incendiarism of the growing crops in Barbados.

2.—As an example of the extent to which this form of crime is carried, we may say that we are informed that on the 9th of February last, five fields of canes were set on fire in broad daylight at 4 p.m., resulting in the loss of 47 acres of canes, while on the 11th of the same month 35 acres of canes were burnt on an estate in St. Thomas' Parish as well as 14 acres on the adjoining estate, the latter fire almost involving the destruction of the neighbouring Holy Innocents' Chapel and Vicarage.

3.—From the annexed extracts from "*The Barbados Agricultural Reporter*," "*The Barbados Advocate*," and "*The Barbados Globe*" you will note, Sir, that besides these two fires of considerable magnitude, many smaller fires of a similar nature have occurred throughout the Island.*

4.—It is to be feared that, if these cane fires continue unchecked, the Insurance Companies will refuse to take risks over the crops, and that the security of those mortgagees who hold Insurances over the growing crops by virtue of advances made under the Agricultural Aids Act will accordingly be weakened, a matter of considerable importance having regard to the depressed condition of the sugar industry through the Foreign Bounty system.

5.—In view of its great importance to the interests of the Island, we have thought it our duty to call your special attention to this matter.

6.—We are fully aware of the great difficulty of apprehending the incendiaries engaged, and regret that we are not in a position to suggest a remedy for the existing state of affairs ; but, feeling that those on the spot are best qualified to make suggestions in this direction, we venture to hope that you will call the attention of the Governor of Barbados to the importance of taking such steps as may tend to prevent a continuance of this widespread evil.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK,

Chairman.

On March 19th we received a reply from Mr. Chamberlain to the effect that a copy of our letter had been sent to Sir Frederick Hodgson, K.C.M.G., Governor of Barbados, for his consideration and report. It will be seen from an extract from a letter received by last mail from our esteemed Hon. Correspondent, Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, which will be found on page 6 under "Mail Notes," that there has been no cessation of this iniquitous practice of setting fire to the growing crops.

* Extracts from "*The Barbados Advocate*" February 16th, "*The Barbados Agricultural Reporter*" February 9th, 11th, 14th, 16th and "*The Barbados Globe*" February 13th, 1901, not reprinted in this Circular.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA LINE.

The R.M.S. "Port Morant," the first homeward steamer of the Imperial Direct West India Line, arrived at Avonmouth, Bristol, on March the 20th, fully laden with fruit, besides carrying 37 first-class passengers and the mail. Much interest was taken in the condition of the bananas, of which there were 18,000 bunches on board, besides grape fruit, mangoes, oranges and pineapples. Considering everything, the fruit was in excellent condition. It was unfortunate that the day upon which the cargo was discharged was the coldest and most boisterous experienced this winter. Bananas are peculiarly susceptible to cold, and as a rule do not colour a good clear yellow after being chilled. After such a rigorous test as this Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., may well consider that they are justified in being sanguine as to the future. What fruit had ripened on board was a picture of what ripe bananas should be, and the fruit landed green has since coloured well, showing comparatively little bruising after its handling by railway and steamer. Mr. Ackerly informs us that buyers are generally pleased, though many of them pessimistic still of handling naked bananas. The buyers who went in for the first lot as a trial are coming back in most cases for the second shipment by the "Port Royal," which sailed from Kingston, at 7 p.m., on March 21st. With regard to the mangoes, oranges, and pineapples, Mr. Ackerly reminds us that as none of these fruits are really in season in Jamaica at present, no fair sample of them could be obtained, though they travelled well, and landed in better condition than such fruit from the West Indies has ever been seen in.

A dinner was given on March 21st, at the Constitutional Club, by Mr. Alfred L. Jones, Chairman of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, "to inspect the first consignment of fruit from Jamaica by the steamship "Port Morant." Mr. Jones, in response to the toast of "The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service," remarked that it was strange to think that they had gathered there that night, after the West Indies had been in the possession of this country for centuries, to see how these islands could be made successful in trade. We had certainly, he continued, been rather careless as regarded the interests of the West Indies. We had seen them attacked by foreign competitors—by France, Belgium and Germany—in connection with the Sugar Bounties, and their efforts had been undeniably to obtain a trade to which the West Indies were really entitled. He maintained, staunch free trader as he was, that differential duties ought to have been put on bounty-fed sugar. We were on the eve of a declaration, in connection with his Budget, from Sir Michael Hicks Beach, and he hoped that, in the interests of the British Empire, the right hon. gentleman would announce that there was to be a duty in favour of the British possessions. With regard to the new West India Mail Service, he assured them that he had entered into the business which had brought them together on that occasion, not in his own interests exclusively, but also with the desire that our country should be to the front. There was never a time when it was more necessary to look after our interests than it was at present, but he had no fear of the result. There were enormous possibilities in connection with the West Indies. He regarded Mr. Chamberlain as the best Colonial Secretary we had had for many years, and it afforded him much satisfaction to state that he had received a note from the right hon. gentleman, "sincerely congratulating" him on the arrival of the "Port Morant." As far as lay in his power, he was determined to make the West Indies among the most successful colonies of the British Empire, in connection with which he felt convinced that enormous development would be seen; and Mr. Chamberlain was in hearty sympathy with the enterprise which had brought them together that evening. Other toasts followed.

POST OFFICE DELAYS.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 21st last, at which were present Sir Neville Lubbock in the chair, Mr. H. K. Davson, Major Trollope, Messrs. S. H. Curtis, C. M. Gillespie, R. Rutherford, E. G. Barr, Colin A. Campbell, G. McG. Frame, Mewburn Garnett,

W. Goodwin, H. Hales, A. McConnell, W. P. B. Sheppard, and A. E. Aspinall, Secretary, the following letter was read, approved and ordered to be despatched to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

SIR,

On March 2nd, 1900, we addressed a communication to His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, then Postmaster-General, calling his notice to the delay in the delivery of letters from British Guiana and the West Indies.

2. We pointed out that at one time the Post Office Authorities always arranged for a special train for the purpose of conveying the mails to London immediately upon the arrival of the mail steamer at Plymouth, and suggested that this former practice should be reverted to.

3. To our letter His Grace replied that the principle governing the employment of special trains for the conveyance from Plymouth of mails landed at that port, was to use special trains when, by such means and no other, an interval for reply by the next outgoing mail could be afforded.

4. Since the above correspondence took place delays in the delivery of the West Indian Mail have been constantly experienced, the latest example being afforded in the case of the recent homeward mail.

5. The R.M.S. "Orinoco" from Barbados arrived at Plymouth at 8.40 p.m. on March 13th, but the mails were not despatched to London till 3.40 a.m. on March 14th, seven hours after the arrival of the steamer, and the first delivery of letters did not reach my Committee till 5.50 p.m. on that day, over twenty-one hours after the arrival of the steamer at Plymouth, and over eleven hours after her arrival at Southampton, whence the passengers left for London in a special train at 10 a.m., reaching London at noon, five hours and fifty minutes before the first delivery of letters was made.

6. It is unnecessary to point out to you, Sir, what inconvenience and loss is caused to the West India Merchants and others by these unnecessary delays which are the more felt now that additional work is involved in the five days which should normally be available between the homeward and outgoing mail, by the departure of the Jamaica mail on Saturdays.

7. Such delays cannot fail to have a prejudicial effect upon the efforts which you, Sir, are making to secure a revival of West Indian trade with this country, and it is very generally felt that the existing Mail Services should be accelerated.

8. We would seriously suggest to you the advisability of recommending that the Homeward Steamer should go direct to Southampton, abandoning the call at Plymouth, the advantages of which, from the experience of past years are not apparent. Such an alteration would, my Committee feel, lead to a much more prompt delivery of the Mail letters in view of the comparatively short distance of Southampton to London and the facilities afforded by the constant service of trains between those towns.

9. Trusting, Sir, that you will be pleased in the interests of the West Indian Colonies and British Guiana which it is our earnest wish to see drawn closer to the Mother Country, to give this matter your careful attention.

I have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK,

Chairman.

THE COLONIAL BANK.

The report of the Colonial Bank, for the half-year ended December 31st, shows a net profit of £18,164, making with the amount brought forward £26,761. The Directors recommend a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half-year, tax free, leaving £8,761 to be carried forward. The Directors state that they would have every reason to feel that the condition of affairs in the colonies in which the bank's operations are conducted is quite satisfactory were it not for the continued uncertainty regarding the European sugar bounties.

WEST INDIA TOPICS.

The following articles of interest regarding West Indian questions have appeared in the Press during the past fortnight :—"Morning Post," March 19th, "Concerning Bananas," March 20th, "The Jamaica of to-day"; "Daily Express," March 21st, "Jamaica Fruit and Sugar Trade"; "St. James' Gazette," March 22nd, "Jamaica's opportunity"; "Morning Post," March 23rd, Leading Article on "The West Indian Question"; "The Daily News," March 27th, "The Sugar Tax."

CANE FARMING IN BRITISH GUIANA.

The Agricultural Committee of the British Guiana Agricultural and Commercial Society have issued a Circular giving an outline for a scheme for Village Cane Farming, which appears to them form an equitable basis for the establishment of a system of cane farming, by which village grown canes may be purchased by the proprietors of the neighbouring sugar estates. It is proposed to invite representatives of those village communities anxious to develop such an industry to meet the Committee in due course, so that a satisfactory and mutual understanding may be arrived at between buyer and seller. The broad lines of the scheme are as follows :—

1. Canes to be bought on the basis of weight, represented by the load of an ordinary Cane punt, taken as being 2½ tons.
2. Price to be independent of polarization of juice, and either to—
 - a. Vary with price of sugar in Georgetown
 - or
 - b. Be fixed by mutually agreed-upon authority—say R. A. & C. Society or Chamber of Commerce—at commencement of each grinding.

(N.B.—With refining crystals 96° pol. at \$2 40 for 100 lbs. in Georgetown, the value of the canes should be about \$6 30 per punt of 2½ tons. F.I.S.)
3. Canes to be cut and loaded by the grower, and to be in a fresh and healthy condition.
4. (a.) For estates adjoining villages, canes to be transported by means of an aqueduct, joining the village navigation to estates. The cost of aqueduct to be borne either—
 1. By villagers with aid from Government.
 2. By estates, where sufficient acreage exists in village farmer's canes to justify outlay
 - or
 3. By division between estate and villagers.
- (b.) For estates away from the villages. Canes to be carted to the nearest point of the navigation of the estate buying the canes, and to be loaded there.
5. Canes, when loaded, to be transported by the buyer, time of cutting being subject to mutual arrangement.
6. All disputes to be referred to a standing authority to be agreed upon for the purpose.

DINNER TO SIR CAVENDISH BOYLE, K.C.M.G.

Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G., late Colonial Secretary of British Guiana, will be entertained at a banquet by the West Indian Club, at the Trocadero Restaurant, on Thursday, April 18th next, prior to his assuming the Governorship of Newfoundland. The Chair, upon this occasion, will be taken by Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., and a large attendance is anticipated.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Members are informed that the Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee will be held at the Committee Room, on Thursday, April 25th next.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on March 21st last, the following gentlemen were elected Members of the West India Committee :—Mr. Richard Haynes and Mr. Percy Haynes, proposed by Mr. R. Rutherford and seconded by Major Trollope, and Mr. George E. Hudson, proposed by Mr. Colin M. Gillespie and seconded by Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. Copies of the Rules of the West India Committee as adopted at a Meeting of the Executive Committee on February 21st last, can be had on application to the Secretary. It is hoped that Members will endeavour to maintain the West India Committee, on its present sound basis by bringing forward Candidates for election.

MAIL NOTES.

Writing on March 13th from **Antigua**, the Hon. C. A. Shand reported that crop operations were in full swing, and that the weather was dry. It was too early to arrive at any estimate of the probable yield, but as far as could be gathered, planters were generally disappointed in their returns. From **Barbados**, Mr. Forster M. Alleyne wrote on March 14th, that they were rejoiced to hear that there was a prospect of the reassembling of the Brussels Conference; but the whole sugar question seemed to be in chaos. The price for Muscovado in Barbados had fallen to \$1.55, a price which he did not think had been touched since 1895. The Island was still without rain, though scanty drizzles had fallen hardly enough to mark. The weather was cool, and though the pastures were parched and cracked, the young canes kept green and the old ones were holding well. The general yield was slightly over two hogsheads per acre which was rather better than usual. Cane fires were continuing and increasing in the number of acres consumed. **British Guiana**, (Mr. A. Summerson) March 13th, The Hon. George Garnett has been elected a Member of the Court of Policy in the place of the Hon. A. Weber. Although there had been a few light showers they were not heavy enough to be of any material benefit to cultivation, which was suffering severely. Refining Crystals were down to \$2.12½, but there was very little offering. Mr. E. A. Agar has forwarded to us from **Dominica** comparative returns of the Imports and Exports of the Colony for the last two years, which can be inspected at this office. The Cacao crop for 1900 appears to have been considerably in excess of that for the preceding year, a result due, almost entirely, to improved cultivation on the larger estates, and areas of young cacao coming into bearing, for there has been universal complaint among the peasants that the crop has been short. For the past fortnight ample rains had been falling, and the prospect for the current year's lime crop were excellent, although a damaging drought or high winds might still be experienced. **Jamaica**—March 11th (Mr. George Levy).—At the monthly meeting of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce, and Merchants' Exchange held on February 27th, the Council endorsed the resolution of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce that Sugar sold by British retailers should be distinctly labelled "Cane Sugar" and "Beet Sugar," in order that the public might be made acquainted with the description of sugar purchased. A copy of the resolution was forwarded through the Governor to the Secretary of State. Writing on March 12th from **St. Kitts**, the Hon. Edward G. Todd informed us that it was proposed to establish in the Presidency some permanent Public Memorial of our late Queen. A committee, of which he himself was one, had been appointed to carry the idea into effect. The weather was highly favourable, but as regards the crops, there had been some strikes and cane fires in many parts of the Island, which were greatly to be regretted. **St. Lucia**—Hon. E. Du Boulay (15th March).—The question of the proposed improvements to Castries Harbour was still engaging public attention. In this connection, an expert from the office of Messrs. Coode, Son & Matthews will be sent to St. Lucia in May next by the Colonial Office to report on the proposed extension. **St. Vincent**—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) 15th March.—The question of praedial larceny which affected St. Vincent quite as much as the other Islands had been engaging the attention of the Community. From **Trinidad**, The Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick wrote on March the 12th, that during the fortnight there had been some showers which, while doing good generally, had not interfered with crop operations. Mr. John Coode (of Messrs. Coode, Sons & Matthews), left by the mail after a stay of three weeks, devoted to studying the Harbour of Port of Spain, and Mr. Wrightson's scheme for its improvement. From our correspondent in **Grenada** we have again received no communication.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato" March 27th, 1901:—**BARBADOS**—Mr. and Mrs. C. Burrows, Col. A. Pardner and Wife, Lt.-Col. J. J. Levenson, **DEMERARA**.—REV. J. St. Clair Mayne, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. DeJonge, Mrs. D. Donnelly, Mr. R. T. Wreford, Mr. T. F. Burrows, Mr. E. Bremonel, Mr. A. Page, Mrs. Kristensen, Mr. F. W. Cresswell, Mr. A. Hoffmann. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. and Mrs. Sale Barker, Mr. Murray,

Lt. Griffiths, Mr. and Mrs. and three Misses Thom, Mr. J. R. Rice, Capt. W. Goodall, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Taylor, Mr. M. C. Forsyth, Mr. J. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Kork, Miss C. G. Hurst, Mr. C. Venables, Miss Darling, Miss Deas, Mr. F. J. Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Harrison, Mr. F. W. F. Harris, Capt. H. M. Jones, Lt. and Miss Packe, Major and Mrs. R. A. Daniells, Miss M. Burrows, Miss H. Burrows, Mrs. L. Leoyd, Miss Blackall. TRINIDAD.—Mr. and Mrs. R. Clayton, Two Misses Clayton, Mr. W. S. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Herapath, Mr. R. Tabb, Miss Rankin, Mr. H. J. Lawrence, Mr. J. Wilson, Jun., Mr. A. Mendes, Mr. and Mrs. F. Wilson, Miss Harragin, Sir Francis Lovell, Miss F. Hope, Mr. A. C. Hope, Mr. Bernet, Comte. de Lichtenberg. GRENADA.—The Hon. D. S. DeFreitas and wife, Mr. J. C. King, Miss M. DeFreitas, Mr. J. Barclay. DOMINICA.—Miss Gilbertson and Messrs. C. R. and F. B. Gilbertson. ST. KITTS.—Mr. S. Davis. ST. LUCIA.—Mr. H. A. Nicholls.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," April 3rd, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. H. E. Thorne, Sergt. Hann and Wife, Lt. Bredin, Mrs. Applin, Major Hill. DEMERARA.—Mr. H. A. Bovell, Mr. G. J. Dare, Mrs. Mitchell and Family, Miss Dipnall, Mr. S. Powell, Miss Sherlock, Mr. C. Reynolds. JAMAICA.—Miss Doull, Lt. Winterbottom. TRINIDAD.—Mr. G. Wantzelius, Mr. H. Marwood, Mr. M. Taurel, Mr. J. Wilson and Family, Mr. M. Barrett. DOMINICA.—Mr. W. Jackson. ST. VINCENT.—Mr. T. Macdonald.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant" March 20th, 1901:—JAMAICA.—Miss F. Anderson, Master F. Anderson, Mr. Blood, Mr. Church, Rev. M. C. Clare, Dr. Coutts, Miss M. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Feurtado, Capt. and Mrs. Henderson, Master Henderson, Sister Madeline, Miss M. Ronaldson, Miss L. French, Mrs. Eyre Hutson, Mrs. A. S. Isaacs and children, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Isaacs, Master and Miss Isaacs, Mons. de Joungville, Mr. J. A. King, Mr. Kennedy, Dr. Mott, Mr. C. H. Morton, Mr. A. A. Melhado, Miss L. Paterson, Mr. Max Zaeplar, Mr. Stockley, Mr. S. M. Binger, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. A. Jolly, Mr. Smith, Mr. W. Thompson. Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant" March 30th, 1901:—JAMAICA.—Mr. J. Adie, Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. J. W. Deacon, Mr. T. H. Eusten, Miss E. Glyanne-Griffith, Mr. T. Herd, Mr. E. Tudor Jones, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Laughland, Mrs. Laughland, Master F. Laughland, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Roberts, Mr. F. H. Shoobridge, Mr. J. Staal, Mr. Arthur B. Titley, Mr. Percy H. Titley, Miss Louisa Best, Mr. A. Jolly, Rev. W. A. Rothnie, Mr. W. H. Featherston.

RUM.

The market continues in a very dull state, and scarcely a transaction has transpired in proof kinds.

COCOA.

The auctions on 26th comprised the smaller supply of 4,586 bags, of which 2,524 bags consisted of Colonial and 2,062 bags Foreign. There was a fair demand, and 2,100 bags sold at generally previous rates. Trinidad brought fully previous prices. Other B.W.I. was in small supply, and realized steady values. Foreign kinds met with more demand and a fair proportion sold, Guayaquil showing 1s. decline. Ceylon continues in the same dull state.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.	LOGWOOD... ..	£4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ...	35s. to 65s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
WAX ...	£8 7s. 6d. to £8 15s. per cwt.	FUSTIC	£3 15s. to £4 per ton.
HONEY ...	20s. to 30s. per cwt.	" ROOTS	£3 5s. per ton.
LIME JUICE	rod. to 1rd. per gall.		

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee lbs.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.			
BRITISH GUIANA—										
Jan. 1st to Mar. 13th, 1901	20,929	8,842	361	—	16,202	55,050	322			
Jan. 1st to Mar. 14th, 1900	18,847	7,547	7,431	—	14,511	78	1,135			
BARBADOS—	Hogsheads.									
Jan. 1st to Mar. 15th, 1901	4,270	—	—	—	—	—	2,599			
Jan. 1st to Mar. 15th, 1900	58	—	—	—	—	—	620			
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.				Asphalt, Tons.			Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
Jan. 1st to Mar. 13th, 1901	118,330	50	5,179,914	9,120	39,541	2,354,370	486	18	27	
Jan. 1st to Mar. 13th, 1900	23,245	3	8,772,000	320	22,307	2,879,121	1,335	—	—	

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom 23rd March	116,454	55,034	52,855	80,786	90,455
France 1st March	567,172	567,248	570,000†	516,000	601,798
Germany 1st March	998,100*	854,433*	874,348*	1,004,983*	945,088
Hamburg 28th March	58,500	54,600	62,700	132,000	73,400
Austria-Hungary 1st March	579,902	581,434	535,215	494,475	567,899
Holland 15th March	84,278	71,448	54,722	94,875	102,406
Belgium 1st March	75,000†	105,000†	106,671	127,328	120,498
	<u>2,479,406</u>	<u>2,289,197</u>	<u>2,256,511</u>	<u>2,450,447</u>	<u>2,501,544</u>
United States, 27th March, Total Stocks	191,000	144,297	192,969	290,305	324,954
Cuba, six principal ports, 27th March, Total Stocks ...	192,000	115,939	79,500	119,000	70,264
Cargoes afloat, 28th March	15,714	25,853	68,558	60,698	26,735
Total.....	2,878,120	2,575,286	2,597,538	2,920,450	2,923,497

* Total stocks, not Licht s. † Estimated.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS. (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), March 18th, "Very dry, rain wanted."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(The New Colonial Co.), March 18th, "Demerara and Essequibo, over 3 inches rain." "Berbice, generally, over 2 inches rain," March 27th, "Too dry." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), March 22nd, "No rain for some days." **TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. Gregor, Turnbull & Co.), March 19th, "We are having too much rain for reaping, but good for plants." (The New Colonial Co.) March 27th, "Fine, with occasional light showers." (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) March 27th, "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books, papers, photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms, in addition to the current official gazettes, &c.:—*British Guiana Administration Reports, 1899-1900*, "*Colonial Report for Jamaica, 1899-1900*," "*The Financial News*," "*Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*," "*The Louisiana Planter*," Messrs. Milliken Brothers, *Iron and Steel Price List and Lithographs of Sugar Factories in Hawaii*, *Plan of the Proposed Corentyne Water Scheme*, *The Produce Markets Review*, *West Indian Bulletin* (extra number, containing "*The Marine Resources of the B.W.I.*"), *Antigua Market Report* (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), *Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer* (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.), *Barbados Market Report* (W. P. Leacock & Co.), *Demerara Market Reports* (Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co., *The Chamber of Commerce*, and Messrs. Wieting & Richter), *Trinidad Market Reports* (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. A. Cumming & Co., and Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and *Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co., (London and New York), D. Q. Henriques & Co., E. Kynaston, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen and Co., Park, Son & Co.'s New York Produce and Market Reports, Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers:—*

The Antigua Observer.

The Antigua Standard.

The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).

The Barbados Globe.

The Clarion (British Honduras).

The Argosy (Demerara).

The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).

The Dominican.

The Dominica Guardian.

The Federalist & Grenada People.

The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).

The Gleaner (Jamaica).

The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).

The St. Christopher Advertiser.

The Voice (St. Lucia).

The Sentry (St. Vincent).

The Times (St. Vincent).

The Mirror (Trinidad).

Vaughan's Weekly (Trinidad).

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

NOTE. FULL PARTICULARS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION MUST BE PROPOSED BY ONE AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY. SUBSCRIBERS TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ARE ENTITLED TO THE MONTHLY CIRCULAR, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR. SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON JAN. 1ST. FOR THE YEAR THEN CURRENT.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

No. 42.

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

BULLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

April 16th, 1901.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

By the recent Mail, we received from the unofficial Members of the Federal Council of the Leeward Islands a copy of a resolution with regard to the condition of the sugar industry, adopted at the final sitting of the Council at Antigua on March 19th last. The letter covering this important expression of opinion, which is signed by the Honourables JOHN J. CAMACHO, J. FREELAND FOOTE, R. WARNEFORD, S. L. HORSFORD, J. T. MANCHESTER, SHOLTO R. PEMBERTON, THOMAS LIBURD and J. C. MACINTYRE, contains the following significant passages. "The situation in these Islands, where Muscovado Sugar is the staple product, in view of the present reduced prices in the United States and the probable loss of that market at an early date, is grave indeed, and a strong resolution was passed by the Federal Council yesterday, calling attention of the Government to the serious consequences which may be expected to result unless something is done, and that promptly, to ameliorate their condition. We sincerely hope, therefore, that the efforts to differentiate between bounty-fed and other sugars will meet with approval by His Majesty's Government, as the only means of saving these Islands from absolute ruin." As we stated in our last Circular, a letter upon this subject has been addressed by the Committee to the Marquess of Salisbury and His Majesty's Ministers.

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

The latest information regarding the re-assembly of the Brussels Conference is contained in the following telegram from the *Times* correspondent in Brussels, which appeared in that Journal on April 13th :—"The reported failure of the negotiations for another conference in Brussels on the sugar bounties is incorrect. Until proposals of a more definite nature are put forward Great Britain is unwilling to give her adhesion, but it is still hoped that a basis may be found for arriving at a common understanding among the Powers interested."

A recent number of the *Indépendance Belge* states that from all accounts it appears that it will not be long before the second Session of the Sugar Conference assembles. There are now no difficulties except with regard to the summoning of certain new Powers. France is anxious to avoid the danger which presented itself at the last Conference, and to make sure that a general regulation of bounties shall apply to all countries and be made once for all. The Cabinet at Brussels has therefore been asked to approach various sugar-producing States, more especially Italy, in order that they may be represented at the coming Session.

When this is settled there is no reason why the work of the Conference should not proceed quickly, since there is now perfect accord between the three countries, France, Germany and Austria, whose antagonism has hitherto been the fundamental stumbling block. The divergence of views, which up to now has seemed irreducible, has been surmounted. The course pursued by the United States and India has given an opportunity for reflection, and now there is reason to apprehend that England may follow their example.

The understanding come to at Paris in October, 1900, was followed by a vigorous campaign of opposition on the part of the French sugar producers, who pretended that the agreement would involve their ruin and that of a great national industry, together with an enormous loss of wages. At one time, it is said, the French Cabinet were much disquieted and feared for the success of the agreement. But since then everything seems to have been arranged for the best. Public meetings and attacks of the press have ceased, and the threatened interpellation in the Chamber has been

withdrawn. Two causes are alleged for the sudden calm. First, the Quay d'Orsay has reason to believe that the British Government is ready to surtax bounty-fed sugar; and secondly, a promised reduction of the French sugar duty has given the producers hopes of increased consumption in their home market. It may be seen, therefore, that the question has made great strides, and it is highly probable that the coming Conference will lead to a practical settlement.

PRAEDIAL LARCENY.

The West India Committee sent the following letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 26th last:—

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of resolutions passed in British Guiana, Antigua, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, and Trinidad on the subject of Praedial Larceny or theft of the Growing Crops.*

2.—This form of crime has of late years become so prevalent as to form a serious hindrance to agriculture, affecting as it does especially the small cacao growers and the minor industries generally.

3.—My Committee feel that this question is of sufficient importance to merit the appointment of a Commissioner to enquire into its extent and effect, who might recommend measures for its suppression.

4.—From the above-mentioned resolutions you will note, Sir, that this view is very generally endorsed throughout the Colonies affected.

5.—I am therefore to express a hope that you will be pleased to appoint and send to British Guiana and the West Indies such a Commissioner in order that steps may be speedily taken to put a stop to this widespread evil which is so seriously handicapping the agricultural industries of those Colonies.

I have the honour, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK,

Chairman.

THE COLONIAL BANK.

Mr. H. H. Dobree, Chairman, presiding over the 126th Half-Yearly General Meeting of the Colonial Bank, on April 4th last, after comparing the figures in the accounts now presented with those for the corresponding half-year of 1899 said that they had immediately available assets amounting to £2,549,000 to meet total liabilities of £3,134,000, or about 80 per cent. During the period under review the trade of the West Indies had been very depressed. With the exception of Trinidad, and perhaps Grenada, none of the British West Indian Colonies could be said to be thriving, and the people were too poor to find money to do more than buy the actual necessities of life. There had been a good many failures in the various Colonies during the half-year, and even since the close of 1900 there has been quite a little crisis in Barbados, where several failures had taken place. There was reason to hope that the Bank had lost very little as a consequence, if anything at all. For a long time the business had been carried on with extreme caution. As to the future, he did not wish to take too gloomy a view, but, at the same time, they must not lose sight of facts, and even since the Directors' report was penned there had been a somewhat serious fall in the price of sugar, and the results of the crop now being reaped would certainly not be so satisfactory as, until a short time ago, they had reason to anticipate. Inasmuch as the prosperity—he would say even the existence—of the whole of the West Indies depended mainly on sugar, he did not see that there was any prospect of a return to great prosperity, unless and until the bounties which were given by European countries were either abolished or counteracted in some way. Their hope that the Imperial Government would deal with this question in a fair and statesmanlike manner had been so far grievously disappointed.

* Resolutions not printed in Circular

The West Indian community commanded no sufficient number of votes to act as an incentive to political wirepullers, and the whole trend of legislation, so far as sugar was concerned, would seem to be to play into the hands of foreigners without consideration for British or Colonial interests. In spite of the inherent loyalty of the West Indians he found that a strong feeling was growing up among the most thoughtful members of the community that they would be far better under American, than under British, rule ; and he was of opinion that, when it was seen how greatly prosperity was being brought about in Cuba and Puerto Rico under American rule, the feeling would grow stronger. He trusted that something might be done by the present Government, but they had been hoping so long that he should not be disappointed if nothing were done. So far as the Bank was concerned, the business was as sound as ever, and although they had to deal with smaller amounts than formerly, there was nothing to call for apprehension among the proprietors.

DINNER TO SIR CAVENDISH BOYLE.

Particulars of the arrangements for the dinner to be given by the West Indian Club to Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G., on Thursday, April 18th next, prior to his assuming the Governorship of Newfoundland, can be obtained from the Secretary.

MAIL NOTES.

The Hon. C. A. Shand, writing from **Antigua** on March 27th last, informed us that the weather in the Island continued dry, which was in favour of manufacture, though some good showers were wanted to bring on the young cane sprouts which in most places had made a capital start. The low value of sugar in the United States would materially affect the result of the campaign, and general depression was the consequence. On March 28th Mr. Forster Alleyne, writing to us from **Barbados**, informed us that there had been few cane fires since he last wrote and that they were not of a severe character. The crop was in full swing. Practically no rain had fallen and the long drought continued. There was hardly a lime or a morsel of fruit on the Island. The pastures were dry and cracked, and, as it was the time for the fall of the leaf, the very trees looked as if they were participating in the general drought. The only things that kept green were the canes, and these for the most part were wonderful. On spots upon brows and in districts on the southern seaboard, St. Philips and St. Lucys, young canes were showing signs of weather, and old canes showing signals of distress, but, with these exceptions, the canes, both old and young, were exceptionally good. Sugar-making was being rapidly pushed on, the crop being at least a month earlier than usual. The canes were sweet, fewer gallons of juice being taken to make a hogshead, and consequently the yield was better all round. Not many estates, even windmills, were making less than two hogsheads per acre or close on it, and many estates were making three hogsheads per acre. The need of an English market was greater than ever. In **British Guiana**, we learn from Mr. Summerson that after the last mail left a fall of some two inches of rain had taken place in various parts of the Colony, which was very acceptable. It was thought that the drought had broken up but it set in dry again and rain was badly wanted everywhere. In **Dominica**, Mr. E. A. Agar informed us (March 28th) that a good deal of activity was being shown in the improving of the main roads in the Roseau district. The total appropriation for the roads for the year current was £1,400 as compared with £1,000 in the previous year. The past fortnight, though drier than the preceding one, had given occasional showers. This had been the most favourable "carême" season for some years, and unless unforeseen circumstances arose, the crop was expected to far exceed any previous ones. The cricket match against St. Lucia resulted in rather a severe defeat for St. Dominica. We learn from the Hon. C. M. Browne, C.M.G., that Mr. Broadway has been appointed Secretary of the Agricultural Society in **Grenada**. The question of Praedial Larceny is engaging the attention of the community. In **St. Kitts** (The Hon. E. G. Todd) much discussion was taking place as to the central factory question, it being understood that definite proposals were being made to the Secretary of State by a group of local proprietors for the establishment of a factory in the

Island. The weather was dry, dusty, and windy, and sugar-making was going on as fast as could be. The labour trouble appeared to be at an end. In **Trinidad** (The Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, March 27th) the sugar crop was making rapid progress under most favourable conditions and was likely to prove a "bumper." Some good showers had fallen during the fortnight, and for two days fine rain fell continuously. At a meeting of the Standing Committee on Immigration held on March 25th, the Colonial Secretary and the Protector of Immigrants both spoke in favour of the introduction of 3,000 Immigrants next season, and a resolution to this effect was agreed to. Resolutions were also passed urging the importance of the shipment of Emigrants for Trinidad not later than July, and as to the manner in which the work of the Trinidad Emigration Agency in Calcutta was carried on.

WEST INDIA TOPICS.

The following articles of interest regarding West Indian questions have appeared in the Press during the past fortnight:—"Empire Review," April, 1901, "Britain's Duty to British Labour," by Edward Rae Davson; "Times," April 9th, "Bristol to Jamaica Direct"; "Standard," April 9th, "Lord Denbigh's Beet Experiments"; "Daily Mail," April 12th and 13th, "Why not ½d. a pound on Sugar," by Mayson M. Becton.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," April 11th, 1901:—**BARBADOES**—2nd Lt. E. J. Burdett, Mr. F. Tite, Miss Alleyne, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hunter, Rev. and Mrs. Menzies, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. J. H. S. Gibb, Mr. L. S. Beale, Mrs. Goad, Mr. A. G. Blackburn, Mr. C. McHardy, Miss McHardy. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. W. G. McCadden, Mr. F. E. Ebbels, Mr. M. Coyle, Mr. F. May, Mr. C. H. Campbell. **JAMAICA**.—Miss H. Danbeny, Mr. M. Griffen, Mr. J. Lefranc, Lt. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Jervis, Mr. J. D. Murdoch, Mr. G. S. Taylor, Mr. H. G. B. Ellis, Mr. H. E. Ellis, Mr. E. Magor, Mr. A. Gray, Miss Whiteway, Mr. A. Batchelor, Mr. G. Sutcliffe, Mr. J. T. Ramsden, Mr. D. A. McNeight, Miss McNeight, Mr. D. F. C. Wright, Col. and Mrs. Sys, Mr. and Miss Bell, Mr. E. R. Pratt, Mr. C. Limpricht, Mr. Mathieson, Mr. J. A. Holmes, Mr. R. T. Meagher, Mr. N. A. Sivarons, Mr. O. Harley, Miss Holmes. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. R. S. M. Arbuthnot, Mr. and Miss Buckworth, Miss Wade, Miss E. Wade, Mr. P. Hughes, Mrs. A. Guiseppi, Mr. F. Collins, Mr. L. S. Agostini, Mr. W. H. Pease, Mrs. Jackson, Miss Jackson. **DOMINICA**.—Mrs. Colthurst. **GRENADA**.—Mrs. Silver, Mrs. Stephens and children, Mr. J. Grierson, Mr. A. W. D. Alexander, Mr. W. Cudderford. **ST. LUCIA**.—Mr. Coode.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," April 17th, 1901:—**BARBADOS**—Captain R. Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Sinckler, Mr. G. Skeete, Mrs. and Miss Meade, Rev. F. Barnett and Family, Mrs. H. E. Thorne, Miss R. E. A. Deane, Mr. and Mr. E. T. Grannum, Miss Barnes, Miss Grannum, Mr. D. C. DaCosta. **DEMERARA**.—Rev. A. Jemmiott and Wife, Two Masters Evans. **JAMAICA**.—Lt. J. P. Jones, Lt. and Mrs. Powell. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. C. Long, Mrs. and Miss Ulrich. **GRENADA**.—Mr. E. Pegley. **ST. LUCIA**.—Lt. C. Grant, Mrs. F. Anson.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," April 5th, 1901: Dr. Grimes, W. Croke, Calvert Croke, C. J. Fisher, Dr. Ransford, Thornton Andrews, Capt. Wiltshire, Dr. Johnson, D. S. Gideon, Mrs. Duncan, Miss George, Mr. Bull, Mrs. Bull, Miss Hallowell, Miss Young, Mr. Stevens, Mrs. Stevens, Mr. Dorman, Mrs. Dorman, Miss Dorman, Miss A. Dorman, Mr. Hugh Bell, Miss Bell, Miss Bell, Sir James Poole, Dr. Barclay, Mrs. Barclay, Mr. J. L. Beck, Mr. R. Beck, Miss Edith Beck, Miss Ellen Beck, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Biggs, Mrs. Biggs, Mr. H. Russell, Mr. McGill, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Templeton, Mr. O. de Cordover, Mr. Milliken, Mr. Garnett, Mr. E. Hutson, Major Powell, R. A., Mr. Hitchens, Miss Bond, Miss Bond, Mrs. Carlisle, Miss Carlisle, Mrs. Kemp and two Children, Mr. McPhie, Miss Reynolds, Miss Hire, Mr. Burt, Mr. Maude, Mr. Forster, Mr. Cobbold, Mr. Birks, Mr. Williams, Mr. A. C. Hery, Mr. S. R. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Warner, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Reynolds, Jun., Mr. Moore.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal" April 13th, 1901:—Mr. R. Adams, Mr. J. Brown, Miss Brandswood, Mr. A. W. Charles, Mr. H. A. Hood-Daniel, Mr. H. I. Hood-Daniel, Mr. C. A. Fursdon, Mrs. Fursdon, Master A. A. Fursdon, Master C. H. Fursdon, Madame Ferro, Madame Ferro, Mr. E. Ferro, Mr. L. Hill, Mr. W. A. Jones, Mr. H. L. Manning, Mr. Downer, Mr. F. K. Phillips, Capt. Riddell, R.N., Mrs. Riddle, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Roberts, Sister Riddle, Mr. S. H. Rodgers, Mr. G. F. Saul, Mrs. Saul, Mr. C. Smith, Miss May Sharp, Mr. Turner, Mr. R. Todd, Mr. T. E. Tomlinson, Rev. W. J. Williams, Mrs. Williams, Mr. C. S. Wonham, Mr. C. J. Wilkins, Mrs. Williamson, Miss Spencer Warren, Mrs. Wheeler, Miss N. Wheeler, Miss O. Wheeler, Miss Vickers, Mr. H. P. Barker, Mrs. Barker and two Children, Mr. W. Bates, Mr. W. H. Laidman, Miss Scott and Child, Mr. E. J. Winter, Mr. J. Whytock.

RUM.

The proof market continues in the same unsatisfactory condition as hitherto reported. Importers ideas being so much above those of buyers, transactions are confined to some 300 puns Demerara for the month at 1/1½ to 1/2½ per proof gallon for good quality, but prices must be considered quite nominal, there being practically no demand from the Trade. As the "Atlantis," now on way from Demerara, brings only 52 puns, it may be considered that the crop is over, and this should give buyers more confidence.

Jamaicas also continue quite neglected, and hardly a transaction has been recorded, but when the holidays are over a resumption of business may be looked for, but at a somewhat lower range of values.

We append the Board of Trade returns, which cannot be considered satisfactory, also the latest returns of stocks in London:—

		1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
LANDED	In Mar.	592,558	718,537	357,968	210,172
	3 months	2,359,803	1,821,019	1,165,151	1,438,995
HOME CONSUMPTION ..	In Mar.	367,184	553,841	445,767	401,236
	3 months	1,504,565	1,636,113	1,221,423	1,078,025
EXPORT	In Mar.	67,160	90,709	74,419	97,182
	3 months	182,386	262,273	219,412	216,553
STOCK (Galls.)	31 Mar.	7,259,000	6,654,000	7,202,000	8,132,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
JAMAICA. PUNS.. ..	6,703	6,351	9,729	9,659
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS ..	504	416	657	455
DEMERARA	11,147	4,535	4,028	6,730
FOREIGN	1,812	1,186	637	975
BRITISH EAST INDIA ..	1,155	549	317	446
VATTED	3,078	3,502	3,531	3,675
TOTAL	24,399	16,539	18,899	21,940

COCOA.

TRINIDAD—During the earlier part of the month under review there was a steady demand, and a fair proportion of the quantity offered at auction was disposed of at firm prices, but latterly the tone has become somewhat dull and latest sales show a decline of about 1/- per cwt. The total quantity offered during the month was 4,705 bags, of which about 3,000 were sold: low to good middling realising 66/6 to 69/- per cwt., and fine and superior 69/6 to 85/- per cwt.

	1901	1900
LANDED, 1st Jan. to 6th April ..	10,841 bags against	21,792 bags.
DELIVERED	17,934	14,476
STOCK 6th April	18,934	25,951

GRENADA.—A total of 10,424 bags was offered at auction during the last four weeks, and meeting with a good demand, was mostly sold at steady rates for good and fine, whilst ordinary and fair qualities were about 6d. to 1s. cheaper. At the close the value of ordinary to good fair is 61/- to 62/6 per cwt., and middling to fine, 63/- to 65/6 per cwt.

	1901	1900
LANDED 1st Jan. to 6th April ..	22,252 bags against	24,290 bags.
DELIVERED	21,326	13,649
STOCK 6th April	9,462	19,984

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) **PIMENTO** ... 2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.
GINGER ... 36s. to 65s. per cwt.
WAX ... £8 5s. to £8 17s. 6d. per cwt.
HONEY ... 20s. to 28s. per cwt.
LIME JUICE 10d. to 1s. per gall.

LOGWOOD... .. £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 to £4 5s. per ton.
FUSTIC £3 15s. to £4 per ton.
" ROOTS ... £3 5s. per ton.

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffec. lbs.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.	Asphalt. Tons.	Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
BRITISH GUIANA—											
Jan. 1st to Mar. 27th, 1901	21,317	9,089	361	—	19,275	55,250	407				
Jan. 1st to Mar. 28th, 1900	18,848	8,008	16,500	—	19,289	78	1,170				
TRINIDAD—											
Jan. 1st to Mar. 27th, 1901	168,599	51	5,848,694	10,080	47,141	2,432,590	593		18		27
Jan. 1st to Mar. 27th, 1900	79,996	7	11,485,880	640	25,338	2,964,221	1,336				

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 6th April	171,492	58,765	52,570	77,913	86,596
France, 1st March	567,172	507,248	570,000†	516,000	601,798
Germany, 1st March	998,100*	854,433*	874,348*	1,004,983*	945,088
Hamburg, 11th April	85,150	72,600	66,600	139,500	84,500
Austria-Hungary, 1st April	496,000†	490,439	442,083	443,524	507,005
Holland, 15th March.....	84,278	71,448	54,722	94,875	102,406
Belgium, 1st March	75,000†	105,000†	106,671	127,328	120,498
	2,477,192	2,219,933	2,166,994	2,404,123	2,447,891
United States, 10th April, Total Stocks	198,000	154,424	192,699	307,900	387,594
Cuba, six principal ports, 10th April, Total Stocks	221,000	108,820	91,949	109,500	55,368
Cargoes afloat, 11th April	7,034	21,909	55,483	45,885	24,128
Total.....	2,903,226	2,505,086	2,507,125	2,867,408	2,914,981

* Total stocks, not Licht s. † Estimated.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), April 2nd, "Seasonable weather, but rain still wanted." (Messrs. T. Daniel & Co., Ltd.), April 1st, "Weather dry over the whole Island. Rain much wanted." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McCounell & Co.), April 3rd, "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Mahaica and Skeldon. A few light showers have fallen, but more rain much wanted elsewhere." April 12th, "No rain since last message." **TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), April 10th, "Weather favorable, crop progressing satisfactorily."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books, papers, photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms, in addition to the current official gazettes, &c.:—*Agricultural Exports of the United States, 1895-1899*, Barbados, "Agricultural Gazette and Planters Journal," Vol. 7, No. 2, "The Financial News," "The International Sugar Cane," April 1, No. 28, Vol. 3, "The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre," "The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society," March, "The Louisiana Planter," "The Produce Markets Review," Antigua Market Report (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.), Demerara Market Reports (Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co., Messrs. Wieting & Richter, and The Chamber of Commerce), Trinidad Market Reports (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.), and Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co., (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen and Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers:—

The Antigua Observer.
The Antigua Standard.
The Barbados Advocate.
The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).
The Barbados Globe.
The Clavion (British Honduras).
The Argosy (Demerara).
The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).

The Dominican.
The Dominica Guardian.
The Federalist & Grenada People.
The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).
The Gleaner (Jamaica).
The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).
The St. Christopher Advertiser.
The St. Christopher Gazette.

The Voice (St. Lucia).
The Sentry (St. Vincent).
The Times (St. Vincent).
The Mirror (Trinidad).
The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).
Vaughan's Weekly (Trinidad).

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

NOTE.—FULL PARTICULARS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION MUST BE PROPOSED BY ONE AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY. SUBSCRIBERS 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.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
 LONDON, E.C.,

April 30th, 1901.

THE BUDGET AND SUGAR DUTIES.

For the first time since 1874, when the sugar duties were abolished by Sir Stafford Northcote, Sugar is to be taxed. As foreshadowed in the West India Committee's Circular, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget proposals, presented to Parliament on April 18th last, included Sugar Duties as a means of raising fresh revenue. On refined sugar the duty is to be 4s. 2d. per cwt., and on raw sugar a duty diminishing from that 4s. 2d. in certain proportions according to polarisation as detailed in a statement issued by the Customs Department which will be found on next page.

It will be of interest to see how the new duties will affect the West Indian problem. The most important point in this connection is the fact that Beet Sugar and Cane Sugar are nominally to be taxed alike. In practice, however, this will not be so, because it must be remembered that the first effect of the tax is to countervail the bounty which the Beet Sugar receives, and it is only after this bounty is taxed off that the balance of the tax becomes a tax upon sugar.

Take the case of France, for instance. The tax of 4s. 2d. on refined is barely sufficient to tax off the French bounty. French sugar *quâ* sugar will, therefore, not be taxed at all. It is well that this point should be clearly understood. Let us assume that a duty of 4s. 2d. had been put upon French sugar, and no duty whatever on any sugar coming from any other country. It would have been at once recognised that the effect of this must be to countervail the French bounty. How is this altered by the fact of a tax being placed upon sugar coming from other Countries? It is obvious that it is not so altered. The effect, therefore, of imposing duties upon sugar is as follows :—In the first place, they are necessarily a tax on bounties, and only in the second place, and after the bounty is exhausted, do they become a tax upon sugar. These countervailing duties have been established on sugars coming from the continent, in the receipt of a bounty, but the actual duty on the sugar coming from each of those Countries is graduated in inverse ratio to the bounty, *i.e.*, the higher the bounty the less is the duty on the sugar. France will actually pay no duty at all, Germany will pay about £2 18s., Austria the same, Belgium and Holland about £2 5s., and the British Colonies £4 3s. 4d. It is quite obvious that this is an exceedingly unjust arrangement.

The next point to be dealt with is the scale. It seems to be generally admitted that this scale favours the refining of sugar in this country, at which we must all be delighted ; also that it has a tendency to favour the lower grades. This, however, will turn out to be more an apparent than a real advantage, inasmuch as these low grades of sugar are generally used for the manufacture of Saccharum employed by the Brewers, &c., and as this is, in future, to be taxed, it is likely, from all that we have read on the question, to lead to a considerable substitution of foreign malt in the manufacture of beer. In point of fact, so far as the Brewers are concerned, the duty on sugar amounts to a protection on foreign malt, since we are assured that British malt cannot be substituted for sugar in the manufacture of beer.

THE SCALE OF DUTIES.

We give below the Budget Resolution giving the scale upon which the duties are leviable.

REFINED SUGAR, THAT IS TO SAY, SUGAR OF A POLARISATION EXCEEDING 98° , THE CWT. 4s. 2d.
SUGAR OF A POLARISATION NOT EXCEEDING 98° , IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING TABLE :—

	Degrees of Polarisation.	Percentage of Duty on Refined Sugar.
Not exceeding 76	...	48
Exceeding 76 and not exceeding 77	...	49.6
" 77	"	51.2
" 78	"	52.8
" 79	"	54.4
" 80	"	56
" 81	"	57.6
" 82	"	59.2
" 83	"	61
" 84	"	62.8
" 85	"	64.6
" 86	"	66.4
" 87	"	68.4
" 88	"	70.4
" 89	"	72.8
" 90	"	75.2
" 91	"	77.6
" 92	"	80
" 93	"	82.4
" 94	"	84.8
" 95	"	87.2
" 96	"	89.6
" 97	"	92
" 98	...	100

NOTE.—The duty on refined sugar being 4s. 2d., or 100 halfpence per cwt., the column of percentages may also be read as so many halfpence per cwt., *e.g.*, sugar polarising at 91° will be charged 75.2 halfpence, or 3s. 1.6d., per cwt. Thus 5 cwt. at 91° would pay $5 \times 3s. 1.6d. = 15s. 8d.$

DEPUTATION TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

A Special Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Tuesday, April 23rd, to consider the question of sugar duties. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and those present were Mr. Henry K. Davson, Deputy Chairman, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. Colin M. Gillespie, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. H. Alty, Chairman of the West India Association, Liverpool, Mr. Edward G. Barr, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. G. McGregor Frame, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. F. McConnell, Mr. W. Price, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. Taylor, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. M. M. Beeton, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. Edward Kynaston, Mr. Sandbach Parker and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, *Secretary*. Telegrams from the Colonies were read protesting against the sugar duties failing to put British Colonial Sugar on an equal footing with foreign bounty fed Sugar. The following is the text of these expressions of opinion, the unanimity of which is significant :—

ANTIGUA TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

"Meeting protests against opportunity lost Countervailing."

BARBADOS TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

"Barbados protests against continued advantage given Bounty Fed Sugar under Budget appalled at Chancellors satisfaction at prospect flood Bounty Fed Sugar in face Governments repeated condemnation principal of Bounties implores opportunity be grasped do justice British Colonies by discriminating against foreign Countries granting bounties."

BRITISH GUIANA PLANTERS ASSOCIATION TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

"Association deeply deploras neglect of British Colonies interest by Mother Country and loss favourable opportunity imposing Countervailing Duties."

ST. KITTS TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

"St. Kitts strongly protests falling Bounty Abolition against Duties on Colonial Sugar."

TRINIDAD TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

"Profound discouragement felt opportunity lost equalizing Colonial and Bounty Sugars Planters protest."

Telegrams were also read from the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool, and from Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., as follows :—

WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION, GLASGOW, TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

"West India Association approve imposition Duty think however scale favors foreign refined overmuch protest against opportunity missed checking bounties and assisting British decaying Colonies."

WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION, LIVERPOOL, TO WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

"We beg you to protest on our behalf against proposed Sugar Duties which fail to give equality to Colonial sugar with subsidised beet Sugars."

ELDER DEMPSTER & CO., LIVERPOOL, TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

"Our opinion is that Bounty Fed Sugar should pay duty but sugar from our Colonies should be free this would soon bring foreigner to his senses and prosperity to our Colonies."

The following Resolution was then passed unanimously :—

Be it Resolved—

"THAT THIS MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE PROTESTS AGAINST THE PROPOSED SCALE OF SUGAR DUTIES, WHICH WILL OPERATE AS A DIFFERENTIAL TAX AGAINST BRITISH COLONIAL SUGAR IN FAVOUR OF FOREIGN BOUNTY FED SUGAR."

Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Mr. S. Sandbach Parker and the Secretary were appointed a Deputation to submit the above telegrams and the views of the West India Committee to Mr. Chamberlain. The interview, which was private, took place later in the day at the House of Commons. Mr. Chamberlain, in the course of his remarks, said that he was very hopeful of the forthcoming Brussels Conference resulting in the abolition of bounties. In view of the statement which have appeared in the German Press, to the effect that the imposition of the sugar duties in England will lead to the abandonment of the Brussels Conference, this utterance of Mr. Chamberlain cannot fail to cause satisfaction.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the West India Committee was held at the Committee Room on Thursday, April 25th, last, at 3 p.m. Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. presided, and those present included:—Mr. H. K. Davson, Deputy-Chairman, Mr. E. G. Barr, Mr. E. Anderson, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. M. Garnett, Mr. Colin M. Gillespie, Mr. S. H. Curtis, Colonel Nourse, Mr. B. A. Neilson, Mr. W. Goodwin, Major Trollope, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Sir Noël Walker, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The SECRETARY having read the Notice convening the Meeting, the CHAIRMAN said:—In moving the adoption of the Report and Statement of Accounts I have a few remarks to make to you on a variety of subjects. In the first place, we commence the Report by expressing our regret at the loss we have sustained by the death of several of our Members, namely, Sir Thomas Thornhill, Colonel J. Watson, the Hon. William Howatson, the Rev. W. Sealy, Mr. Andre Bernard, and Mr. J. S. Wilson, and I should specially like to say one word about Sir Thomas Thornhill. When he was in the House of Commons, and when he was the Whip of the Conservative party, he did us good service. I remember that he helped very materially at the time the first Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to go into the Bounty Question, and I for one very much regret his loss.

THE HONORARY CORRESPONDENTS.

The next point that I should like to allude to is to ask you to give our thanks to the Honorary Correspondents in the West Indies. It is of great importance to us, if we are to be of any use here, that we should be in touch with all the Colonies, and that we should be kept well posted up in regard to everything that is going on in these Colonies. I am bound to say that our Correspondents have been very good in that respect. They have kept us generally very well posted up. There has been a little hiatus in the case of Grenada, but that I have reason to believe will shortly be put right; and I hope you will allow me on your behalf to express our thanks to our Honorary Correspondents in the West Indies for the services they have rendered to the West Indies, through us, by keeping us well posted in affairs of interest. (Cheers.)

Then the next point I should like to say a word about is the increase of membership. It will be quite obvious to you all that the larger our membership the more easy does it become to us to exercise influence with Government Departments. If the West India Committee can speak for 500 or 600 members, there is no doubt we speak with a louder and stronger voice than if we only speak for 350, which is about our present number. I therefore hope everyone here, and in the West Indies, will do what they can to induce gentlemen interested in the West Indies to join our Committee, and so strengthen our hands.

I should like now to say a few words about the Anti-Bounty League, which, you know, was started about four years ago. We have supported that League very largely with our funds, and venture to think that the League has done very good service. It is still in existence, although for some time past there has naturally not been much scope for any action on its part. More recently we have been taking steps to ascertain what the feeling of the Members of Parliament was with regard to the Bounties. You will have seen that one or two questions have been asked of the Government in the House of Commons, who are interested in the question, and the result of these questions is that the Government is still, or professes to be still as anxious as ever to do what they can to abolish Bounties.

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

I may mention that we have reason to believe that there is very good prospect that the Conference of Brussels will meet again, and that shortly. (Hear hear.) It has by no means been dropped, as we feared, and I have this on very excellent authority; and there is also reason to believe that the different European Governments, with the exception perhaps of Russia, have all come to an understanding in regard to the Bounties, and, therefore, if that Brussels

Conference meets again as we have every hope that it will do shortly, I think we may reasonably expect that a Convention will result, and that the result of that Convention will be the abolition of the Bounties. After all the years that we have been fighting that question, if that should be the result I am sure we shall all be extremely pleased. (Hear hear.) It is of greater importance to the West Indies now, I think, that these Bounties should be removed, than it has been any time during the last three or four years. You all remember that the West Indies were on their beam ends about four years ago, and I think it must have been a matter of some surprise to the British Public to find that instead of being ruined, as everybody thought they were going to be at that time, they have managed more or less to weather the storm during the last three years. Of course you all know, as I know, that the reason of that has not been from any action whatever on the part of the British Government, or of the British Parliament. It has been solely and entirely due to the action of the United States Government and the United States Parliament. They imposed countervailing duties on beet sugar, and the result of that imposition has been that we have been able to sell our sugar in the United States on terms of equality with the bounty-fed beetroot sugar. These conditions are not yet permitted to us in the English markets, but we venture to hope that the time is coming when they will be, and it is to the eternal disgrace of the British Government and the British Parliament that pure cane sugar grown in British Colonies should be compelled to compete on unfair terms in English markets with bounty-fed beetroot sugar. The Anti-Bounty League has conducted very greatly to bring the British Government up to the pitch that they now profess to be at, and there are good hopes now that we may see the Bounties abolished before we meet again next year.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION.

The next point on my list of subjects is that of Coolie Immigration. Coolie Immigration, at present, practically only concerns two of the Colonies—British Guiana and Trinidad, but probably it is of as much importance to these Colonies as the Bounty Question. If anything were to interfere with the continuance of the Coolie Immigration, I venture to think it would ruin the sugar industry in these Colonies as rapidly as the Bounties would do. I am glad to say for the last three years the Government have given us a fixed number which they have permitted us to introduce each year, but I am bound to say that as regards Trinidad that number is found to be quite insufficient. There has, as some of us know, been an enormous development of the cane-farming industry in the Colony of Trinidad. Last year there was no fewer than 6,400 farmers growing sugar cane for the factories. That has increased again, and I have no doubt that this year will see a considerable increase over that number. These farmers are now producing cane to the extent of one-sixth of the Trinidad crop. But the result of that is that a great deal of labour is being withdrawn from the estates, thence the necessity for a larger immigration of Coolies. Strong representations have been made from the Colony of Trinidad, which have been endorsed by the Inspector of Immigrants and which have been very warmly supported I am glad to say by the Government and I think our friends in Trinidad have expressed our thanks to Sir Alfred Moloney, for the support which he has given us on that point. I think it will probably be desirable that the West India Committee should themselves send in a letter to Mr. Chamberlain on the subject, because it is one unquestionably of very great importance to the Colony. There seems some reason to believe that Jamaica may shortly be requiring Coolies. If that should be the case and representations are made to us from Jamaica, we shall be very happy to do anything we can to support their views in the matter.

RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA.

Then the next question on my list is that regarding favoured trade between Canada and the West Indies. As you all know there was a good deal of talk, even if it went no further, of a kind of favoured nation treatment between Canada and Trinidad. The idea was that Canada was to give

Trinidad some special advantage in the importation of its sugar ; and on the other hand Trinidad would give Canada distinct advantages over the United States in the importation of lumber and fish and flour. We had good reason to believe that if that had been carried out, the United States would at once have retaliated, certainly on Trinidad, and in all probability on the whole of the West Indies. We felt that the loss of the United States market to the West Indies at the present moment would mean absolute ruin, and we therefore pointed this out to the Colonial Office, and we pointed it out to the best of our ability to those interested in Trinidad. The result was that the sugar industry of Trinidad and also the cocoa industry of Trinidad, signed a very strong recommendation to the Government of the Colony requesting them to give up the idea of these trade relations with Canada, and the matter, I am glad to say, is now dropped. I need hardly say that one's patriotism would naturally lead one to favour the idea of any mutual trade relations between different portions of the Empire, but although of course it is one thing to favour these relations if we are all going to benefit by them ; it would be quite another thing to give favoured conditions to one Colony if it is to mean absolute ruin to the Colony which gives those conditions. We had the opportunity last year of explaining to many of our Canadian friends who were over here at the time of the meeting of the different Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, and I am sure that we perfectly satisfied them that it was not from any want of goodwill on our part, but the absolute inability of our power to grant any such terms as that proposed so long as we were dependent upon the United States Market and the United States Market entirely. I think they were quite satisfied in regard to that.

SUGAR CANE EXPERIMENTS.

Now, perhaps, I might say a few words with regard to the question of the seedling canes. As you all know, most careful and painstaking experiments have been made for a good many years past with a hope of getting an improved cane. The idea was some cane would give us a larger percentage of sugar than the cane which we have now—or up to recently—been growing in the West Indies, namely, the Bourbon cane. I think one may say generally that so far the result appears to be this : There appears to be undoubted evidence that the seedling canes generally are able to stand adverse circumstances in the shape of weather, and in the shape of pests, better than the old Bourbon cane. Whether the old Bourbon cane is becoming old and worn out in its old age I do not know, but certainly experience does seem to show that the vigour of the younger cane of the seedling does enable it to withstand periods of bad weather and also to withstand disease better than the old Bourbon cane. I am afraid that we have not, as yet, got any satisfactory evidence that these new seedlings will, when cultivated on the Estates, give a larger yield than the Bourbon does under ordinary circumstances, but none the less I am sure that we all thoroughly appreciate and would give every support and encouragement in any power to the efforts that are being made by Dr. Morris and his staff in the West Indies generally, and by Mr. Harrison and Mr. Jenman in British Guiana, towards the view of producing a richer cane generally. I think that our thanks are due to those gentlemen. Many of us know how hard they have worked on this subject ; we know the amount of time and care, and many say the immense care that is necessary in carrying out experiments of this sort, and that care I venture to say has been forthcoming, and I think that our thanks are distinctly due to Dr. Morris, and all those gentlemen under him for the efforts they are making.

Then a few words just in regard to the new West India Mail Service, that, as you know, has been started. I think that Jamaica ought to be very grateful to Mr. Chamberlain and to Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company for the vigour that they have shown in encouraging this new line. We can only wish it every success, and I cannot help thinking that it starts under such favourable auspices that its success is almost assured.

THE RUM SURTAX.

Our old friend the Rum Surtax still remains with us. (Laughter.) We have been unable so far to produce any impression upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I know that the Colonial Office has had this matter pretty constantly before them, and I have no reason to suppose that they have yet given it up. I am perfectly certain that they now thoroughly realise what a very important matter it is for the West Indies. I believe that their own calculations are, that it is costing us something like £70,000 a year in the shape of extra taxation. It is no doubt a very gross injustice, and I cannot help thinking that a gross injustice is sure to be rectified, sooner or later, if we only keep pegging away and hammering at it. I am afraid, judging from our experience of the Bounty question, we shall have to hammer for a great many years, but I do not think that ought to discourage us, and I for one am in favour of pegging away year after year, until we do get justice done.

PRAEDIAL LARCENY.

The is one other point I want to allude to and that is the question of Praedial Larceny. As you know it is a very important question for the West Indies and particularly for what are called the Minor Industries. A poor man grow a crop of plantains, and as his plantains become ripe a neighbour comes by and reaps his plantains for him, or the most of them. That does not conduce to good feeling and if the man who grows the plantains can get no justice done to him from the Government, he is very apt to take justice in his own hands, and with a gun behind the fence, peg at his friend as he comes along. That is a thing that none of us wish to see. It was of so much importance that we thought it well to represent to Mr. Chamberlain that it was a matter that ought to be looked into. There seems reason to think that the Colonial Office will meet our view and send out some sort of a Commission to enquire into the whole matter. I can only hope that that Commission will be successful in putting a stop to what is undoubtedly a very great evil.

POSTAL DELAYS.

Then a few words in regard to the Post Office. As you know, we have had more complaints than I can remember for many years past of delay in the receipt of our letters, and it appears that it almost always arises from the fact, that when the steamer arrives at Plymouth, after the last train has left, no special train is put on, hence the letters arrive practically a day later than they would do if they were brought on by the steamer to Southampton. I cannot help thinking that, considering how much the British Government is making out of the West Indies in the shape of profit on the silver that they sell there, they might devote a little of that profit to putting on a special train, and so let us have our letters in good time. The Post Office appear to be possessed of a very extraordinary idea. They think as long as you have got a day to answer your letters, that is all anybody could possibly want. It never occurs to the Post Office that letters bring such things as orders, that letters bring such things occasionally, very seldom from the West Indies, as remittances (laughter), and if our remittances are delayed three or four days, to some people it is rather a serious matter. Therefore, if we could get this postal service accelerated by a day or two, I think it would be an enormous boon to the West Indies. It would have been quite possible for the Government at a very moderate expense to have given us something like two days longer than we now have. We have never been consulted in the matter, and I do not know that any of the West Indian Colonies have ever been consulted in the matter, but it appears to me it is of such immense importance to them, the shortening of the time between England and the West Indies by as much as two days that certainly the Colonies ought to have had some say in the matter, and that an important question of that sort ought not to have been left entirely in the hands of the Post Office, who certainly do not seem to be at all alive to the necessities of present day commerce.

THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

Before I sit down I should just like to say one word about the Colonial Office. We come very much into contact with the Colonial Office necessarily and I should like to say this to you, that I think we have every reason to be grateful to them, not only for the courtesy with which they always receive any communications from us, but also for the very decided disposition that I may say they do show, as far as they possibly can, to meet any reasonable views which we may put forward. I think it is only fair to say that for the Colonial Office. It is very much the habit in this country to abuse our officials and to abuse our different Departments, but, I must say, as regards the Colonial Office that there is a very marked change come over that Office as compared with what it was 20 or 30 years ago, and I believe we shall only do what is right in expressing our recognition of that. Then, before I conclude, one last word. I should like to say how much we owe to our Secretary. I am quite sure that anyone coming from the West Indies now and calling here is always sure of a courteous reception, and I am sure of more than that, that he will find Mr. Aspinall is very well posted up in all the different subjects in which we are interested, and is always ready to give his time and attention to anything that is required in the West Indies, and to assist in any way he can any gentlemen calling here from those Colonies. (Cheers.) I hope that before we complete our proceedings to-day somebody on that side of the table will propose a vote of thanks to our Secretary. I beg now to propose the adoption of the Report and Statement of Accounts.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Henry K. Davson, put to the meeting by the Chairman, and carried unanimously.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN : Gentlemen, we have now to elect nine qualified members to the Executive Committee in place of nine retiring by rotation, and I have much pleasure in proposing to you the following gentlemen be appointed :—Messrs. W. H. Alty, E. G. Barr, C. Algernon Campbell, Alex. Crum-Ewing, E. A. De Pass, H. H. Dobree, Thomas Du Buisson, G. Macgregor Frame, and Mewburn Garnett.

The resolution, seconded by Mr. Henry K. Davson, was put to the meeting and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. W. GOODWIN : I propose a very hearty vote of thanks to our Secretary for the very able way in which he has carried on the duties of his office during the last year. I feel whenever I come here I am always received in the most courteous manner, and any information the Secretary can give me he places at my disposal, and he goes to a great deal of trouble to find out anything that he does not know at the moment. Therefore I have very great pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to our Secretary. (Hear, hear). The motion was seconded by Major Trollope, put to the meeting, and unanimously approved.

The SECRETARY : Sir Nevile and gentlemen, I feel I cannot allow such an expression of opinion to pass without giving you my thanks for the unwritten testimonial which you have accorded to me to-day. But, as a salaried servant of the Committee, I really think that I ought not to say anything. I can assure you, gentlemen, that it is the greatest pleasure to me to work with you and for you and for the interest of the West Indies, and I can only say that anything in my power that I can do to further those interests, I shall do most readily.

THE CHAIRMAN.

Mr. W. P. SHEPHEARD : Gentlemen, I should like before we separate to propose a vote of thanks to our Chairman. I think I, for perhaps twenty-five years, have been more or less co-operating with him upon that very crucial point that he has mentioned to us this day. I can remember when

we had to win over the Trade Unions to our cause, night after night sometimes he had to address and convince small branches of working men up in sky parlours where they met and that is excessively detailed work. And, more than that, these men, in order to convince them, had to be fought with strenuous argument, for they are not men who yield without being convinced, and we had our Chairman again and again face to face with these men until he convinced, and more or less through his agency and a few others of us, convinced and brought the whole of the Trade Unions of the United Kingdom into line with us, and into a Deputation before the Prime Minister to help us to get out of this difficulty. Personally I know the fatigue which the duration of this conflict has entailed upon our Chairman. I do feel that this is not the occasion when one can thank him sufficiently, but, for all that, it is an occasion when we may mark our recognition of it. I ask, therefore, that not only on this occasion when he presides, but in recognition of what he has done, we should accord him a most cordial vote of thanks. (Cheers.)

Mr. E. G. BARR : I have great pleasure in entirely endorsing everything that Mr. Shephard has said. My acquaintance with Sir Nevile extends over a large number of years now, and the position of the West India Committee to-day is very largely, if not entirely, owing to the efforts Sir Nevile has made. I have great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to him.

The resolution was put to the meeting by Mr. Shephard, and carried by acclamation, and the Chairman having responded, proceedings terminated.

BANQUET TO SIR CAVENDISH BOYLE.

His Excellency Sir Cavendish Boyle was entertained on April 18th last at a most successful Banquet by the West Indian Club, prior to his assuming the Governorship of Newfoundland. The Chair was occupied by Sir Nevile Lubbock, and the company present included Dr. Anderson, Mr. H. T. Bailey, Mr. C. Kinloch Cooke, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Captain Davson, R.H.A., Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. Henry K. Davson, Mr. Harold Evans, Mr. Athel Goode, Mr. J. H. Harrison, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. Quintin Hogg, Hon. B. Howell Jones, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. W. S. Musgrave, Mr. Platt, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. J. Bell Smythe, Mr. E. F. Im. Thurn, C.M.G., Sir Charles Walpole, Mr. T. B. Younger, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, *Hon. Sec.* In addition to the customary "Loyal" toasts and that of the guest of the evening, which was received with the utmost enthusiasm, "Prosperity to British Guiana" was proposed by Mr. Quintin Hogg and responded to by Mr. H. K. Davson, and "Prosperity to Newfoundland" was proposed in an able speech by Mr. C. Kinloch Cooke, and acknowledged by the Governor.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday, April 18th last, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding, the following New Members were elected :—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
Mrs. SENHOUSE.	Mr. R. RUTHERFORD.	Mr. W. P. B. SHEPHEARD.
Mr. HENRY BRACK.	Mr. COLIN M. GILLESPIE.	Mr. W. GOODWIN.
Mr. E. N. FELLOWES.	Mr. R. RUTHERFORD.	Mr. W. P. B. SHEPHEARD.
Rev. R. HART.	Mr. R. RUTHERFORD.	Mr. W. P. B. SHEPHEARD.
Mr. J. M. IMAGE.	Mr. R. RUTHERFORD.	Mr. W. P. B. SHEPHEARD.
Messrs. WHIMSTER & Co.	Sir NEVILLE LUBBOCK.	Mr. E. G. BARR.

Mr. George Carrington was elected a Member of the Executive Committee. It is hoped that Members will endeavour to maintain the Committee on its present sound basis of bringing forward candidates for election. Copies of the Rules of the Committee can be obtained upon application to the Secretary.

SEEDLING CANES.

We are indebted to Dr. Morris for an important statement prepared by Professor D'Albuquerque and Mr. J. R. Bovell, regarding sugar-cane experiments, presented at a meeting of the Barbados Agricultural Society on March 29th. The statement which can be seen at this office and which pressure on our space precludes us from publishing in the *Circular*, contains a very useful review of the methods adopted in these experiments. The Compilers who have for so many years been connected with sugar-cane experiments in Barbados, speak very hopefully of the ultimate results likely to be attained. In March last, we invited Dr. Morris to express his views as to the applicability of Messrs. Garton & Co.'s system of cross-fertilization of cereals, which has been practised for the past 20 years with success in this Country, to sugar-canes. Dr. Morris, is of opinion that owing to the very minute character of the florets of the sugar-cane, it will always be most difficult to carry out cross-fertilization with that plant. He informs us that the subject is now being fully considered by his department, and that a systematic attempt will now be made to bring into operation the production of cane seed on the lines so successfully adopted by Messrs. Garton in the case of cereals.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS AND THE WEST INDIES.

General Sir Henry Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E., will take the chair at a meeting of the Colonial Section of the Society of Arts at 4.30 this afternoon, when Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. will read a paper upon the West Indies. The meeting will be held at the rooms of the Society, John Street, Adelphi. Members desirous of attending can obtain tickets from the Secretary of the West India Committee.

MAIL NOTES.

From our Honorary Correspondents we gather that in **Antigua** (Hon. C. A. Shand, April 10th) there had been no rain since last mail, and the young sprouts were sorely in need of refreshing showers. Crop operations were in full swing, and sugar was being manufactured rapidly, but prices for produce were terribly disheartening. On most estates the result of the present campaign would be disastrous, and in some districts which were especially ill-favoured as regards rainfall in 1900, the outlook was gloomy to a degree. In **Barbados** (Forster M. Alleyne, Esq., April 11th) the Agricultural Society on April 4th passed a resolution supporting the representations of the other Islands on the subject of Praedial Larceny. On the previous night a very welcome shower of rain fell over Bridgetown and the South of the Island, amounting to nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch. Excepting this, no rain had fallen since last mail, and the soil was very parched and the ponds dry. Where the canes were late planted, or on shallow brows, or in some places near the sea coast, the young plants were beginning to suffer under the influence of the terrible drought. As a rule, however, they were quite green, though some were beginning to look hard and of course could not go on without rain indefinitely. The yield of the old canes continued excellent; many estates had made 3 hbds. per acre from last month's work, and at Locust Hall $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of B 147 had given 18 tons. In the writer's opinion the general average was over 2 hbds. per acre. The yield of molasses, too, was good—much greater than last year. Unfortunately, the price of products continued unfavourable—Sugar being \$1.65 to \$5, and molasses at 10s. The drought having so parched the cane tops it would become a serious problem how to feed the stock. **British Guiana** (J. C. McCowan, Esq., April 10th).—We regret to learn that Mr. A. Summerson, our Hon. Correspondent, was suffering from influenza. The weather continued much too dry. Light showers fell now and then, but they had no appreciable effect on the cultivation. Good heavy rains were wanted to fill the navigation trenches on the estates, and thoroughly soak the soil. Refining Crystals were quoted at \$2.20 to \$2.25, two small lots for local consumption were being sold at \$2.40. **Jamaica** (George Levy, Esq., April 10th).—Everything was quiet. A severe drought was being experienced, but there were indications that when the rain came it would be torrential. **St. Kitts** (The Hon. E. G. Todd, April 9th).—A most successful meeting was held on the 4th, under the auspices of the local West India Committee, His Honour the Administrator presiding. Mr. Francis Watts, the Government Chemist for the Colony, delivered an able address upon the subject of Central Factories. In the discussion which followed Mr. E. Luxmore Marshall, and other gentlemen interested in the Presidency joined. The weather conditions could not be more serious. No rain had fallen since last Mail and the water-courses were drying up. Unless moisture came soon there would be anxiety and loss. **St. Lucia** (The Hon. E. Du Boulay, April 12th).—Mr. Coode had now made a good report to the Government as to the extension of the Harbour Wharves, and it was hoped that his recommendation might be carried out. Much satisfaction had been expressed at the action which the West India Committee had taken in this matter. The weather continued very hot and dry, and it was feared that the long drought might seriously affect the young crop. **St. Vincent** (Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., April 12th).—By a recent Canadian steamer a small trial shipment of sugar was sent to Halifax, but nearly all that had been made was in store, shippers being undecided

whether to ship to England or America pending the Budget proposals. The weather for some weeks past had been very dry and the young canes had suffered greatly in consequence. On the day of writing there were signs of rain, but good soaking showers were not looked for until next month. **Trinidad** (The Hon. G. T. Fenwick, April 10th).—The local Government were in communication with the Secretary of State upon the question of Coolie Immigration. Mr. Chamberlain had asked for detailed particulars as to the urgent necessity for that increase of the number of Coolies to be imported for the coming season from 2,400 to 3,000. Much disappointment was felt in the Colony at the non-inclusion of Trinidad in the published official programme of the tour of the Duke and Duchess of York. The Unofficial Members of the Council had met and passed a resolution, desiring the Government to approach His Majesty the King with a petition that Trinidad might be visited by their Royal Highnesses. After a week or two of occasional showers the weather had turned very dry again. Sugar planters were glad to be uninterrupted in the reaping operations, but Cocoa planters were crying out that the fruit on the trees would not fill out and ripen. From **Grenada** we have received no advices.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," April 24th 1901.—**BARBADOS**.—Miss Packer, Mrs. Robt. Challener, Mr. G. Clarke, Mrs. Reece and Son, Miss Howell, three Misses Peterkin, Mrs. Foord Hilton, Mr. John Sealy, Mr. W. Clarke, Dr. R. W. Bourne, V.S., two Misses Clarke, Dr. and Mrs. F. Archer, Miss Archer, Mrs. M. J. Bovell, Lieut. Weldon, Miss Arnold, Miss E. Arnold, Miss Agard, Mr. and Mrs. J. Plummer, Miss E. Williams, Hon. R. C. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Cull, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Morrison, Lady Alexander, Miss Pound, Mr. John Buchanan, Mr. Ed. Carpenter and Son, Mr. Arthur Baume, Mr. and Mrs. Alston and Daughter, Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Kemp Welch, Mr. R. B. Hope, Surgeon Col. Archer, Mr. Arthur Jackson, Mr. Jas. Allen, Hon. John Wallop, Mr. C. B. Storey, Miss Worthington, Mrs. Tarring, Mr. E. F. Cecil, Rev. H. C. Jollye, Messrs. John and Hugh Wilson, Mr. Ernest von Bibia, Mr. N. G. Pitman, Miss Cowie, Mr. A. C. Gonda, Mr. J. G. Crompton, Miss Crompton, Miss Palmer. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. and Mrs. Russell Garnett and three Ch., Miss Macquarrie, Mr. J. Ball Greene, Mrs. and Miss Belsher, Major Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Kerr and Ch., Miss Forshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Barratt, Mrs. Thompson, Miss Murray, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. Edmonston, Mr. G. H. Richter. **JAMAICA**.—Miss Wood, Mr. and Miss Adams, Major Adams, the two Mrs. Oughton, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Simons, Master H. Haughton, Mr. S. N. Carvalho, Mrs. Bainbridge, Miss Denholm, Mr. and Mrs. C. Wright, Mr. W. Lawrence, the two Mr. Wrights, Mr. and Mrs. Spedding, Sir Nowell and Lady Salmon, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Blandy, Miss Blandy, Miss Goldsmith, Rev. L. C. Cree, Mr. Joseph Merritt. **TRINIDAD**.—Mrs. R. M. Olcott, Miss Freeman, Dr. Hasard, Master Kernahan, Master E. de Verteuil, Mr. D'Este, The Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Trotter, Mr. and Mrs. Lamont, Mr. Louis Scheerer, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Wright, Miss Wright, Mr. Geo. Lambie, Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Reid and 2 Ch., Mrs. Wallace, Mr. J. B. L. Todd, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Taylor, Mr. T. Sorzano. **ANTIGUA**.—Mrs. J. T. Dew and two Ch., Mrs. Wm. Goodwin.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," May 1st, 1901.—**BARBADOS**.—Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Sinckler, Mr. and Mrs. Brannum, Lt. Mausergh, Mr. Waters, Miss Garraway, Mrs. Laborde, Miss Gresham. **DEMERARA**.—Mrs. Hewick and Family, Mr. A. M. Ashmore, C.M.G. and Family, Canon Josa and Family, Mrs. Birch, Mr. J. Wright. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. Grove, Corp'l. Malcolm, Mr. Grinter. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. G. Brown, Miss Tucker, Mrs. E. May, Mrs. Fechtenberg. **GRENADA**.—Mr. E. Lang. **ST. LUCIA**.—Mr. and Mrs. Herig.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Maria," April 18th, 1901.—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. H. Swayne, Mr. Swayne, Mr. Nation, Mrs. Nation, Mr. Chas. Combe, Mr. Combe, Mr. G. H. Law, Mr. Jas. Grieg, Mr. H. E. Acklom, Mr. E. F. S. Tylecott, Mr. E. J. Bicton, Mr. Mason, Mr. R. B. Strickland, Mrs. Strickland, Master Beard, Dr. P. O. Malabre, Mr. H. M. Gittens, Mrs. Gittens, Mr. G. R. Payne, Mr. W. J. Menzies, Miss Elaine Menzies, Miss Esnie Menzies, Mr. P. J. Davey, Master Mortimer D. Sturgeon, Miss Ismay Facey, Mr. W. G. Coombe, Mr. M. O'Brien.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Maria," April 27th, 1901.—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. M. Ainslee, Mr. S. F. Ainslee, Mr. J. Bashall, Mr. E. Collens, Miss Collens, Mr. J. P. Cross, Mr. O'Connor de Cordova, Mr. Douglas, Mrs. Evans, Mr. H. E. Gill, Mr. Gerard, Mrs. Harding, Master Harding, Mr. G. H. Johnstone, Mrs. Mackenzic and Child, Mr. A. P. Little, Miss M. Pigou, Mrs. Shee, Miss E. Whitworth, Mrs. Culverhouse, Mr. Culverhouse, Miss Culverhouse, Miss Culverhouse, Mr. J. Popp.

COCOA.

A flat tone prevailed at the auctions this week, and only West India kinds were at all saleable, these descriptions showing a fairly steady tone, although here and there reduced prices were accepted. Out of 3,500 bags offered, only about 1,000 bags were disposed of. Good to fine Trinidad 66s. to 69s., superior 70s. to 70s. 6d., Dominica 59s. to 61s. 6d., St. Lucia 61s. to 63s., and St. Vincent 65s. to 66s.

	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
Stocks.....	88,649 bags.	98,257 bags.	111,600 bags.	133,644 bags.	130,284 bags.

Mail advices from Trinidad, dated 11th inst., state that arrivals come in very sparingly, and no material increase in supplies is looked for for some months, even with favourable weather. Competition to fill forward contracts is keen, and prices are maintained—65s. to 67s. per 50 kilos paid.

COFFEE.

At last Friday's auctions of 207 barrels and 6 bags Jamaica, 195 of the former and all the latter sold. small grayish 32s. to 34s. 6d., good ordinary brownish to fine fine ordinary greenish 34s. to 41s. 6d., low middling greenish to middling grayish 43s. to 54s., pea-berry 42s. to 43s.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.	LOGWOOD...	... £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ...	38s. to 66s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
BEEWAX ...	£8 10s. to £9 per cwt.	FUSTIC ...	... £3 15s. to £4 per ton.
HONEY ...	20s. to 28s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ...	£3 5s. per ton.
LIME JUICE	rod. to 1s. per gall.		

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Hhds.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Coffee lbs.	Gold, ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
BARBADOS—									
Jan. 1st. to April 12th, 1901	9,772	—	—	—	—	—	10,639		
Jan. 1st. to April 12th, 1900	3,174	—	—	—	—	—	4,498		
BRITISH GUIANA—	Tons.								
Jan. 1st to April 10th, 1901	24,160	9,410	364	—	22,421	57,250	407		
Jan. 1st to April 11th, 1900	21,836	9,326	16,500	—	22,822	78	1,230		
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.								
Jan. 1st to April 10th, 1901	199,708	51	6,733,544	14,720	50,600	2,602,990	927	59	66
Jan. 1st to April 10th, 1900	175,376	57	12,569,120	820	30,956	3,212,021	1,656	—	—

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 20th April	202,021	55,133	48,365	77,889	88,444
France, 1st April	419,412	486,861	520,000†	471,000	565,297
Germany, 1st April	833,450*	718,108*	752,209*	885,874*	751,604
Hamburg, 24th April	74,600	58,700	68,100	137,300	86,200
Austria-Hungary, 1st April	496,724	490,439	442,083	443,524	507,005
Holland, 15th April	66,301	56,453	42,078	79,714	58,864
Belgium, 1st April	60,466	99,889	95,875	120,009	101,926
United States, 24th April, Total Stocks	2,152,974	1,965,583	1,968,710	2,215,310	2,189,340
Cuba, six principal ports, 24th April, Total Stocks	186,000	177,692	202,397	345,317	447,742
Cargoes afloat, 25th April	209,000	103,897	86,086	81,396	45,060
	7,034	19,247	58,768	61,709	20,589
Total.....	2,555,008	2,266,419	2,315,961	2,703,732	2,702,731

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

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), April 16th, "Rain much wanted, crops suffering." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), April 24th, "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain is much wanted." (West India Association, Liverpool), April 22nd, "Nice showers, but more wanted." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), April 24th, "Drought still continues." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), April 20th, "Weather fine for harvesting." (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), April 25th, "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily."

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

NOTE.—FULL PARTICULARS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION MUST BE PROPOSED BY ONE AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY. SUBSCRIBERS 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.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
 LONDON, E.C.,

May 14th, 1901.

SUGAR DUTIES AND THE CONFERENCE.

In the face of Mr. Chamberlain's recent statement that he was hopeful of the early reassembling and ultimate success of the Brussels Conference, it is somewhat disconcerting to find that the foreign Press takes a very different view of the situation; the feeling on the Continent apparently being that the imposition of sugar duties by the Imperial Government will prove an obstacle to the Meeting of the Sugar Bounties Conference. The "*Deutsche Zucker Industrie*" for instance, in a recent issue stated, "the consequence will be that the question of a fresh Meeting of the Brussels International Conference for abolishing the Sugar Bounties will disappear from the order of the day. The German Sugar industry is now within its right to ask that the Imperial Government should decline to enter into any further discussion with the other States, and thus remove the cause of a constant agitation in our Sugar industry." The Vienna "*Fremdenblatt*" remarks that the repeal of the Sugar Bounties by International Convention or otherwise is now out of the question, the British Refiners receiving a premium of between 3 and 4½ kroners (2s. 6d.—3s. 9d.) per ton over the Continental Refiners. On the other hand M. Georges Dureau, whose opinion must carry weight, concludes an article on the Sugar duties in the latest issue of the "*Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*" with the following remarks: "The most to be feared by European Producers, whose principal market is the United Kingdom, is that the reimposition of a tax on sugar in the form of Customs duties may lead sooner or later to the imposition of differential or countervailing duties. A few days ago Mr. Chamberlain receiving a deputation of the West India Committee declared that he was very hopeful as to the results of the forthcoming Conference. So, contrary to the opinion expressed by the German Press, the imposition of a sugar tax in England should not lead to the abandonment of the Conference. Must it be supposed that the British Government holds in reserve as a supreme and decisive argument the threat of differential duties against those countries which refuse to enter into a Convention? The actual policy of our neighbours across the Channel seems to justify this hypothesis."

AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINANCE BILL.

Colonel Victor Milward, M.P., intends to move the following Amendment on the Second Reading of the Finance Bill, "That no system of sugar taxation is satisfactory which does not afford to sugar grown or refined in British Colonies and in Great Britain equality of opportunity with that grown or refined in Foreign bounty-giving countries."

THE PROPOSED REBATE ON COLONIAL SUGAR.

Meanwhile, every effort is being made to persuade H.M. Government to give equality of opportunity to British Colonial Sugar Producers, by granting a rebate of the duty upon British Colonial Sugar. On May 2nd, the following letter was addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject:—

SIR,

May 2nd, 1901.

I have the honour, by direction of my Committee, to submit to you the following representations with reference to the Sugar Duties:

2. It is proposed that Sugar coming from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Holland, shall pay a tax of 4s. 2d. per cwt., when polarising 98% and upwards. I am to point out to you, Sir,

that of this amount of 4s. 2d., in the case of Austria and Germany, 1s. 3d. represents a duty on the bounty, and only the balance of 2s. 11d. constitutes a duty on the sugar.

3. The amount of duty, therefore, paid on Sugar coming from the countries named will vary in inverse ratio to the bounty. The following table shows, approximately, what will be the amount of duty paid by each of these countries, and what will be the amount of duty levied on the bounty:

					Duty on Bounty.						Duty on Sugar.	
					s.	d.					s.	d.
Austria	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	2	11
Belgium	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	1	11
France	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	Nil	
Germany	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	2	11
Holland	...	...	...	...	1	11	...	...	...	...	2	3

whilst the duty levied on British Colonial Sugar will amount to 4s. 2d.

4. The effect, therefore, of the proposed scale of the duties is to differentiate very largely against our own Colonies, as compared with foreign countries.

5. In these circumstances, I am to request that you will take into your favourable consideration the desirability of reducing the duty by at least one-third in the case of British Colonial Sugars, with a view to placing them on an equal basis of taxation with their foreign competitors, instead of leaving the scale as proposed, which amounts to a highly protective duty in favour of the foreign producers as against those of the British Colonies.

6. I am respectfully to add that you will find on enquiry, that there would not be the least fear or possibility of foreign sugar being fraudulently brought to this country as British Colonial Sugar.

7. I am further to say that it is estimated that the loss to the revenue by such an arrangement as is herein proposed would not exceed, during the current twelve months, the sum of £100,000.*

8. My Committee are very fully satisfied of your wish and desire to do justice to all interests concerned, and, therefore, feel that no apology is required for drawing your attention to the above inequality in the incidence of the duty.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

Sir Michael E. Hicks-Beach, Bart., M.P.,

Chancellor of the Exchequer,

Downing Street, S.W.

THE SUGAR DUTIES.

SCALE SHOWING—(1) THE ACTUAL INCIDENCE OF THE SUGAR DUTIES.

The following scale illustrates the differential incidence of the proposed Sugar Duties on British Colonial and Foreign Sugars respectively in consequence of the Bounties:—

					Duty on Bounty.						Duty on Sugar.		Total.			
					s.	d.					s.	d.	s.	d.		
Austria	1	3	...	...	...	...	2	11	...	...	4	2
Belgium	2	3	...	...	...	...	1	11	...	...	4	2
France	4	2	...	...	...	...	Nil	...	...	...	4	2
Germany	1	3	...	...	...	...	2	11	...	...	4	2
Holland	1	11	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	4	2
British Colonies	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	4	2

* The total imports of sugar, raw and refined, into the United Kingdom for the year 1900 were 1,626,000 tons. Of this, only 4.3% came from British Colonies. Allowing for a small increase as the result of a rebate and assuming the imports to increase from 70,975 tons to 80,000 tons, the loss to the Exchequer on the basis of the suggested rebate of 1s. 3d. per cwt. would be exactly £100,000, or 2% of the £5,000,000 which it is estimated that the Sugar duties will produce. The Treasury receipts could only, therefore, be infinitesimally affected, while prosperity would be restored to our Sugar-producing Colonies and further calls for pecuniary assistance probably entirely obviated.

(2) THE SUGAR DUTIES AS THEY SHOULD BE TO SECURE EQUALITY.

The following is the scale as it should be to equalise the incidence of the Duties on British Colonial and Foreign Bounty-Fed Sugars :—

				Duty on Bounty. s. d.				Duty on Sugar. s. d.				Total. s. d.	
Austria	1	3	...	...	4	2	...	...	5	5
Belgium	2	3	...	...	4	2	...	...	6	5
France	4	2	...	...	4	2	...	...	8	4
Germany	1	3	...	...	4	2	...	...	5	5
Holland	1	11	...	...	4	2	...	...	6	1
British Colonies	Nil	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	4	2

CUSTOM HOUSE REGULATIONS.

On May 1st, we addressed a letter to H.M. Board of Customs regarding the sampling of imported unrefined sugar. We pointed out the inconvenience which would arise if every bag, hogshead and tierce of sugar upon arrival at the docks had to be opened in order that the scale upon which the sugar therein contained was dutiable, might be determined. We suggested that in place of this arrangement an average sample of sugar of each mark from each vessel upon arrival might be tested so that all sugar under the same mark by each vessel might be uniformly assessed. We are glad to be in a position to state that there now appears to be every probability of our suggestion being adopted, as is shown by the following extract from the Regulations now under revision, which has been submitted to us by the Board of Customs :—

SAMPLING.

Sugar entered as unrefined.—In cases where the merchant draws a sample from each package or draft, and bulks the whole for a representative sample of the same mark, description and quality, for trade purposes, a sample of not less than ½ lb. weight should be taken from the same bulk for revenue purposes, *provided that the Officer is satisfied that such bulk has been fairly made up*

Where merchants do not themselves sample the goods, the Surveyor, in consultation with the importer or his representative, will take samples of even weight, as follows, from each parcel of the same mark, description, and quality :—

Not exceeding 100 packages	7 samples.
Exceeding 100 packages and not exceeding 300 packages	11 ..
.. 300	15 ..

In importations of large quantities additional samples may be taken at the discretion of the Surveyor.

These samples are to be bulked and a representative sample of ½ lb. weight is to be forwarded to the.....Testing Officer,..... : the remainder of the bulk being returned to the importer.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK AND THE BOUNTIES.

When in 1897 countervailing duties were imposed by the United States Government upon bounty-fed sugar, and a market was afforded to sugar from the British West Indies—a market which, temporary though it may be, has proved the salvation of those Colonies, all other doors being closed to them owing to the apathy and indifference of the British Government—it was not generally realised that the action of the United States Government was very largely due to our Chairman, Sir Neville Lubbock.

A letter from Mr. D. D. Colcott of the Louisiana Sugar and Rice Exchange states that “it was a communication from Sir Neville Lubbock in December, 1896, which led Congress to assess countervailing duties upon bounty-fed sugar,” Mr. Colcott added that from what he could gather from

the foreign sugar journals, "there was some likelihood that the Conference shortly to be held might come to some acceptable agreement as to the abolition of the bounties. Should this be realised it would be to the unremitting efforts of Sir Nevile Lubbock, that the cane industry of the World would owe its preservation and future prosperous development."

This is abundant evidence from an outside and foreign source, that the sugar bounty question is not, as has been so often put forward, one which only concerns the interests of a few West Indian Planters, but one which affects the Cane Sugar Industry of the whole World.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

Presiding over the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, on May 1st, Admiral Chatfield made an important statement with regard to the West Indian Mail Service. At the end of last year, he said, shortly after their mail contract was signed, the Company were invited by the Government of Trinidad and by the Post Office to tender for an improved service to the West Indies, calling at Trinidad with the main line ships. The Directors sent in, he thought, a very fine service, by which nearly a day and a half was to be saved in going out and the same time in coming home. They were to go at $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots instead of 13, and to put an extra ship on the West Indies in order to make a weekly instead of a fortnightly service between the Leeward and the Windward Islands. They were also to improve the services of all their steamers. The tender was sent in last December, and, desiring particularly to meet the wishes of Trinidad, the Directors practically asked only the increased price of coal for doing the work required. The Government were, in fact, offered a very much finer service for a few thousand pounds extra on the present mail contract. The Company had, however, heard nothing officially since, but on the previous day, in reply to a question in the House, it was stated that the Government had not yet decided whether to accept the tender or not.

Commenting on the new line of steamers to Jamaica, the inauguration of which he said was due to the recommendations of the West India Committee—an obvious slip of the tongue for West India Commission—he said that he did not think that this competition would affect the Company, though he thought it strange that the Government should have subsidised Bananas, which, he contended, was what their action amounted to. The revenue of the Company for the past year amounted to £868,000, or £90,000 in excess of that for 1899, while the gross profit on the whole year's working was £224,000, out of which the Directors proposed to transfer to the repair and renewal account £80,000, to capital account—for depreciation for the year—£80,687, and to the insurance account, £47,700. This left a balance to be carried to profit and loss of £14,262. Passing to the profit and loss account, he stated that the balance brought from the previous year was £1,790, the amount transferred from the insurance account was £23,050, and from interest and discounts £2,700 had been obtained. After paying income tax and debenture charges, and £7,900 interest on insurance account, a credit balance of £23,500 remained, out of which the Directors proposed to pay a dividend of £1 10s. a share for the half-year (making five per cent. for the year). The insurance account, he thought, would be regarded as very satisfactory; the charges against it during the year had only been £3,700. The Board proposed to transfer £6,000 to the repair and renewal account, and there was the transfer mentioned of £23,050 to profit and loss account. The balance of the insurance account in favour of the Company was £250,000—namely, £240,000 for the fleet, and £10,000 for coal, premises, plant, &c. With reference to the repair and renewal account, he expressed regret that the expenditure during the year had been £97,511. Of this amount, over £72,000 represented ordinary expenses, to meet which £75,000 was set aside last year, but the balance of £25,000 was owing to great alterations and improvements which had been made on their ships.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION.

Representation having been received from Trinidad as to the great scarcity of labour in the Island, the following letter on the subject was sent to Mr. Chamberlain on May 3rd inst. :—

SIR,

I have the honour to call your attention to the present scarcity of labour in the Island of Trinidad.

2. This appears to be due to a variety of causes among which are :—

- (1.) The increased facilities which have been recently afforded for entering and opening up the interior of the Island.
- (2.) The activity of the Public Works Department, which causes a severe strain upon the labour supply in connection with the numerous new works which have recently been undertaken.
- (3.) The spread of cane farming, which, from its well-deserved popularity, tends more and more to withdraw labour from the Estates.

3. Under these circumstances my Committee respectfully request that you will be pleased to sanction the introduction of 3,000 Coolie Immigrants into the Island during the coming season, the number previously decided upon, viz. 2,400, being in their opinion inadequate for the requirements of the Island, the industries of which are at the present time in a state of unusual activity.

I have, etc.,

N. LUBBOCK,

Chairman.

THE POST OFFICE DELAYS.

As the outcome, presumably, of our recent letter to the Secretary of State regarding the constant and aggravating delays in the delivery of the West Indian Mails in London, which can only be attributed to the parsimony of the Post Office in refusing to provide a special train for their conveyance to London, a Memorial has been presented by Lord Morley on behalf of the Port of Plymouth Incorporated Chamber of Commerce to the Postmaster-General. The Memorialists point out that owing to no train service existing between the hours of 8.26 p.m. and 8.30 a.m., and the discontinuance under a former administration by the then Postmaster-General of special trains for the conveyance of the Mails, the Mails are now, when arriving too late to catch the 8.26 p.m. train, detained until the following morning until the departure of the *first goods train*, by which they are conveyed to Exeter to be transferred to a slow passenger train leaving at 7 a.m. and arriving at Paddington at 12.33 p.m., thereby causing a great loss of time and injury to the recipients of the Mails. The Memorialists then urge that special trains might be run to Bristol and Exeter to catch the fast trains from there to Paddington and conclude "That the cost of such special trains could not be a heavy charge to the Post Office as the distance from Plymouth to Bristol and Plymouth to Exeter is less than half what the Post Office used to pay for, and moreover the mail steamers arriving too late for the mails to catch the 8.26 p.m. train are few only during the year. That furthermore, your Memorialists have reason to believe that the Great Western Railway Company is willing, if the special trains can be available also for the conveyance of such passengers from the Mail steamers as may wish to travel by them, to agree to a modified charge. That the adoption of these means would insure at all times, the rapid transmission of the Mails to their destinations and prevent the anomaly of subsidies being paid for quick transit across the ocean and then an unnecessary delay at the Port of disembarkation."

AN IMPROVED CANE CUTTER.

We learn from the "*British Australasian*" that a patent has been taken out by Ralph H. Paul, Judge's Associate, of the Supreme Court, Townsville Island, Queensland, for "A New or Improved Sugar-cane Cutter," the description of which is given as follows :—"A reciprocating pneumatic or other tool-motor of any suitable type is attached to a fine saw-blade or circular knife. The tool is held in the hand and supplied with compressed air from a portable compressing plant. When a circular knife is used it is provided with stop-holes and a locking-peg so that the operating part of the edge can be changed as it becomes dulled."

NEW MEMBERS.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on May 2nd inst., Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. presiding, the following New Members were elected:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
Colonel W. A. COLLINGS.	Colonel NOURSE.	Mr. R. RUTHERFORD.
Messrs. GEORGE F. HUGGINS & Co.	Mr. COLIN M. GILLESPIE.	Mr. HENRY K. DAVSON.

The total number of New Members elected during the first three months of the current year now amounts to 22.

MAIL NOTES.

The letters received from our correspondents by the recent mail (delivered in London, 4 p.m., May 9th) testify to the feeling of bitter disappointment which is felt throughout the West Indies at the failure of Sugar Duties to place British Colonial Sugar on a footing of equality with Foreign Bounty-Fed Sugar. Writing from **Antigua**, April 24th, the Hon. C. A. Shand stated that a special meeting of the Agricultural Society was convened on April 23rd, and a telegram of protest, the text of which has already appeared in the *Circular*, despatched. Mr. Shand added: "It seems indeed the irony of fate, that just at the moment when a golden opportunity presented itself for promoting the future welfare of the British sugar producing colonies by a discriminating duty in their favour, our legislators should have not only neglected it, but have imposed fresh burthens upon an industry already handicapped to the verge of extinction. How can the Mother Country expect this section of her Colonies, at all events, to sustain sentiments of loyalty, when our claims to bare justice are so systematically ignored?" From **Barbados** Mr. Forster M. Alleyne wrote under date April 25th: "On the 20th great indignation was aroused on the receipt of a telegram giving portions of Sir Michael Hicks Beach's speech in which he said that:—The effect of the duties was doubtful, being confused by the bounty system; but the first increase in price would be followed by such a flood of bounty-fed sugar as to reduce the price again. Now, if I mistake not, every Minister of the Crown (except himself) on both sides of the House has for years deprecated the existence of bounties, condemned them in principle, and stated that they would gladly see their abolition, if even they would not go the length of a countervailing duty. Now we have the Chancellor of the Exchequer framing his Budget in the hope that this monstrous injustice will long continue, and building on the hope that their pernicious influence will increase. The cold callousness of this, and the utter disregard of even common justice to the West Indies has aroused very bitter feelings here, and must have struck cold into the heart of Mr. Chamberlain, who has, I believe, our interests before him, and would have given us a countervailing duty long ago, if it had not been for Sir Michael, who has now shown himself in his true colours." General good showers fell on the 16th varying from 45 parts to an inch. Since then a few light showers had fallen, but the rainfall for the month would be small. The ponds were nearly all dry and there was great scarcity of water on many estates. Some of the old canes were "giving out" and every effort was being made to cut them down as soon as possible. The young canes as a rule were holding well. The general yield continued good, and most people were satisfied at the return per acre. Many individual fields had given over three tons per acre, and that from different varieties. The price of sugar had slowly improved, being \$1.75 per cwt., and \$5.00 for Hhds., and \$1.85 for bags. Molasses, 10½ cents. Owing to the hardness of the rind of some of the new varieties there had been many breakages of mills. **British Guiana**, A. Summerson, Esq., "It is with keen disappointment that the cabled news of the Budget has reached us, especially as there is nothing said whatever about countervailing duties. It looks very much as if British Guiana and the West Indies are to be left severely alone in the future, and that we may expect no help from the Mother Country. There never was a better chance for a strong Government of giving justice, tardy as it might be, to the Colonies." Refining crystals were quoted at \$2.35, but there was not much on offer. On the 19th of April there were light showers nearly all day, but much more rain was wanted. We learn from Mr. E. A. Agar that the success which attended the first voyage of Messrs. Elder, Dempster's direct service to Jamaica was much discussed in **Dominica**, especially as to its bearing on the extension of the scheme to the Island. Great activity was being shown in road making; the main roads were being reconstructed and the Imperial road to the interior being continued. An arrangement was being tried for the improvement of the bye-roads, the planters being allowed £2 10s. per mile per annum for the repairs of the public roads through their estates. The weather for the past fortnight had been on the whole very dry, but occasional showers had prevented any serious effect being felt. **Jamaica**, Mr. George Levy confirms the feeling of keen disappointment at the Budget. **St. Kitts**, the Hon. Edward G. Todd, writing on April 23rd, informed us that the Census returns just completed showed a large reduction of population in the Island during the past decade—a reduction notably great in the case of males, showing that the complaint as to the exodus of labourers was well founded. There were something like 23 per cent. more females than males

in the Island, showing that, while the men had emigrated to "fresh fields and pastures new," women and children were left behind to become a burden on charity or starve. Much bitterness was felt as to the Budget proposals, it having been confidently hoped that advantage would be taken of the opportunity afforded by the sugar legislation to discriminate between Colonial and Foreign Bounty Fed Sugar. The disappointment felt was extreme. The weather was dry, though a few showers had since fallen. **Trinidad**, the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick wrote on April 22nd: There is no question about the profound discouragement caused by the sugar duties, and to this should be added extreme irritation and indignation. The weather continued very dry, no rain at all having fallen during the past fortnight. The effect on the Cocoa crop was severe, and many estates, which had good prospects a month ago, would now fall short. No advices are to hand from **Grenada** and **St. Lucia**.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," May 9th, 1901:—**BARBADOS**.—Mr. A. C. Caillet, Mr. J. Blackwood, Dr. E. W. Deane, Dr. and Mrs. Boxill and three Ch., Rev. and Mrs. C. K. Gill. **DEMERARA**.—F. P. Comber, Mrs. H. Lawrence and two Ch., Mr. F. A. Conyers, Dr. and Mrs. McKinnon, Dr., Mrs. and Miss McCulloch, Mr. and Mrs. Farrar. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. and Mrs. Straas, Mrs. and Miss Ogilvy, Mrs. and Mr. Fitzgerald and Ch., Mr. and Miss Ewing, Lieut. Winterbotham, Mr. R. Roy, Miss M. Olivier, Mr. W. J. Kempson, Miss A. Foster, Miss Ford, Mr. E. Gregg, Col. Allen. **TRINIDAD**.—Miss Bird, Mr. and Mrs. Grant, Miss Fenwick, Miss F. Stedall, Mr. A. B. Albright, Dr. J. A. Ball, Mr. W. J. T. Tucker, Mr. A. Blanc, Mrs. P. Rojas, Mrs. W. McKenzie, Mr. O. Hahn, Miss Maloney, Miss Jones, Master Reid, Mr. T. Milner, Mr. R. Schubert, Dr. A. Milner, Mrs. J. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Hamlyn, Miss F. Noel, Miss B. Blackwood, Mrs. Hagendorn, Miss Lamont. **ANTIGUA**.—Miss Boon, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Martin, Hon. and Mrs. W. H. Whyham. **DOMINICA**.—Master J. A. Bellot, Mr. J. C. Fillan, Miss M. Williams, Miss Pemberton. **ST. KITTS**.—Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Drayton and Ch., Miss Drayton, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Lord Dynevor, Dr. E. K. Fleming, Mrs. C. Montgomerie. **ST. LUCIA**.—Mr. E. B. Reece, Hon. G. Ponsonby. **ST. VINCENT**.—Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Walker and two Ch.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," May 15th, 1901:—**BARBADOS**.—Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Miss Lee. **DEMERARA**.—Rev. R. Wyllie and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, Dr. and Mrs. de Frietas, Master Paddenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Good, Miss Powell, Mr. Brand, Mrs. Rickford, Mr. and Mrs. Perot. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. Greey, Mr. Grove. **TRINIDAD**.—Mrs. and Miss Carry, Mrs. Corboned. **ANTIGUA**.—Mrs. and Miss Udal, Rev. Bamforth. **GRENADA**.—Mr. and Mrs. Alexander and Family, Mr. de Gale. **ST. KITTS**.—Two Misses Davies. **ST. LUCIA**.—Lieut. Lyall Grant.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Morant," April 30th, 1901:—**JAMAICA**.—Rev. Carey Berry, Mr. G. Balfour, Mr. P. W. Elkington, Mr. T. H. Eusten, Mr. W. H. Featherston, Miss Florrie Harvey, Mr. S. Hull, Mr. C. W. Herdman, Mr. T. Herd, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Livingstone and two Ch., Mr. E. N. Lloyd, Mr. T. F. MacMillan, Rev. Geo. MacNeill, Rev. and Mrs. Perkins and two Ch., Mr. and Mrs. A. Ramage, Mr. F. N. Shoolbridge, Mr. Cyril Thompson, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Thursfield, Mrs. B. L. Woods, Mr. C. Warren, Lieut. E. F. E. Grant, Lieut. Harrison.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," May 11th, 1901:—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. F. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis and Ch., Mr. and Mrs. Feurtado, Mr. E. A. Jenkins, Mr. Ch. H. Johnson, Miss Lewis, Mrs. J. T. Musson and two Ch., Dr. and Mrs. Malabre, Lieut. H. P. Mackenzie, Mr. H. Turner, Mr. F. Ward.

RUM.

The shipments from Demerara being now over and no change having been made in the spirit duties, buyers have acted with more confidence, resulting in sales to the extent of nearly 3,000 puns., Demerara and Berbice during the month at 1/0½ for common, up to 1/2½ per proof gallon for fine marks, prices hitherto unobtainable. There is, however, less demand at the close.

Jamaicas are now beginning to arrive in quantity and some considerable sales have been made, prices showing a decline of 5d. for the better Home trade kinds to 6d. on the commoner descriptions from those ruling last season, while the good and medium export kinds are very difficult of sale, even at a reduction of 1/- per gallon, the Continent still holding large stocks purchased last year in anticipation of the higher duties.

It is much to be regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not seen his way to remit the iniquitous surtax of 4d. per gallon on Colonial rum, manufactured as it is under the same terms and conditions as apply to our Home Distillers, on the grounds, it can only be presumed, that the latter, as the recruits of the Upper House must be protected, while nothing is to be done for the Sugar Planters, as that would be contrary to the interests of Free Trade!

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 4th May	198,821	47,063	50,376	72,472	90,890
France, 1st April	419,412	486,861	520,000†	471,000	565,297
Germany, 1st April	833,450*	718,108*	752,209*	885,874*	751,604
Hamburg, 8th May	84,060	77,300	99,200	158,300	70,100
Austria-Hungary, 1st May	420,000†	405,750	359,887	392,483	446,056
Holland, 1st May	59,694	51,044	38,551	72,105	85,019
Belgium, 15th April	54,129	96,484	91,034	118,184	93,466
United States, 8th May, Total Stocks	2,069,566	1,882,610	1,911,257	2,170,418	2,103,332
Cuba, six principal ports, 8th May, Total Stocks	217,000	184,829	212,362	348,405	546,900
Cargoes afloat, 9th May	188,000	102,463	83,500	84,052	41,091
	7,034	21,460	55,710	46,663	14,133
Total.....	2,481,600	2,191,362	2,262,829	2,649,538	2,705,456

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

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), April 30th, "Light partial showers."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), April 30th, "A little rain has fallen generally since last message." May 3rd, "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara County. Weather showery in Berbice." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), May 3rd, "Weather all that can be desired." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 8th, "Nice rains have fallen." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 8th, "Over 2 inches, Berbice, generally over 3 inches, Demerara and Essequibo." **TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), May 7th, "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 7th, "Weather fine for harvesting."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books, papers, photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms, in addition to the current official gazettes, &c.:—"*Barbados Agricultural Gazette*," Vol. 7, No. 3, "*The Financial News*," "*Grenada Handbook*," 1901-1902, "*The International Sugar Cane*," May 1, No. 29, Vol. 3, "*The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*," "*The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society*," April, 1901, "*The Journal of the Royal Colonial Institute*," containing Sir Hubert Ferningham's Paper on "*Trinidad and its Future Possibilities*," "*Laws of Grenada*," "*The Produce Markets Review*," "*The Louisiana Planter*," "*The St. Lucia Handbook*," "*West Indian and Commercial Advertiser*," April, *Antigua Market Report* (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), *Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer* (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.), *Barbados Market Report* (Messrs. Leacock & Co.), *Demerara Market Reports* (Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co.), *The Chamber of Commerce, and Messrs. Wieting & Richter*, *Trinidad Market Reports* (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.), and *Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co., (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen and Co., Park Son & Co.'s New York Produce and Market Reports, Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers:*—

The Antigua Observer.
The Antigua Standard.
The Barbados Advocate.
The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).
The Barbados Globe.
The Clarion (British Honduras).
The Argosy (Demerara).

The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).
The Dominican.
The Dominica Guardian.
The Federalist & Grenada People.
The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).
The Gleaner (Jamaica).
The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).
The New Century (Jamaica).

The St. Christopher Advertiser.
The St. Christopher Gazette.
The Voice (St. Lucia).
The Sentry (St. Vincent).
The Times (St. Vincent).
The Mirror (Trinidad).
The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

RULES
OF
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

Adopted by the Executive Committee, February 21st, 1901.

- CONSTITUENT BODY.** 1. The West India Committee is an Association of Planters, Merchants and other Gentlemen interested in the British West Indies and British Guiana.
- MEMBERSHIP.** 2. The West India Committee consists of the Members at present on the list. Future Members shall be elected by the Executive Committee as hereinafter constituted. Candidates for election must be proposed by one and seconded by another Member of the West India Committee and the names of Candidates and their proposers and seconders forwarded to the Secretary.
- OBJECTS.** 3. The Objects of the West India Committee are to promote the general welfare of the British West Indies and British Guiana, and by united action to further the interests of those Colonies.
- SUBSCRIPTIONS.** 4. The minimum Subscription to the West India Committee shall be £1 1s. per annum, which shall entitle a Member to attend and vote at all General Meetings and to receive the fortnightly circular and other publications for the year. The qualification to serve on the Executive Committee shall be a Subscription of not less than £5 5s. per annum. Subscriptions shall become due on January 1st, except from new Members, whose Subscriptions for the current year shall become payable on election. Subscriptions from new Members elected during the last three months of any year shall be held as on account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January.
- GENERAL MEETINGS.** 5. General Meetings of the West India Committee, to be duly convened by the Secretary, shall be held yearly in April, and at such other times as the Executive Committee may determine. Special General Meetings shall be held upon the requisition of any 12 Members of the West India Committee or any 6 Members of the Executive Committee, such Meetings being summoned by the Secretary within seven days after receiving such requisition by notice stating the object of the Meeting. At all General Meetings of the West India Committee 12 Members shall form a quorum.
- THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** 6. The general administration of the affairs of the West India Committee shall be vested in the Executive Committee, to consist of the Chairman, the Deputy-Chairman, the Trustees and not less than 15 and not more than 30 elected Members, to be elected by the West India Committee from duly qualified Members of their own body at the yearly General Meeting in April. But the Executive Committee shall be at liberty to appoint, at their discretion, any Member of the West India Committee a Member of the Executive Committee. One-third of the Members shall retire annually by rotation, but be eligible for re-election. At all Meetings of the Executive Committee 8 Members shall form a quorum.
- THE OFFICIALS.** 7. The Chairman and the Deputy-Chairman shall be elected annually by the Executive Committee, and their office shall be honorary. The Trustees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, and shall hold office subject to the provisions of a Declaration of Trust. The Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.
- THE PROPERTY OF THE COMMITTEE.** 8. All moneys, security for money, and debts due to the West India Committee, together with the property in all movable goods, chattels, and other effects of the West India Committee shall vest in the Trustees.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, E.C.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Telegrams :
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BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Saturday, May 25th, 1901.

THE COMING CONFERENCE.

Colonel Victor Milward's amendment to the Finance Bill with reference to the Sugar Duties, the text of which appeared in our last Circular, was withdrawn at the last moment. We understand that on Friday, May 17th, a Deputation of Members of Parliament associated with the Anti-Sugar Bounty movement waited upon the First Lord of the Treasury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Cranborne in connection with the present phase of the Bounty Question. The proceedings were strictly private, but the subsequent withdrawal of Colonel Milward's amendment to the Finance Bill leads us to believe that they were of a satisfactory nature.

The view taken by the Press on the Continent that the imposition of Sugar Duties by the Imperial Government would be an obstacle to the reassembling of the Brussels Conference seems undergoing considerable modification. Thus the "*Centralblatt*" recently stated that "they did not believe that the Bounties Conference must be counted among the dead." In the course of the correspondence with the West India Committee regarding the Sugar Duties, which is still proceeding, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has reminded us that "a Conference is expected shortly to meet to consider proposals having this object (the abolition of bounties) in view." This statement, in conjunction with the recent utterance of Mr. Chamberlain to the same effect, appears to put the question of the reassembling of the Brussels Conference beyond the region of uncertainty.

Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to know that the utmost unanimity continues to prevail between the Sugar Refiners of the United Kingdom and the West Indian Proprietors upon the Bounty Question, it having been decided on May 15th at a meeting of the Anti-Bounty League, which represents the combined interests, to continue to prosecute a vigorous campaign, having for its object the abolition and neutralisation of the Foreign Bounty system.

THE POSTAL DELAYS.

On May 20th instant, a joint deputation of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and the West India Committee waited upon the Marquis of Londonderry, H.M. Postmaster-General, with reference to the delays in the delivery of the Homeward West Indian Mails. The Committee were represented by Sir Nevile Lubbock, Chairman, Mr. E. L. Marshall and Mr. A. E. Aspinall, Secretary. The deputation was introduced by Lord Morley. Sir Nevile Lubbock pointed out the serious inconvenience which was felt by Merchants and others at the vexatious delay in the delivery of the Mails which occurred when the homeward Steamer arrived at Plymouth after 8.26 p.m. the hour of departure of the last night train from Plymouth, and reminded the Postmaster-General that it was only in these exceptional circumstances that it would be necessary to put on a special train for the conveyance of the Mails, and then only as far as Bristol or Exeter. He then took the opportunity of urging that any proposal for the modification of the present Mail Services should be submitted to the Colonies so as to enable them to express their opinion regarding them. Lord Londonderry received the Deputation with courtesy and promised that their representations should receive his most careful consideration. With regard to the point raised by Sir Nevile as to proposals for improved steamer services to the West Indies, he stated that this was a matter primarily concerning the Colonial Office to whom he referred the Deputation.

On May the 17th, the following letter was addressed to the Under-Secretary of State :—

Sir,

With reference to our letter to Mr. Secretary Chamberlain of March 21st last, and your reply 10482/1901 of March 26th, upon the subject of the delays which have occurred in the delivery of the West Indian Mails in London. I now have the honour to transmit a copy of a Memorial* from the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce to His Majesty's Postmaster-General urging him to revert to the former practice of putting on special trains from Plymouth to Bristol or Exeter when the Homeward West Indian Steamer reaches Plymouth too late for the Mails to catch the 8.26 p.m., the last night train from that Port.

2. As a further instance of the delays which continue to occur I am to inform you that on May 8th last, the R.M.S. "Orinoco" reached Plymouth at 11.15 p.m., but the Mails were not despatched thence till 3.40 a.m. on May the 9th, while the first delivery of letters at this office was not made until 4.15 p.m. on that day, fifteen hours after the arrival of the Steamer.

3. That great inconvenience is caused to Merchants and others by these vexatious delays is abundantly shown by the number of complaints which we are constantly receiving.

4. The small expenditure which this extra service would involve should not, we feel, be grudged by His Majesty's Government in view of the fact that the British Exchequer benefits to the extent of some £15,000 per annum from the sale of silver to the West Indian Colonies.

5. I am, therefore, to express an earnest hope that Mr. Secretary Chamberlain will be pleased to recommend the adoption of the suggestions of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce which would, as is pointed out, ensure the rapid transmission of the Mails to their destination and prevent the anomaly of subsidies being paid for quick transit across the ocean, while unnecessary delay is incurred at the Port of disembarkation.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

BEET SOWINGS.

Herr F. O. Licht in his recent Circular (May 18th, 1901) estimates that the increase of beet sowings in Europe for the coming season will amount to 5 per cent.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN JAMAICA.

The following important resolution moved by Mr. Soutar was unanimously passed at a meeting of the Merchants' Exchange, Jamaica, on April 25th last :—

"Whereas in the opinion of this Council the prosperity of Jamaica as well as the other West India Colonies and their ability in future to support civilized governments, depends altogether upon the existence and well-being of the Sugar industry. Under no circumstances can Fruit be expected to effectually take its place. The cultivation of canes is one to which the soil of these islands most readily responds and one with which the inhabitants have been familiar for generations. It affords continuous employment for a greater amount of labour (both skilled and unskilled) and involves the investment and keeping in circulation of larger sums of money than any other crop requires, and consequently its yield to the exigencies of the Government is larger than any other industry. It is not a subject to wholesale destruction by hurricanes. Its products represent world staples not perishable in the sense that fruit is, nor are they dependant on any one market. Its decadence in the West Indies is the result of the policy of the mother country in connection with the Continental Bounty system, whereby the credit of the planter was impaired and capital placed out of his reach at the very time it was needed to enable him, by the employment of advanced methods of manufacture, to compete with his bounty favoured beet competitor. The result is seen in the present low economic conditions of the islands which threaten to become chronic and the islands a burden on the British taxpayer.

"It is evident from the point of view of Great Britain that such a state of things cannot be allowed to accrue, and that some remedy for them must be applied. That remedy this Council believes lies in governmental aid and in the establishment of central factories. Without such the necessary capital cannot be obtained.

"Resolved therefore—That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to represent the above facts to the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to urge upon the Imperial Government the advisability of placing the Jamaica Government in a position to assist in the

* See Circular 44, p. 5.

establishment of central factories by guaranteeing either in whole or part the interest on the necessary capital for say fifteen or twenty years, subject to the following or such other conditions as may be deemed fit :—

“(1)—That all the property and assets of factories so guaranteed be vested for the period of the guarantee in trustees appointed by the Governor.

“(2)—That the Government Trustees be (ex-officio) on the Directorate of any Company the capital of which is so guaranteed, with power to vote any extraordinary expenditure over a fixed sum.

“(3)—That the books and accounts of such guaranteed Company be audited by persons appointed by the Governor.

“(4)—That the profits of the undertakings after interest on the borrowed capital and sinking fund has been provided, be divided between *bona fide* shareholders of the Company, and the Agriculturist who supply the Factory with money.”

LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

The London School of Tropical Medicine was established in the year 1899 through the initiative of Mr. Chamberlain, who invited the Committee of Management of the Seaman's Hospital Society to establish a School for the study of Tropical Medicine in which medical men, all being post-graduates, whether in the service of the Colonial Office, Foreign Office, or as private practitioners or missionaries, could obtain an insight into the various forms of Tropical Disease before taking up their duties abroad.

The School of Tropical Medicine is established at the Branch Hospital of the Seamen's Hospital Society immediately adjoining the Royal Victoria and Albert Docks, where the majority of vessels carrying patients suffering from tropical ailments arrive. The School is fully equipped and the tropical wards in connection therewith erected and occupied by patients at a total cost of upwards of £20,000. Towards this expenditure a sum of over £15,000 has been already received, of which sum the Colonial Office contributed £3,500, the India Office £1,000 and various Corporations, many of whom were interested in trade with the Tropics, and others subscribed the remainder.

With a view to making up this deficiency of about £5,000, an appeal for support is being made to those especially concerned, and we are asked to state that subscriptions may be sent to Mr. F. Swanzy, 147, Cannon Street, E.C., or to the account of the London School of Tropical Medicine at Messrs. Williams, Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, 20, Birchin Lane, E.C.

BEEET SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Colonel Victor Milward, M.P., has issued an interesting pamphlet dealing with experiments in the cultivation of sugar beet, from 1890 to 1900, in Great Britain and Ireland. The object of the hon. member is to show that, given fair play, sugar can be profitably grown in the United Kingdom. The experiments were initiated by two gentlemen, who are Germans by birth, but who have been settled for many years in this country as sugar analysts. The results of the experiments show that throughout the entire series the British agriculturist has crept nearer and nearer to the standard of the German crop, and this although he is without the experience or the stimulus of the German agriculturist. In Germany the farmer is paid for his beet in proportion to its sugar contents; so that he has the strongest motive for a continual improvement in the quality. The results obtained in Great Britain lead to a strong hope, almost amounting to a positive conviction, that but for the baleful influence of the foreign Bounty system a great and highly valuable sugar beet would be grown in these isles. The quotient of purity in Great Britain in the experiments of 1898 was 85.19; in 1899, 85.78; and in 1900, 88.04 and 87.45. In Germany in the same years it was 84.17, 84.42, and 86.90 respectively.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

The first of a series of fortnightly Club Dinners was held at the West Indian Club Room, Howard Hotel, on Wednesday, May 15th last. Those present included—Sir E. Noël Walker, K.C.M.G., Mr. G. E. D. Astwood, Mr. Mayson M. Beeton, Mr. H. G. Boyle, Mr. W. Durram, Mr. G. Graham, Mr. Innes Taylor, Mr. R. Innes Taylor, Mr. G. H. Jackson, Mr. L. Kerr, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Dr. G. B. Mason, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. J. E. Mitchell, Mr. A. McD. Nathau, Rev. J. J. Nesbitt, Col. A. H. Nourse, Mr. Pennington, Mr. G. Pile, Mr. W. P. B. Shepheard, Mr. Shepheard, Jun., Mr. Spooner, Mr. J. Rippon and Mr. T. B. Younger.

The credit for the successful inauguration of this new venture of the Club is due to Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, to whom the arrangements were entrusted. It is the intention of the Committee of the Club to hold similar dinners fortnightly on the Wednesdays of the departure of the Royal Mail Steamers. The next dinner, the arrangements for which are in the hands of Mr. R. Rutherford, will be held on Wednesday, May 29th next.

TOBAGO.

We have pleasure in informing Members that Mr. W. J. S. Tucker, has been appointed Honorary Correspondent to the West India Committee for Tobago.

NEW MEMBER.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on May 16th inst., Mr. G. B. Mason, L.R.C.P., was proposed by Mr. W. P. B. Shepheard, seconded by Mr. R. Rutherford, and unanimously elected a Member of the West India Committee. It is hoped that Members will endeavour to extend the sphere of influence of the West India Committee by bringing forward candidates for election, and otherwise supporting the work of the Executive Committee. Full particulars as to Membership can be obtained from the Secretary. Candidates for Election must be Proposed by one and Seconded by another Member of the West India Committee and the names of Candidates and their Proposers and Seconders forwarded to the Secretary.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of two gentlemen prominently connected with the Anti-Bounty movement. Admiral Sir John E. Commerell, G.C.B., V.C., who died suddenly on May 21st, was a Vice-President of the Anti-Bounty League, and Sir Henry Jourdain, K.C.M.G., whose death was announced on May 14th inst., was its Deputy-Chairman of Committee, and for many years a member of the West India Committee.

MAIL NOTES.

The R.M.S. "Atrato" reached Plymouth at 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22nd, and the mails were delivered in London at 8 a.m. on May 23rd. The Hon. C. A. Shand reports from **Antigua** (May 8th, 1901) that the protracted drought in the Island was causing universal anxiety, and the question of water supply in the immediate future had become a grave one. An attempt had recently been made to persuade some of the able-bodied labourers of the Island to emigrate to Ecuador, where enticing inducements were offered them, but owing to the unfavourable reports received from Jamaica as to the treatment of emigrants thence to Ecuador, the complement of 700 able-bodied labourers was not likely to be enlisted. Crop was about half-way through, and he considered it unlikely that estimates would in any instance be exceeded, even if actually realised. Writing from **Barbados** (May 9th), Mr. Forster M. Alleyne said that no rain had fallen since his last letter, and consequently it had been an almost ideal crop time. Sugar had been made rapidly as the canes required it, and consequently the stancheons were choked with sugar, and Estates were obliged to deliver it to Bridgetown. All the ponds were dry, and the drought, now extending into the half of the fifth month, preceded by a poor rainfall in the rainy season, was becoming very serious. Still, with the exceptions previously mentioned, the young canes were holding on wonderfully, and he did not think any district was beyond recall. The old canes continued to yield well. The best returns were, as a rule, from B. 147 and White Transparent, but in certain places the Green Transparent, which, as a rule, is a most unsatisfactory cane had given astonishing results five acres making twenty tons, and the whole of two fields a long way over three tons to the acre. He estimated

that the Island crop would not be less than 60,000 tons. Many estates had finished at good figures. In reference to the subject of cane fires, the Governor had addressed an excellent circular to Managers, many of the suggestions being of a highly practical nature. An emigration scheme to Ecuador had received the *imprimatur* of the Government, and he believed a few hundred labourers had signed. The comet had been brilliantly visible in Barbados. The slight rise in the American market, which it was difficult to account for, had caused a corresponding rise locally, and sugar might be quoted at \$1.85 and \$5.00 for hogsheads, and \$1.95 for bags, though the market was not so strong as the previous day. Molasses showed no improvement. **British Guiana.** Mr. A. Summerson (May 8th), informs us that the fortnight had been very quiet, the most pleasant feature being the change in the weather. Some five inches of rain had fallen, three of which fell in the night of 5th and 6th inst. This was very welcome, and cultivation was already feeling the benefit. Very little was doing in refining *crystals*, which were quoted at \$2.40. From **Dominica**, Mr. E. A. Agar wrote (May 9th), that the dry weather, except in parts of the Windward coast, still continued, but had not yet, as far as he was aware, interfered with the crop prospects of any industries. With reference to Mr. Agar's remarks quoted in Circular 42, regarding the outlay on roads, we are informed by the Hon. H. Heskett Bell, the Administrator, that besides the £1,400 which have been voted for ordinary upkeep of the roads during the year, £1,000 was being spent on the thorough reconstruction and macadamizing of the main roads. Nearly £100 a week was also being spent on the construction of the Imperial road, opening up the interior, and in a few months there would be a good cartable highway right into the very centre of the Island. Many thousands of acres of magnificent crown lands suitable for cocoa, coffee, oranges, vanilla and rubber were already accessible, and several large tracts had recently been purchased by new comers. The Layou bridge was also being erected at a cost of £2,500. **Jamaica**, George Levy, Esq. On another page we give the text of a resolution recently passed by the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Merchants Exchange, with regard to the question of Central Factories. Writing on May 7th, the Hon. Edward G. Todd reported that in **St. Kitts** the crop was being reaped as rapidly as possible. A severe form of drought was being experienced, although some showers had fallen in different places, and the water supply was so short that it had to be locked off in Basseterre during certain hours of the day. The heat was fearful. In **St. Lucia**, (Hon. E. Du Boulay, May 10th), the crops were drawing to a close with fair results. The weather in **St. Vincent** (Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., May 10th), still continued dry, and owing to the hardness of the soil a stop had been put to Arrowroot digging. All sorts of cultivation was suffering from want of rain. In **Trinidad** (the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, May 8th), a rather important ordinance had been dealt with, reducing the number for a jury in all cases except under murder and treason to nine, out of which the verdict of seven would be accepted. The weather was still very dry and ponds and springs drying up in many places. One or two estates had to stop making sugar owing to ponds running dry, and drinking water was really scarce everywhere except in the towns. It is to be regretted that we are again without advices from **Grenada**.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," May 23rd, 1901.—**BARBADOS**.—Miss O'Meara, Miss G. Layne, Col. and Mrs. Tolson, Major, Mrs. Riske and Ch., Miss Robinson, Mr. S. C. DaCosta, Rev. H. L. Bovell, Col. L. E. Booth, Dr., Mrs. and Miss Wolseley, Rev. and Mrs. Gardiner, Miss L. Spence, Mr. J. S. Browne, Miss Roach, Mr. J. K. Gill, Mr. C. G. B. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Anson, Mrs. Forrest, Mr., Mrs. and Master Alleyne, Mr. W. F. Bridge, Dr. and Mrs. Widdup, two Misses Widdup, two Misses Pecbles. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. and Miss Kuter, Master G. C. Sharples, Mr. E. B. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. G. Garnett, Mr. and Mrs. F. White, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Murray and two Ch., Miss Fowler. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. A. King, Mr. J. E. Sherlock, Mr. R. J. Macpherson, Mr. R. Esquite, Mr. Struith, Mr. and Mrs. R. Miles, Mr. H. King and Ch., Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Smith, Mrs. Egerton, Mr. C. W. Banks, Mr. J. G. Robertson, Rev. H. P. Fitzgerald, Mr. S. Langston. **TRINIDAD**.—Miss Blaikie, Mr. R. B. Archibald, Mr. J. W. Dowson, Mr. J. B. Dowson, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Scott and Ch., Mr. and Mrs. J. Fraser, Mr. G. White, Mr. A. V. Stollmeyer, Mr. A. C. Littlepage, Mr. F. Pogson, Mr. Wake, Miss Cleaver, Lady Knollys, Dr. T. Murray, Mr. A. M. Lowe, Mrs. Todd, Misses C. and D. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. L. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Agostini, Mrs. L. de Baptisti. **GRENADA**.—Rev. and Mrs. W. S. Lascelles, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Hoskin, Mr. Copeland, Master and Miss Copeland, Mr. H. de C. Hamilton, Mrs. Whiteman. **ST. VINCENT**.—Mr. A. Porter. Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," May 29th, 1901.—**BARBADOS**.—Three Misses Moore, two Misses Brathwaite, Captain Sangster. **DEMERARA**.—Two Messrs. Oats, Mrs. Reynolds. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. Pereira. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. Collins, Mr. Martin. **ST. LUCIA**.—Rev. Mr. Tapon.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Royal," May 15th, 1901.—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. J. H. Allwood, Mrs. and Miss Abrahams, Mr. R. Adams, Mrs. Burgess, Mr. J. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Campbell and four Ch., Mrs. F. E. Cole, Miss Cochrane, Mr. A. de Mercado, Admiral Davies, Mr. A. N. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. Greaves and three Ch., Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Gibbons, Miss Glynn Griffiths, Mrs. Guild, Mr. R. Gillard, Miss Head, Mr. Hinshelwood, Mrs. L. Hawkins, Mr. L. Hill, Mr. F. Hovil, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. J. Laughland and Ch., Mr. P. H. Titley, Mr. A. B. Titley, Mr. R. H. Todd, Mr. H. T. Thomas, Mr. Turner, Mr. Tomlinson, Rev. Geo. Lockett, Mrs. Lockett, Miss Miles, Mr. L. Manning, Mr. H. J. Priestman, Mrs. Reynolds, Miss Annie

Reynolds, Mrs. Geo. Sturridge, two Misses Sturridge, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mrs. Shackleton and two Ch., Miss Strang, Mr. C. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. C. Scatchard, Mr. A. C. Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Hon. E. Vickers, Miss Mary Walkerdine, Mr. F. H. Wilson, Mrs. Peet and 3 Ch., Mr. Richardson, Mr. Whytock.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," May 25th, 1901.—JAMAICA.—Dr. Crook, Mr. A. C. Lopez, Mr. Cory, Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cobbold, Mr. Clements, Capt. Calder, Mrs. Calder and Ch., Mrs. Pollard and Ch., Mr. C. P. Oldrey, Mr. Carrington, Mr. A. Fearn.

COCOA.

COCOA rules steady, with business passing in fair to fine TRINIDAD at 72/ to 75/, also 500 bags GUAVAQUIL, Machala sold at 65/, and 150 bags AFRICAN at 64/. GRENADA (May 9th, 1901).—The shipments since April 25th have been 147 bags for "Otinoco" 3,466 bags per "Derwent," and 215 bags to New York. Total export since Oct. 1st, 41,078 bags, against 43,533 bags last year, 45,691 bags in 1899, 45,267 bags in 1898, and 46,604 bags in 1897.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	2 $\frac{7}{16}$ d. to 2 $\frac{8}{16}$ d. per lb.	LOGWOOD...	... £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ...	38s. to 66s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
BEESWAX ...	£8 5s. to £8 15s. per cwt.	FUSTIC ...	... £3 15s. to £4 per ton.
HONEY ...	20s. to 28s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ...	£3 5s. per ton.
LIME JUICE	1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. per gall.		

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Hhds.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold, ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.		
BARBADOS —									
Jan. 1st. to May 9th, 1901	29,380	—	—	—	—	—	17,325		
Jan. 1st. to May 9th, 1900	12,813	—	—	—	—	—	16,244		
BRITISH GUIANA —	Tons.								
Jan. 1st to May 8th, 1901	24,887	9,614	361	4,988	31,130	73,250	407		
Jan. 1st to April 26th, 1900	23,457	9,364	16,500	—	28,697	78	1,230		
TRINIDAD —	Bags & Brls.								
Jan. 1st to May 8th, 1901	347,822	56	8,889,984	14,880	67,504	3,849,378	1,435	59	168
Jan. 1st to May 8th, 1900	197,900	58	16,008,220	1,540	37,782	4,319,921	3,300	—	—

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 18th May	202,014	43,959	50,900	80,212	94,729
France, 1st May	328,062	413,178	465,000	404,279	475,328
Germany, 1st May	665,339*	586,012*	631,378*	762,966*	553,028
Hamburg, 23rd May	80,800	80,900	118,300	160,000	67,700
Austria-Hungary, 1st May	418,884	405,750	359,887	392,483	446,956
Holland, 1st May	59,694	51,044	38,551	72,105	85,019
Belgium, 1st May	47,893	87,529	82,887	112,236	85,858
	1,802,686	1,668,372	1,746,903	1,984,281	1,808,618
United States, 22nd May, Total Stocks	223,000	182,305	245,456	340,573	596,296
Cuba, six principal ports, 22nd May, Total Stocks	180,000	87,446	78,000	85,221	27,641
Cargoes afloat, 23rd May	7,934	13,414	43,795	28,231	16,040
Total.....	2,212,720	1,951,537	2,114,154	2,438,306	2,448,595

* Total stocks, not Licht's.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), May 13th, "Very dry, rain wanted."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), May 15th, "Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message." May 20th, "Weather favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 15th, "Good soaking showers have fallen." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), May 20th, "Weather all that can be desired." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 15th, "Moderate rains generally." **TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), May 18th, "Broken weather, crop operations retarded." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 18th, "Weather showery and unsettled." May 21st, "Showery and unsettled."

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Telegrams:
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Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, June 11th, 1901.

THE LATE COLONEL VICTOR MILWARD, M.P.

It is with sincere regret that we have to record the death of Colonel Victor Milward, M.P. for South West Warwickshire, which occurred with painful suddenness, on May 31st last, at Dinan, Brittany, where he was taking a holiday during the Parliamentary recess. Colonel Milward was prominently associated with the Anti-Bounty movement as Chairman of our Parliamentary Committee, and only those who worked with him can realise the amount of labour he applied towards endeavouring to secure fair play for the British Colonies, and the Refining Industry of the United Kingdom. His loss, which will be deeply felt by all interested in the West Indies, will indeed be hard to replace. The funeral took place at Wellesbourne Churchyard, near Stratford-on-Avon, on Saturday, June 8th, and among the numerous floral tributes were a handsome Wreath from the Anti-Bounty League and a Cross of choice white flowers from the West India Committee.

THE OUTLOOK.

The statements which continue to appear in the Continental Press to the effect that the proposals for the reassembling of the Brussels Conference have been definitely abandoned, do not appear to emanate from an official or authoritative source, and give us no reason to alter the opinion which we recently expressed that the Conference will reassemble. There is an obvious reason why these reports from not wholly disinterested quarters should be circulated.

The bearing of the British Duties upon the Bounty Question has been occupying the attention of the German and Austrian Sugar Manufacturers' Associations, which claim that the graduated scale as proposed will act as a Bounty to the British Refiners. At the Annual Meeting of the German Association on May 20-24th, a resolution was adopted urging the Government to cease endeavouring to solve the Bounty question by International agreement. The resolution points out that in consequence of the introduction of sugar duties by Great Britain, the question of abolishing bounties has assumed a fresh aspect, inasmuch as the duties afford not only an indirect bounty to English Sugar Refiners but also an advantage to Colonial Sugar, and the abolition of the German bounties is only possible when all direct and indirect bounties are abolished. The report of the Committee of the Central Beet Sugar Association in Austria-Hungary, read at the General Meeting held on May the 14th and 15th at Prague, declares that the duties are imposed in such a way as to give the British Refiners a bounty of about 4d. per cwt; moreover, the protective duty of 4s. 2d. per cwt. on Raw Sugar should favour the inauguration of a Beet Sugar Industry in England, while in any case new duties will have the effect of a decrease in the exportation of refined sugar to England, to the advantage of the exportation of raw sugar. The Customs duty being subject to a drawback on export, the result is to constitute an indirect export bounty so that England must now be numbered among the Bounty-giving Powers. From this view Mr. Geo. Martineau in a recent number of the "*International Sugar Journal*" dissents, adding that it is "entirely erroneous to infer that the International position with regard to the abolition of the bounties would in any way be altered. All the Continental sugar-producing Countries have high protective duties which

entirely shut out our neighbours' sugar ; and when they meet together to discuss the abolition of bounties we do not attempt to extend the discussion to the abolition of protective duties. . . . We have only to deal with export bounties, and, therefore, the influence, if any, of our sugar duties on the imports of various kinds has no bearing on the question." M. George Dureau, in the current number of the "*Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*," says that the absence of an Excise duty in the new tariff gives considerable protection to the manufacturers of beet sugar in the United Kingdom, and that under existing conditions nothing will hinder the profitable cultivation of beet in England. It is curious to find both French and German expert critics making the erroneous assumption that there will be no Excise duties in the United Kingdom corresponding to the Customs duty, as would, of course, be the case in the event of a beet sugar industry being started in the United Kingdom.

THE COLONIAL OFFICE LIST.

The Colonial Office List for 1901, which has just been published, is even more complete and full of information than its predecessors. The List contains, as usual, a review of the past year. Respecting the West Indian Colonies, the compilers Mr. W. H. Mercer, Crown Agent for the Colonies, and Mr. A. E. Collins, of the Colonial Office, say : " The slight improvement noted in 1899 may be said to have been maintained upon the whole, except in the cases of some of the Leeward Islands, where the sugar crop was found to have suffered severely from the effects of the hurricane of 1899; and of Jamaica, where the fruit crops were greatly damaged by storms and floods. It was again found necessary to supplement the revenue of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat by means of an Imperial grant-in-aid, and to give further assistance to these presidencies by the expenditure of a special hurricane relief grant, which was ultimately fixed at £17,000. The position of Dominica is being gradually strengthened, and the year closed with a substantial surplus of revenue over expenditure. The improvement of the road system at the expense of the Imperial grant of 1898 progressed slowly during the year. In Grenada and St. Lucia the year was prosperous, and both colonies now possess a large surplus. St. Vincent steadily recovered from the effects of the hurricane of 1898, and rapid progress was made in allotting to small holders, the lands purchased from the Imperial grant voted in 1898 for the purpose of establishing a peasant proprietary in this island. No Imperial grant in aid of revenue was necessary.

" An informal conference on the question of sugar bounties was held in October at Paris between representatives of France, Germany, and Austria. It was understood that the three Powers had agreed upon a basis of action for the gradual diminution of the bounties, but nothing further has been done up to the present. The question of central factories in the West Indies received further attention, but it was not found possible to arrive at a settlement. The Reciprocity Conventions between certain West Indian Colonies and the United States of America remained suspended during the greater part of the year, pending a session of the Senate. In December a Committee of the Senate reported favourably upon some of them, but the matter is still undecided. A contract was signed during the year with Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. for a direct steamer service between Jamaica and the United Kingdom. The contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the conveyance of West Indian mails was renewed for a further period of five years, but negotiations are in progress for improving the service by making the main line steamers call at Trinidad. An attempt is being made to hasten the development of Dominica by securing a steam service round the island, and a similar service has been begun in Tobago."

CABLE COMPANY AND SUGAR INDUSTRY.

In the course of his speech at the Forty-eighth Ordinary General Meeting of the West India and Panama Cable Company, on May 23rd last, Mr. William Andrews made the following significant remarks with regard to the effect of the depression in the Sugar industry upon his Company. " As

you all know, the condition of our own colonies continues to be deplorable, and those who have read that remarkable book, 'Twenty Years of Sugar Bounties,' will be at no loss for the reason. At our general meeting in May, 1900, I drew your attention to the fact that since 1890 our revenue had been constantly decreasing, until in 1897 it had dropped to £70,439, and in 1899 to £56,594. Now this period synchronises too well with the increased efforts made by the Continental countries, and with the important fact that some of them doubled their bounties upon their beet sugar production in 1896, not to point an index finger to the originating cause of the calamitous condition of our colonial possessions in the West Indies. As you know, the telegraph is a very accurate barometer of commercial activity, and it is hardly too much to say that following the practical extinction of our sugar refiners, unless a remedy be speedily found, the annihilation of our West India sugar production has come within measureable distance. Nearly all persons familiar with the subject express the deliberate opinion that no mere palliatives, such as the substitution of other products, which, even if practicable, must be unproductive for many years, would suffice to provide the remedy necessary. Sugar is the staple product of the West Indies, and nothing but the resuscitation of this great industry by the imposition of countervailing duties, or the cessation of the bounty system, will suffice to save the West Indies and prevent them from becoming, by our own fault, a blot upon the shield of the empire. This becomes apparent when we see that British Colonial Cane Sugar aggregated at one time 63 per cent. of our total imports of 436,000 tons, and that in 1894 already British Colonial Cane Sugar only amounted to 11.6 per cent., whilst bounty-fed Continental sugar amounted to 76.8 per cent. of our total consumption of 1,413,000 tons. The fact is, gentlemen, that this affects the position of the Company very much. We are dependent on West Indian prosperity, and, unless something can be done to bring that about, I do not see a way out for the present."

ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE.

Mr. Henry de R. Walker will read a paper, under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute, at the Whitehall Rooms, Northumberland Avenue, this evening, entitled "Impressions of the British West Indies." The Chair will be taken by Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G. As Mr. Walker has only recently returned from a prolonged tour through the West Indies, his views as to their present condition and prospects will be of special interest and an important discussion may be looked for.

THE NATAL SUGAR INDUSTRY.

We extract the following from the *International Sugar Journal* for June 1—"From information to hand, it is evident that the Natal sugar planters are recognising the value of scientific methods in sugar cultivation. They have imported a large number of canes of those species which have been so successfully propagated in the Sandwich Islands, and these they intend to cultivate experimentally. For this purpose an experiment station on the coast becomes a necessity, but there is no doubt that the requisite support will be forthcoming, especially as the Government's co-operation has been secured. Altogether, the Natal sugar industry has never had a brighter outlook than now, and the prospective crop of 1902 promises to be a bumper one."

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

The second fortnightly club dinner, organised by Mr. R. Rutherford, was held on May 29th last. Those present included the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. G. E. D. Astwood, Mr. W. G. Devey, Mr. Goode, Mr. Godfrey, Captain C. R. Harris, R.N., Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. J. E. Mitchell, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. Riley, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. W. A. P. Shephard, Mr. Smith and Mr. Trimmingham. The arrangements for the next dinner to be held on Wednesday, June 12th next, have been undertaken by Mr. A. E. Aspinall.

NEW MEMBERS.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on May 30th last, Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G. presiding, the following new members were elected:—

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
Sir JAMES S. HAY, K.C.M.G.	Mr. ELLIOT G. LOUIS.	Sir NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.
Mr. ALLAN E. MESSER.	Mr. HENRY K. DAVSON.	Sir NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.
Mr. W. J. S. TUCKER.	Sir NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.	Mr. COLIN M. GILLESPIE.

MAIL NOTES.

The R.M.S. "Para" arrived at Plymouth at 10.45 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5th, and the Mails were forwarded at 3.45 a.m. on June 6th, the first delivery reaching the Committee at 4 o'clock. **Antigua.**—On May 22nd, The Hon. C. A. Shand wrote that the much needed rain had not yet fallen. On the 13th there was every indication of a downpour which, however, only resulted in a fall of one half-inch (.50) which made little impression upon the arid surface of the soil, and as dry weather had once more set in, hopes of a break-up of the drought appeared to be still "in nubibus." On many estates the ordinary sources of water supply had run dry, and water had to be carted from considerable distances. The standing canes were scorching up from exposure to the sun's rays, and the quality of the juice had appreciably deteriorated, which tended to difficulties in boiling and a low test product of sugar. Until the present process of manufacture was superseded by Central Factories, a large percentage of the available Sugar in the canes must be sacrificed, so that the only hope for Antigua and Islands similarly situated lay in the establishment of Central Factories, without which it would be absolutely necessary for the British Government to provide, in some measure, for a large annual deficit. Some twenty tons of onions, grown locally, had been shipped from Antigua to New York and the Islands. Writing on May 24th, from **Barbados**, Mr. Alleyne informed us that the bill for remedying Cane Fires, brought in by the Government, had not yet been proceeded with, but the House had been occupied in discussing those fires ignited by sparks from the Railway Engine. Crop was progressing rapidly and would soon be brought to a close. Very few showers had fallen and the ground was so hard that no effect was perceptible a few minutes afterwards. Complaints had been made that the yield of canes had not been so good owing to the effects of the long drought, which was especially felt by the ratoons. The price of Sugar remained at \$1.85 and \$5 for Hhds., and Molasses at 10½ cents. **British Guiana** (J. McCowan, Esq.). Our correspondent, Mr. Summerson, left by Mail for England for four months holiday. A Special Meeting of the Combined Court was called on the 18th May, to remedy a defect in the Customs duties on Matches, and for some other slight business, but nothing of importance had occurred during the fortnight. Refining crystals had been sold at \$2.43½ for export, and \$2½ for local consumption. Mr. E. A. Agar has sent us from **Dominica** the following figures of the Census, which show an increase of 7.65:—

		M	F	Total.
1901	**	12,370	16,024	28,394
1891	**	12,059	14,782	26,841
		811	1,242	2,053

The Imperial Department of Agriculture had imported from Jamaica a half-bred stallion. The agricultural schools now contained 18 boys, which the writer believed to be the present limit of the number of scholars. There had been keen competition for admittance, rather to the surprise of the public, and the boys appeared to take great interest in their work while many useful experiments in agriculture were being made. The weather still continued dry, though in most parts of the Island light showers had fallen during the past fortnight. From **Grenada** we are again without advices. Writing on May 21st from **Jamaica**, Mr. G. Levy reported that the drought was becoming alarming. There was not the least sign of rain, and he had never experienced such prolonged and intense dry weather. In **St. Kitts**, we learn from the Hon. Edward G. Todd, that the Census returns showed a marked decrease in the population during the past decade, while over 6,000 persons, mostly males, had recently emigrated. When the crop was off, as it would be in a short time, a renewal of emigration was anticipated. The weather continued very dry, though some fine showers had fallen in the last few days. In **St. Vincent** (Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), the weather still continued very dry, so much so that further digging of Arrowroot had been abandoned for the season, so that a big drop in the export was anticipated. In **Trinidad** (the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) much anxiety was felt upon the receipt of news from India that the Bubonic Plague was steadily advancing upon the Coolie Emigrant recruiting districts, three large and good yielding recruiting districts had already been abandoned by the Agent in Calcutta, who had stated that the disease might break out any day in the depôts so that he might be called on by the Indian Government to disperse any coolies collected, and evacuate, and possibly destroy the buildings infected. Meanwhile, the proposal to introduce labourers from Tenerife was under the active consideration of a Committee of the Agricultural Society. It was understood that the suggestion for this immigration originated with Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., who reported that the labourers of Tenerife were a fine hardworking people, but to a great extent almost starving, and anxious to emigrate to any place which would afford them a living. The long dry season was breaking, but only slowly. There were moderate showers nearly every day. Appearances pointed to a continuation of crop operations for another ten or fourteen days. From our correspondent in **St. Lucia** we have received no communication.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," June 6th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mrs. C. P. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Shaw, Capt. and Mrs. Denham, Mr. G. Correa, Mr. W. B. Jeffrey, Miss Slater, Mr. H. S. Osment, Mr. and Mrs. F. Barnard, Mr. Hawkes, Miss Teesdale. DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. E. G. L. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. A. Summerson and Ch., Mr. H. S. Brandon, Mr. G. Wyatt, Mr. W. A. Mittelholzer, Mrs. H. S. Cox and Son, Mrs. Gillespie and three Ch. JAMAICA.—Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Ramson, Mr. and Mrs. Howard and Ch., Dr. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Sadler and two Ch., Mr. E. L. F. Morais, Miss C. A. Ward. TRINIDAD.—Mr. P. Medori, Miss Alcazar, Mrs. Russell Murray and two Ch., Miss Gonsalvez, Mr. and Mrs. Merivale, Mr. P. H. King, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Reid and three Ch., Master Solis, Mrs. Chantrell, Dr. C. Bovallius, Mr. and Mrs. Wenzel and two Ch., Mr. G. F. Craven, Miss Frances Plaw, Hon. and Mrs. G. Goodwille, Mr. S. Henderson, Rev. A. Hombersley, Mrs. Hombersley, Mr. Marcus Vincenti, Mr. A. S. Bowen, Mr. J. H. Collic, Mr. A. Kemp-Welch, Mr. Jean Ceron. ANTIGUA.—Rev. H. Y. Shepherd, Miss Shepherd. GRENADA.—Mr. G. E. St. George, Mr. W. Morrison. ST. LUCIA.—Mrs. Barnard, Major Molesworth, R.A., Mrs. Molesworth.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," June 12th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. G. S. Browne, Mr. L. Lovell, Mr. G. A. Field, Mr. W. C. Laing, Dr. R. W. Bourne, Mr. A. H. J. Greenidge, Mrs. Young and son. DEMERARA.—Dr. Kenny, JAMAICA.—Mr. W. Blackburn, Mr. and Miss Scholes. TRINIDAD.—Mr. F. A. Biden, Master Boissiere. ANTIGUA.—Miss Johnstone.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Maria," May 28th, 1901:—JAMAICA.—Two Messrs. Ainslee, Mr. J. Bashall, Mr. E. R. Browne, Miss E. J. Collins, Rev. H. Clarke, Mrs. Clarke and Ch., Mr. J. P. Cross, Mr. Hood Daniel, Mr. Evans, Two Misses and Master Grant, Mr. P. H. Greg, Mr. W. H. Gerrard, Lt. Inglis, R.A., Mr. G. H. Johnstone, Rev. and Mrs. A. James, Mr. A. J. Johnson, Mr. T. E. Lloyd, Mr. N. Main, Lt. Oldham, R.E., Rev. T. B. Prentice, Mrs. Prentice and Ch., The Hon. Henry Sewell, Mr. Percy Sewell, Mr. W. Wooliscroft, Mr. R. Berner, Mr. W. Bustorff, Mr. B. Bollmann, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Topps, Mr. W. Wahnung.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Maria," June 8th, 1901:—JAMAICA.—Rev. W. B. Atherton, Mr. T. Andreae, Madame T. Burnett, Mr. H. E. Brett, Miss L. Curzon, Mr. S. F. Charlton, Dr. Crooks, Mr. S. C. Driver, Mr. Eggins, Signor P. Gherardi, Mr. B. Kirkham, Mr. T. Shaw, Mr. Smith, Mr. E. R. Whitehead, Mr. E. Wright.

RUM.

During the past month the general tone of this market has been quiet, but prices on the whole may be considered fairly steady. The extensive sales of proof descriptions, reported in our last issue, have, for the time being, filled up the requirements of the trade, and but a limited business, amounting to about 600 to 700 puns, has resulted at values previously quoted.

In Jamaica the trade have taken the standard "Home Trade" marks at prices previously reported, but, generally speaking, there is a disposition on their part to act on the extreme caution, which applies particularly to other qualities than that specified.

We append the Board of Trade returns:—

		1901.		1900.		1899.		1898.
LANDED	In Apr.	786,237	..	337,381	..	265,362	..	600,998
	4 months	3,179,865	..	2,132,353	..	1,449,135	..	2,081,164
HOME CONSUMPTION ..	In Apr.	373,295	..	280,755	..	374,821	..	347,075
	4 months	1,877,860	..	1,916,868	..	1,596,244	..	1,425,100
EXPORT	In Apr.	76,811	..	68,528	..	73,277	..	65,961
	4 months	259,197	..	330,801	..	292,689	..	282,514
STOCK (Galls.)	30 Apr.	7,599,000	..	6,513,000	..	6,959,000	..	8,329,000

STOCKS IN LONDON.

	1901.		1900.		1899.		1898.
JAMAICA. PUNS.. ..	7,934	..	6,526	..	9,590	..	10,737
OTHER W. I. ISLANDS ..	556	..	444	..	913	..	646
DEMERARA	8,868	..	4,149	..	2,704	..	5,986
FOREIGN	1,593	..	1,292	..	660	..	905
BRITISH EAST INDIA ..	2,094	..	348	..	218	..	329
VATTED	3,343	..	2,981	..	3,386	..	3,705
TOTAL	24,388	..	15,740	..	17,471	..	22,308

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—The market opened with a firm tone at the commencement of the month under review, and prices advanced about 1/- per cwt. Subsequently there was a strong demand, and, at the sales held on May 23rd, a further advance of 1/- to 3/- per cwt. was paid. The market reopened after the Whitsun Holidays on June 4th, when the tone was

quieter, but prices were fairly maintained, and, at the close, low to good middling may be quoted at 68/- to 72/6 per cwt., and fine to superior 73/- to 85/- per cwt.

	1901	1900
LANDED, 1st Jan. to 1st June ..	16,243 bags	against 38,381 bags.
DELIVERED	22,200	23,018
STOCK 1st June	20,070	33,998

GRENADA.—Supplies have been very limited, the total quantity offered during the month only amounting to 3,633 bags; with a continued good demand these have been nearly all sold at firmer prices, the above amounting to 1/- per cwt. for ordinary qualities and 1/ to 2/- for fine; but latterly ordinary to fair qualities have become rather dull. We quote 61/- to 63/6 for ordinary to good fair, and 64/- to 68/6 for middling to fair.

	1901	1900
LANDED 1st Jan. to 1st June ..	27,279 bags	against 30,830 bags.
DELIVERED	26,735	24,922
STOCK 1st June	9,680	15,251

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) **PIMENTO** ... 2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.
GINGER ... 38s. to 66s. per cwt.
BEEWAX £7 15s. to £8 5s. per cwt.
HONEY ... 17s. to 28s. per cwt.
LIME JUICE 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d. per gall.

LOGWOOD... .. £4 15s. to £5 per ton.
LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 10s. per ton.
FUSTIC £4 5s. per ton.
ROOTS £3 10s. per ton.

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Hhds.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stons.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Faus.			
BARBADOS—										
Jan. 1st. to May 23rd, 1901	35,925	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,116
Jan. 1st. to May 23rd, 1900	17,071	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19,010
BRITISH GUIANA—										
Jan. 1st to May 22nd, 1901	27,175	9,931	8,691	4,988	35,375	74,250	—	—	—	417
Jan. 1st to May 23rd, 1900	24,422	10,037	16,500	—	36,612	128	—	—	—	1,272
TRINIDAD—										
Jan. 1st to May 22nd, 1901	379,228	106	9,770,594	14,880	75,841	4,204,278	—	—	—	1,553
Jan. 1st to May 22nd, 1900	294,083	168	17,292,740	1,540	42,110½	4,684,721	—	—	—	3,911
										59
										168
										72
										74

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 1st June	202,838	45,465	59,753	80,313	90,957
France, 1st May	328,062	413,178	465,000	404,279	475,328
Germany, 1st May	665,339*	586,012*	631,378*	762,966*	553,028
Hamburg, 6th June	107,550	91,100	125,900	156,500	79,000
Austria-Hungary, 1st May	418,884	405,750	359,887	392,483	446,956
Holland, 15th May	53,716	42,848	33,363	66,311	79,538
Belgium, 15th May	41,492	80,395	78,083	86,808	78,355
United States, 5th June, Total Stocks	1,817,881	1,664,748	1,753,364	1,949,660	1,803,162
Cuba, six principal ports, 5th June, Total Stocks	237,000	183,581	279,182	308,591	645,118
Cargoes afloat, 6th June	173,000	76,190	78,974	82,587	26,933
	16,394	15,600	28,590	26,214	13,294
Total	2,244,275	1,940,119	2,140,110	2,367,052	2,488,507

* Total stocks, not Licht s.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), May 28th, "Light, partial showers." June 3rd, "Fine rains generally throughout the Island with appearances of more." June 5th, "Fine rains generally throughout the Island with appearances of more. Sugar \$1.75, Molasses, 11 cents."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd), June 5th, "Weather favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), June 4th, "Rain has fallen heavily." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 5th, "Heavy rains interfering with grinding."
TRINIDAD.—(Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), May 28th, "Have closed crop, for wet season fairly set in." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 5th, "Heavy rains interfering with grinding."

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

NOTE.—FULL PARTICULARS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION MUST BE PROPOSED BY ONE AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY. SUBSCRIBERS 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.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, June 25th, 1901.

THE FRENCH BOUNTIES.

The past fortnight has been characterised by important rumours respecting the French Bounties. It was stated that the French Government contemplated an immediate and substantial reduction of her tax on consumption from 60 frcs. to 40, thus reducing the hidden bounty by two-thirds. It appears that in the first five months of the current year the Revenue which it was estimated would be derived from sugar showed a deficit of 16,011,000 frcs. The matter was, it is said, discussed by M. Caillaux, Minister of Finance, and his colleagues, and it was agreed that a Bill should be submitted, modifying the fiscal regulations regarding sugar in such a way as to lower the duty on consumption and reduce the bounty on manufacture. This led to an outcry from representatives of the local sugar industry, with the result that the French Government on June the 18th, issued a semi-official note to the Press, in which it was stated that the Council still considered that the question of Bounties could not be decided without taking into account the situation created for French producers by the system adopted in other countries. In other words, we may take this to mean that no action will be taken by the French Government until the reassembling of the Conference, which cannot be long delayed, but it is evident that their attitude at the Conference will be very different to that displayed at the last, and that their influence will now be used in favour of a Convention for the total abolition of Bounties all round.

On June 20th the consideration of the Finance Bill in Committee was resumed in the House of Commons on Clause 2, which sanctions the imposition of the new sugar duties, and Mr. Flower moved an amendment in favour of preferential treatment being accorded to sugar coming from British Colonies. In view of the prospects of the reassembling of the Brussels Conference—probably in the Autumn—and the likelihood of a solution of the bounty question being then arrived at, it was not thought a favourable moment by Members who have taken an interest in the Anti-Bounty movement to harass the Government during the passing of the Finance Bill.

MODIFICATION OF THE SUGAR DUTIES.

Certain modifications in the Sugar Duties, as affecting molasses and glucose, were agreed to in the Committee stage of the Finance Bill. Originally it was proposed that a duty of 2s. per cwt. should be paid on molasses and all sugar and extracts from sugar which could not be tested by the polariscope, and 1s. 8d. per cwt. on glucose. It was found, however, that these duties were insufficient to guard the Revenue and were not fair to manufacturers with reference to certain kinds of molasses and glucose, while on the other hand they were too high with regard to unexhausted molasses. The proposed duties, as amended, are as follows :—

MOLASSES AND ALL SUGAR EXTRACTS WHICH CANNOT BE TESTED BY THE POLARISCOPE—

If containing 70% or more of Sweetening Matter	... ..	2s. 9d. per cwt.
If containing less than 70 % and more than 50 % Sweetening Matter	... ..	2s. od. "
If containing not more than 50% Sweetening Matter	... ..	1s. od. "
GLUCOSE—		
Solid	... ..	2s. 9d. "
Liquid	... ..	2s. od. "

PARLIAMENTARY ANTI-BOUNTY COMMITTEE.

At a Meeting of the Parliamentary Sugar Bounties Committee, held at the House of Commons on June 15th instant, Mr. W. F. Lawrence was elected Chairman in succession to the late Colonel Milward, and Mr. James Reid was appointed Hon. Secretary. A resolution was then adopted, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Wylie, expressing regret at the death of Colonel Milward, "who for many years had rendered to the Committee most whole-hearted and ungrudging service, and latterly, as Chairman, had by his courtesy and capacity earned their sincere affection and regard;" and the Hon. Secretary was instructed to communicate the motion to Mrs. Milward.

THE LATE COLONEL VICTOR MILWARD, M.P.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on June 13th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. presiding, the following resolution was adopted unanimously :—

"This Committee has learned with sincere regret of the death of Colonel Victor Milward, M.P., who rendered most valuable service to the West Indies in the House of Commons, and resolves that the Secretary be instructed to convey to Mrs. Milward and the family, the expression of their heartfelt sympathy at the loss which they have sustained."

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVED MAIL SERVICES.

It will be remembered that in his speech at the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, on May 1st last, Admiral Chatfield stated that the Company at the close of 1900 tendered, at the request of the Government of Trinidad and the Post Office, for an improved service to the West Indies, with a call at Trinidad with the main line ships. He said that the directors submitted proposals for a service by which nearly a day-and-a-half would be saved on the outward and the same time on the homeward journey. The steamers were to go 14½ knots, instead of 13, and there was to be a weekly instead of a fortnightly service between the Leeward and the Windward Islands. He added that, desiring particularly, to meet the wishes of Trinidad, "the Directors practically asked only the increased price of coal for doing the work required." This matter was referred to at the recent joint deputation of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and West India Committee to the Postmaster-General, when Sir Nevile Lubbock requested that we might be furnished with details of the proposals in order that they might be carefully considered by the Colonies before any decision was arrived at. Lord Londonderry's reply being that the matter was one more properly concerning the Colonial Office, we accordingly addressed our request to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in a letter on May 24th. On May 30th we received the following reply :—

Sir,

Downing Street, 30th May, 1901.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, in which you ask that the West India Committee may be made acquainted with the recent proposal of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for a revision of the West India Mail services.

2. I am to inform you that Mr. Chamberlain, while anxious that the present services should be rearranged so as to allow a call by the main line steamers at Trinidad, has not felt himself able to recommend the acceptance of the specific offers made by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company which involves a large extension of the duration of the Contract and a considerable increase of subsidy. The question of securing a call at Trinidad is still receiving attention and Mr. Chamberlain is prepared to consider any observations which the West India Committee may wish to make.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) M. F. OMMANNEY.

From this letter it is evident that the Colonial Office is still open to consider improvements in the mail service to the West Indies. It is, therefore, very desirable that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE should be fully informed as to the views and wishes of the Colonies on this subject. With this object in view, the Secretary is now in communication with the various Honorary Correspondents in British Guiana and the Islands.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

The announcement appears in the "*London Gazette*" of June 18th inst., that the King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Sir James Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements), to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of British Guiana, on the approaching retirement of Sir Walter Joseph Sendall, G.C.M.G. The appointments are also announced of Mr. Everard Ferdinand im Thurn, C.B., C.M.G. (late Government Agent, North-Western District of British Guiana), to be Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, and Mr. Frederick Evans, C.M.G. (late Colonial Secretary of Jamaica), to be Colonial Secretary of Gibraltar.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

At the fortnightly Club dinner on June 12th last, the following members and their friends were present:—Sir Noël Walker, K.C.M.G., Colonel Nourse, Dr. Wolseley, Professor Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S., Mr. Ashburner, Mr. H. E. Boyle, Mr. Brabant, Mr. H. G. Dalton, Mr. G. H. Jackson, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. J. A. Mitchell, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. W. A. P. Shephard, Mr. A. Summerson and Mr. A. E. Aspinall, *Hon. Sec.* The next dinner, the arrangements for which have been undertaken by Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, will be held in the Club Room to-morrow, at 7.30 p.m.

NEW MEMBER.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on June 13th last, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. presiding, Mr. JOSEPH D'ABADIE, proposed by the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, and seconded by Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., was unanimously elected a Member of the West India Committee.

The number of new members elected during the current year now amounts to 27. It is hoped that members will bring forward candidates for election and so help to strengthen the hands of the Executive Committee and support the work which they are doing. A fresh List of Members being now in course of preparation for the press, members are requested to notify to the Secretary any change in their address.

MAIL NOTES.

The R.M.S. "*La Plata*" reached Plymouth at 4.40 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19th. The Mails were forwarded by the 6.45 train, and delivered in London on Thursday, June 20th, at 8 a.m. Letters were received from our correspondents in all the Islands with the exception of **Grenada**, from which Island we have again to regret the absence of advices. The Hon. C. A. Shand, writing from **Antigua** on June 5th, informed us that the Census returns, just published, showed a falling off of 2,000 since the last enumeration, bringing the population of the Island down to 34,000. As in St. Kitts, the proportion of females to males had been largely increased by the exodus of so many men in search of work elsewhere, leaving their dependants to look after themselves or become recipients of public charity. The weather had been most acceptable, good rains having fallen for the week, which, though heavier in some localities than others, had, nevertheless, averaged $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches. The barometer was lower, and there was every appearance of a break up of the drought. From Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, **Barbados**, we have received an interesting letter, in the course of which he says: "We hear, with great regret, that the reassembling of the Brussels Conference is still in doubt. We cannot conceal from ourselves that

our tenure upon the American market is a very frail one, and if that should give way, and no hope of our entry into a Home or European market be offered to us, our prospects would be black indeed. We know that there is nothing that can be done on your side which your Committee will not do, and we deeply regret to hear by to-day's telegram of the death of Colonel Victor Milward, who has been one of our best supporters in Parliament against the Bounty System." The crops were mostly over at favourable figures, though the few acres of those outstanding would perhaps be adversely affected by the late heavy rains, and it was still expected that the Island crop would be above the average. Unfortunately, the price of sugar showed signs of weakness, which, if it continued, would involve the Island in an immense loss. With a very much larger output, it was impossible at current prices to realise what was made last year. Sugar was quoted at \$1.75 and \$5.00 for hds., and Molasses at 11 cents and \$4 with a weakening market. In **British Guiana** we learn from Mr. J. C. McCowan that the question of the mail services was about to be raised in the Legislature by Mr. Duncan, who intended to ask that details of the proposed alteration might be submitted to the Colony. There had been no meetings of the Legislature or of the Planters' Association during the fortnight. Refining crystals were quoted at \$2.44. The weather had been very favourable during the fortnight, good rains having fallen. **Dominica** (E. A. Agar, Esq.).—The question of praedial larceny was again raised at a meeting of the Dominica Agricultural Society early in June, when satisfaction was expressed at the action taken by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE in the matter. Ample rains had fallen throughout the Island, and the lime crop was expected to open in a week or two. In consequence of the rains road making had practically ceased, thus letting loose a quantity of labour which was badly needed by the estates. From **Jamaica** we hear with regret that our esteemed correspondent Mr. George Levy had had a relapse and was seriously ill. In **St. Kitts**, the Hon. Edward G. Todd, the crops were nearly all taken in on all the plantations. Rain had fallen throughout the Island, not heavily, but soaking showers amounting to over an inch. From **St. Lucia**, on June 7th, we hear from the Hon. E. Du Boulay that there had at last been abundant and much needed rains. Between 4-5 inches had fallen, which would much benefit the growing crops which were suffering from the prolonged drought. In **St. Vincent** (Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) fine rains had fallen to which all vegetation had rapidly responded, and the young canes, despite the long drought, were well advanced. The Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick writing from **Trinidad** on June 6th, informed us that further correspondence had taken place between the Secretary of State and the Governor, with the result that "Mr. Chamberlain would not insist on special provision being made for the repatriation of Coolies introduced before this season," but did insist for such provision being made for all introduced in this or to be introduced in any subsequent season. A meeting of those planters directly interested was held on the 6th when the following resolution, moved by the writer and seconded by the Hon. Eugene Cipriani, was adopted:—

"That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to communicate with the Secretary of State by cable, and on behalf of the planters, ask that 3,000 Immigrants be introduced this season under the existing ordinance, so that time will be given to the planters to consider the best means of giving effect to the Secretary of State's wishes, and to those who are agents for non-resident proprietors to consult their principals."

For several days there had been frequent heavy showers, and the rainy season might be said to have fairly set in. Two or three estates, including the Usine Ste. Madeleine, were still endeavouring to get all the canes reaped, but it was not likely that any would be able to continue after that week.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," June 20th, 1901:—**BARBADOS**.—Mrs. Smellie, Messrs. R. J. D. H. Spence, J. M. Last, Richards, Fox, Wakefield, Mr. and Mrs. Barber, Miss L. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Cleeve, Mr. R. Dickson, Miss F. Ward, Miss Cochrane, Mr. Jean, Mr. E. Cochrane, Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Mr. J. J., Mr. J. H., and Miss Wilkinson, Mrs. McAdam, Mr. W. J. Saunders, Mr. J. J. Wilson, Mrs. Goudan and two Ch., Mr. E. Frank, Mr. R. J. Hunter, Mr. E. G. Terry. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. D. G. McGowan, Rev. J. West and Ch., Master W. Lambert, Mr. C. W. Duncan, Mr. A. P. P. Mackey, Mr. J. J. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Spence and two Ch., Mr. W. Morrison, Dr. G. E. Loudon, Mr. R. J. Campbell, Mr. P. Kay, Mrs. E. Lambert and Ch., Mrs. G. Bell and Ch. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. and Mrs. Burke and Ch., Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, Mrs. Levy, Mrs. and Miss Garcia, Miss Cohen, two Misses Reece, Mrs. Bell and Daughters, Sir Fielding and Lady Clark, Miss H. C. Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. Reece, Mr. and Miss Brandy, Mr. L. Thomas and two Daughters, Two Misses Paton, Mrs. Thiele, Mr. A. D. Creece. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. E. P. Ashmore, Mr. W. E. Daly, Mrs. Rapsey and six Children, Mr. P. Abel, Two Misses Hoadleys, Mr. and Miss Von Banditz, Master G. Owen, Two Misses Knox, Mr. Muir, Two Messrs. DeGannes, Mr. Hedland. **ANTIGUA**.—Miss H. Fisher, Mrs. Goodwin and Ch. **GRENADA**.—Mrs. G. Munro, Mr. S. Hope, Mr. J. Petersen, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Gay. **ST. KITTS**.—Miss M. Branch, Miss Lockhart, Miss France, Mr. J. D. Adamson, Mr. and Mrs. Lowray, Mr. and Mrs. Thurston. **ST. VINCENT**.—Mrs. F. C. W. Durrant and two Ch. **TOBAGO**.—Mr. R. Blakely.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," June 26th 1901—BARBADOS.—Miss Swaby, Mrs. Buckle. JAMAICA.—Mr. Lefrane. TRINIDAD.—Mr. Whiteway, Mr. Henderson, Miss Connell, Mrs. Biden. ST. KITTS.—Mrs. Horsford.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Morant," June 11th, 1901:—Mr. E. Collens, Mr. H. M. Douglas, Mr. F. E. Phillips, Mrs. Haggart and Ch., Hon. J. Mitchell, Miss Owden, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, Sister Riddle, Rev. and Mrs. L. Tucker, Mr. H. Turner, Mrs. and two Misses Wheeler, Dr. and Mrs. Williams and two Ch.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," June 22nd, 1901:—JAMAICA.—Mr., Mrs., and three Misses McLaverty, Mr. C. K. Eaton, Mr. A. B. Grainger.

RUM.

The Market is quiet, and business is still of an unimportant character.

COCOA.

A quiet tone still prevails in this market and scarcely any business has taken place, but prices are unchanged.

GRENADA STATISTICS, &c., June 6th, 1901.—Shipments since May 23rd, 57 bags for "Para," 3,318 bags per "Savan," 1,403 bags per "Rosneath," and 200 bags to New York. Total export since October 1st, 46,732 bags, against 47,334 bags last year, 48,433 bags 1899, 48,051 bags in 1898, and 50,287 bags in 1897.

TRINIDAD.—Total Clearances from October 1st to June 5th, of the following years:—

	England. Bags.	France. Bags.	America. Bags.	Total. Bags.
1897-1898	54,593	26,662	28,854	110,109
1898-1899	69,545	28,785	42,101	140,431
1899-1900	62,912	18,438	24,572	111,922
1900-1901	38,709	20,118	34,153	92,980

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	2½d. to 3d. per lb.	LOGWOOD...	... £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ...	34s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 5s. per ton.
BEESWAX	£7 10s. to £8 per cwt.	FUSTIC ...	... £4 5s. per ton.
HONEY ...	17s. to 28s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ...	... £3 10s. per ton.
LIME JUICE	1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d. per gall.	ARROWROOT	... 1½d. to 1¾d. per lb.

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Hhds.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.		
BARBADOS —									
Jan. 1st. to June 6th, 1901	43,419	—	—	—	—	—	29,580		
Jan. 1st. to June 6th, 1900	22,183	—	—	—	—	—	19,979		
BRITISH GUIANA —	Tons.								
Jan. 1st to June 5th, 1901	28,648	9,962	12,191	4,988	40,509	74,250	417		
Jan. 1st to June 6th, 1900	24,602	10,039	16,500	—	41,471	128	1,322		
TRINIDAD —	Bags & Brls.								
Jan. 1st to June 5th, 1901	418,203	106	11,402,424	14,880	81,308	4,987,377	2,284	143	245
Jan. 1st to June 5th, 1900	323,400	377	17,928,880	1,700	49,004	4,700,421	4,091	72	74

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 15th June	194,679	43,771	64,449	85,211	95,251
France, 1st June	281,174	349,144	400,000	331,483	390,106
Germany, 1st June	512,315*	402,153*	479,069*	619,354*	358,260
Hamburg, 20th June	81,400	86,900	132,400	133,500	71,700
Austria-Hungary, 1st June	324,034	331,817	293,765	325,219	388,726
Holland, 1st June	47,581	35,331	28,318	59,978	72,568
Belgium, 1st June	36,587	72,602	71,004	93,584	65,179
	1,477,770	1,321,718	1,469,005	1,648,329	1,441,790
United States, 19th June, Total Stocks	269,000	159,566	281,263	317,722	654,937
Cuba, six principal ports, 19th June, Total Stocks	152,000	57,822	75,000	80,075	13,056
Cargoes afloat, 20th June	9,360	11,055	24,402	23,864	17,425
Total	1,908,130	1,550,161	1,849,670	2,069,990	2,127,268

* Total stocks, not Licht's.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), June 11th, "Rains have continued since our last cable." (Messrs. Thos. Daniel & Co., Ltd.), June 19th, "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), June 19th, "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 10th, "Showery and favourable for cultivation." June 12th, "Too dry 'Albion,' favourable elsewhere." **JAMAICA.**—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), June 19th, "Heavy season rains now falling. Over seven inches fell on seventeenth." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 13th, "Heavy rains interfering with grinding." June 17th, "Rainy season has set in."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books, papers, photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following received during the past month can be seen at the Committee Rooms, in addition to the current official gazettes, &c.:—"*Barbados Agricultural Gazette*," Vol. 7, No. 4, *The Colonial Office List*, 1901, "*The Financial News*," *Debates in the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago*, 1900, "*International Sugar Journal*," Vol. 3, No. 30, "*The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society*," "*The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*," "*The Louisiana Planter*," "*The Produce Markets Review*," "*West Indian Bulletin*," Vol. 2, No. 2, "*West Indian and Commercial Advertiser*," *Antigua Market Report* (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), *Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer* (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.), *Barbados Market Report* (Messrs. Leacock & Co.), *Barbados Market Review* (Messrs. Jones & Swan), *Demerara Market Reports* (Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co., *The Chamber of Commerce*, and Messrs. Wieting & Richter), *Trinidad Market Reports* (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. A. Cumming & Co.), *Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report* (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and *Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co., (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen and Co., Park Son & Co.'s New York Produce and Market Reports, Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers:—*

The Antigua Observer.
The Antigua Standard.
The Barbados Advocate.
The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).
The Barbados Globe.
The Clarion (British Honduras).
The Argosy (Demerara).
The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).

The Dominican.
The Dominica Guardian.
The Federalist & Grenada People.
The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).
The Gleaner (Jamaica).
The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).
The St. Christopher Advertiser.
The St. Christopher Gazette.

The Voice (St. Lucia).
The Sentry (St. Vincent).
The Times (St. Vincent).
The Daily News (Trinidad).
The Mirror (Trinidad).
The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

NOTE.—FULL PARTICULARS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, HILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION MUST BE PROPOSED BY ONE AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY. SUBSCRIBERS 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.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, July 9th, 1901.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE LEVY.

With sincere regret we have to announce the death of Mr. George Levy, the esteemed Secretary of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants Exchange, and Honorary Correspondent of the West India Committee since its re-organization. Mr. Levy had been ill for some time, and when the last mail left Jamaica, on June 18th, had been unconscious for some days and was sinking rapidly. The end, therefore, was not unexpected, and his death took place, as we are informed by the Direct West India Cable Company's special cable, on June 27th. Mr. Levy held the post of Secretary to the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture since its inauguration in 1885, and as the writer can testify, spared no effort to promote, by means of co-operation and unity of action, the prosperity of that community, of which he had so long been a member.

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE.

Mr. George Martineau, who, it will be remembered, attended with the Chairman of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE the last Brussels Sugar Bounties Conference in the capacity of expert adviser to the British Delegates, has addressed an important letter to the Editor of the *International Sugar Journal*, bearing on the French Bounties and the forthcoming Conference.

After dealing with the financial straits to which the bounties, both direct and indirect, have brought the French Government, Mr. Martineau in this letter proceeds to say, "M. Caillaux is preparing a Bill which, according to reliable information, will reduce the duty on sugar, in September, 1902, from 60 francs to 40, leaving the duty on the excess yields at 30 francs, and therefore reducing the bounty on the excess to 10 francs. In the following year the sugar duty is to be reduced to 35 francs, leaving only 5 francs bounty on the excess yields. If in the third year the duty is reduced to 30 francs the whole of the indirect bounty will disappear. The industry have received the news with more equanimity than was to be expected, but they very rightly demand that no such steps shall be taken until an agreement has been come to at the International Conference which is about to take place. With such a satisfactory offer from France there is every prospect of success in the negotiations."

M. Georges Dureau, in a recent number of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, makes the following significant remarks: "It would seem that the time has come to adopt the fiscal policy more in harmony with the altered requirements of an industry which has so long emerged from the experimental stage and for which extensive markets are alone wanting. Besides, the bounty system, like armed peace, is a burden which becomes increasingly intolerable in the face of constantly increasing budgets. If therefore, an International understanding is possible which permits by mutual agreement the lightening of this burden, it would be wise to enter upon such a course without delay, and so avoid isolated action which might prove disastrous. The sugar question is now more than ever an International one. The French Government seem to have realised this. We congratulate them, and hope that they will speedily settle it in a manner at the same time equitable and thorough."

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE WHOLESALE GROCERS.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee was held on July 1st to meet certain Wholesale Grocers for the consideration, in connection with the sugar duties, of the retail price of Demerara sugar. Mr. Henry K. Davson, *Deputy Chairman*, presided, and those present included Mr. Edward G. Barr, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. W. P. B. Shepherd, Mr. J. D. Taylor, Mr. Coventry Woodhouse, Mr. E. Kynaston, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, *Secretary*, and representatives of the following leading firms of Wholesale Grocers. Messrs. W. H. Bishop & Co., Messrs. James Budgett & Sons, Ltd., Messrs. Ginner, Morton & Goddard, Messrs. Samuel Hanson, Son & Barter, Messrs. Harrison, Burton & Co., Messrs. Henderson & Liddell, Messrs. Petty, Wood & Co., Messrs. J. Travers & Sons, Ltd., and Messrs. Wykes & Wykes. It will cause our friends in the West Indies satisfaction to know that the Wholesale Grocers expressed themselves warmly in favour of bringing prominently before the public the advantages of the Pure Cane Sugars of the West Indies, and it was suggested that a letter on this subject should be addressed to the Press.

TENERIFFE LABOURERS FOR TRINIDAD.

The Select Committee of the Trinidad Agricultural Society appointed to enquire into the proposed importation into Trinidad of Labourers from the Canary Islands, presented their report on June 11th last. The Committee after carefully reading and considering the correspondence on the subject, arrived at the following conclusions which are set out in the report, signed by Mr. Hugo Hoffmann, Chairman :—

“However desirable and successful Coolie Immigration has been and must remain in the future, principally in the interest of the sugar industry, it is equally apparent that for the further development of the Island an influx of other nationalities is of the greatest importance. There is no doubt that more labour is required in this Colony if we take into account the great impetus that has been given to the cane-farming interest of late years, as well as to the increasing cultivation of cocoa, not to speak of the probabilities of rubber and minor industries also receiving a good deal of attention.

“From what we can learn, the Teneriffe labourer seems to be suitable for either of the above, and we recommend that a circular be issued by the Agricultural Society to planters, bringing the matter to the knowledge of all estate owners of the Island and asking information as to the number of immigrants required, the class of work, wages, etc., similar to what was done with regard to the importation of labourers from St. Vincent and Barbados. On receipt of the answers a trial should be made by introducing about 500 immigrants on the following terms:—

- 1.—The passage money, whether whole or in part as the case may be, should be advanced by the Immigration Fund, and reimbursement be made by the planters receiving an allotment of one-half of that sum, the other half being charged to General Revenue.
- 2.—Immigrants to enter into a contract for a service of three years, but to have the option of reducing this time or becoming free labourers by reimbursing planters the amount of passage money paid by them.
- 3.—House accommodation for the immigrants to be provided by the estates.
- 4.—Immigrants to have hospital accommodation provided free of charge during the contract of service, either on estate or in nearest district hospital.
- 5.—The question relating to wages asked from Teneriffe might be answered as follows :—‘Wages for field Labour range for men from 25 cents to 40 cents per day—for women 20 to 35 cents; boys and girls over 10 years, 12 to 16 cents. Job or contract work can always be obtained.’
- 6.—With regard to an estimate for keeping of a man, wife and two or three children, this will depend upon the mode of living. Bread, vegetables and rice are cheap. Salt fish also is fairly cheap, but meat is dear, and it would scarcely be safe to quote less than 45 cents per day for a family as indicated above.

7.—As from Clauses 43 and 8 of the Immigration Ordinances of 1899 and 1870 respectively, it would appear that the Teneriffe people would come under the Immigration Department and the provisions of those Ordinances, we think it very desirable that these matters should be fully explained to the immigrants before embarking, for which reason it may be necessary to translate the Clauses affecting them into Spanish.

8.—Great care must also be taken in the selection of the people and that none but genuine agricultural labourers are introduced in the first instance. The question of artisans and domestic servants, though deserving attention, could be left over in the meantime, or until we know more of the people.

"In view of the foregoing, we would suggest that it is advisable to send persons from this Colony, knowing exactly what is wanted and thoroughly conversant with the Immigration Laws, to Teneriffe, and we would recommend that the Protector of Immigrants, who has been of the greatest assistance to us in framing this Report, and has evinced a considerable amount of interest in the scheme, should be selected in company with a planter having a full knowledge of the Spanish language, for that purpose, with full powers to act as they may think best for the interest of the Colony."

The Report was considered at a meeting of the Trinidad Agricultural Society, His Excellency Sir A. C. Moloney in the chair, and adopted, subject to an amendment of paragraph 5, "that the wages for field labourers should be for males 25 to 50 cents. per day, and for women 25 to 40, and that work could always be obtained."

OBSCURATION TEST FOR RUM.

The following is the text of a letter which we received from H.M. Board of Customs on June 10th :—

Custom House, London,

10th June, 1901.

Sir,

I am desired by the Board of Customs to acquaint you that they recently received an application from the Wine and Spirit Association asking whether, in view of the inconvenience and delay involved, the average obscuration rate of Rum, as ascertained at landing, could not be accepted for purposes of Duty when the goods are cleared from Bond.

I am to point out that the present practice in London of ascertaining the average obscuration and furnishing particulars thereof to Importers was introduced in 1895, solely for the convenience of the trade, on the joint request of your Committee and the Wine and Spirit Association, and in the letter from this Department of the 8th February, 1895, No. $\frac{260886}{2}$,* conveying to you the decision of the Board, it was stated that all casks of Rum entered for Home Consumption, or which would under existing regulations require to have the obscuration definitely ascertained, would still have to be tested for that purpose.

Under this practice, the selection of the casks to be sampled and the making up of the combined sample for testing are outside official supervision, but the testing is performed by the Board's Officers without charge for the accommodation of the Importers.

It is obvious, therefore, that this method of sampling would require to be altered if the testing of the average sample is to be held as governing the Duty to be paid. All such samples would hereafter have to be drawn by or under the direction of the Officers of this Department.

* See WEST INDIA COMMITTEE Circular No. 115 Old Series.

It has been suggested that the request of the Wine and Spirit Association be met to the following extent, viz. :—

One sample to be drawn from every eight casks of the same colour, care being taken that the sample is representative as regards strength, colour, bead, &c. In cases where there is a marked difference in colour or strength a sample from each cask to be drawn.

If it be found on test that the samples do not vary more than one per cent. then an average obscuration may be taken for each mark,— but before giving further consideration to the subject the Board would be glad to be favoured with the views of your Committee in the matter.

I am to add that, in the event of the suggested change being made, it will be for consideration whether it would not be necessary to specify on all documents issued shewing the obscuration that it was "Average Obscuration" where that represented the fact.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. HENDERSON.

This letter was considered at meeting of the Executive Committee on June 13th and June 27th, and after the views of the Wine and Spirit Association and the leading Brokers had been ascertained a reply was sent to the effect that the suggestion of the Board of Customs for drawing samples from every eight casks of the same character met with the approval of the Committee.

DUTIES ON BARREL AND HOGSHEAD SUGARS.

We addressed the following letter to H.M. Commissioners of Customs on June 22nd,—

Sir,

We are informed that it is the intention of your Department to collect the proposed duties on all Barrel and Hogshead Sugars upon their landing weight instead of upon their delivery weight.

2. As you are doubtless aware in this class of Sugar, there is a considerable loss of weight through drainage which is appreciable during the interval between landing and actual delivery.

3. As evidence of this, we may cite the following figures which have been submitted to us by a leading firm of West India Merchants :—

20 Hhd.. Muscovado Sugar—

			cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Gross landing weight	...	...	419	2	20
" delivery "	...	...	411	1	4
Loss	...	...	8	1	16

16 Hhds. of another mark—

			cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Gross landing weight	...	...	336	1	9
" delivery "	...	...	332	3	20
Loss	...	...	3	1	17

4. From this it would seem abundantly clear that Sugars of this class will be penalised to a considerable extent as compared with Sugars which are not subject to such depreciation.

5. We think, therefore, that this is a matter which merits the most careful consideration of your Department and urge, that, in view of the above facts, the duty may be collected on Barrel and Hogshead Sugars upon their delivery weight as rendered by the Dock Companies and Wharves instead of upon their landing weight.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

On June 28th we received a reply stating that the Commissioners were unable to entertain our request inasmuch as there was no provision for charging duty otherwise than upon landing weight.

NEW MEMBER.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on June 27th last, Mr. OSWALD JONES, of Hamilton, Bermuda, proposed by Mr. Elliot G. Louis, and seconded by Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., was unanimously elected a member of the West India Committee. Members are reminded that a fresh List of Members is in course of preparation for the press, and are requested to notify to the Secretary any change in their address.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

It is proposed to discontinue the fortnightly Club dinners after the end of the current month until the autumn, when they will once again be resumed. It is felt that great credit is due to the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby and Mr. T. W. Wilkinson, to whom is due the inception of these dinners which have proved most successful. Among those present at the dinner organised by Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, on June 26th, were Mr. H. E. Boyle, Mr. H. Jackson, Mr. A. Shephard, Mr. Richard Shephard, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. T. W. Wilkinson, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. W. Mitchell, Dr. Martin, Mr. Monnington, and Mr. H. Titmas. We are informed that a statement will shortly be issued by the Club with reference to the finances of the West Indian Cricket Team, which visited this country in 1900. The deficit which resulted from the tour has, we understand, been made good, and the Club Committee propose to initiate some further sporting venture for next year.

MAIL NOTES.

The R.M.S. "Trent" reached Plymouth at 4.20 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2nd. The Mails were forwarded by the 8 p.m. train, and delivered in London on Wednesday, July 3rd at 8 a.m., though nearly 27 hours elapsed between the arrival of the Mail steamer at Plymouth and the delivery of letters in Glasgow. The fortnight ending June 21st appears to have been an uneventful one in the West Indies, while in British Guiana and in every Island the climatic conditions were most favourable for cultivation. From **Barbados** we learn from Mr. Forster M. Alleyne that the Government Bill for the prevention of Cane Fires which contained clauses unacceptable to the community had been postponed at the request of the Agricultural Society, who were preparing a Memorandum on the subject, and endeavouring to frame a more practical measure. Mr. Lowe who made such important experiments in the Roman Campagna with regard to mosquitoes and malaria, had been resident in the Island for some weeks, and the result of his researches were awaited with interest. Rain had fallen almost every day, and the aspect of the country compared with that of three weeks ago was almost inconceivable. Every tree had burst out into luxuriant foliage, flowers were abundant, and every pasture was of the most brilliant green. The young canes had responded at once and were growing rapidly. Foreign manure was being plentifully supplied, and if the weather continued satisfactory would ensure the most beneficial results. The old crop was almost all over, and most estates showed very good figures. Contrary to expectation the yield had not materially deteriorated since the rains came on. The rainfall for June, the writer imagined, varied from 6 inches to 12 inches. The trouble was the downfall in the price of sugar—to see the fine crops wasted away on sugar selling at \$1.65 was deplorable. Mr. J. C. McCowan wrote to us on June 19th, that in **British Guiana** a special meeting was called on June 11th to provide for \$60,000 subsidy to the Railway Co. for the past seventeen months, which had been omitted from the estimates in March last. As a result of this, the rebate of 5 per cent. on duties had been withdrawn, and a surtax of 5 per cent. imposed on the duties on all goods

The Chamber of Commerce held a meeting on June 15th to protest against this increase, and a resolution was forwarded to the Secretary of State. A little over 1,000 tons of refining crystals had changed hands during the fortnight at \$2.40. Last sales were reported at \$2.35½. The weather generally was favourable. There had been good showers during the fortnight, but in some districts heavy rains were much wanted. Nearly all estates had closed down until the autumn. From **Dominica** we hear from Mr. E. A. Agar that the weather for the fortnight had been wet and *seasonable*. Large shipments of green limes were being made to New York. The Administrator had been in correspondence with the superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., at Barbados, and some arrangement was likely to be made to make one or two trial shipments of Bananas to England. Through the courtesy of Mr. C. Wells, the editor of the "*Chronicle*," we are able once more to include **Grenada** in our Mail notes. After a long and trying drought, which scorched up pasture lands, denuded trees of their foliage, and threatened to play sad havoc with the cocoa cultivation in every part of the Island, the rains visited Grenada at the opening of the month and had continued almost incessantly since. Vegetation on all sides was again luxuriant and the planters were happy. The effects of the drought were very severe at **Carriacou**, where the ponds were all dried up and the inhabitants reduced to such straits for water, that a sloop had to be kept plying between the Island and St. George's for the purpose of taking supplies to them. Mr. G. W. Williamson, who had represented the firm of Messrs. Thomson Hankey & Co., in Grenada, for many years, was leaving by the next mail for England. Mr. S. Soutar informs us that in **Jamaica**, fine *seasonable* rains had fallen during the past fortnight and still continued, as yet they had not been too heavy, but were just what planters required. Vegetation had received a wonderful start and there was every prospect of favourable crops. An experiment is being made in **St. Kitts**, the Hon. E. G. Todd writes to us, at the initiation of the Attorney-General, with a view to opening with a large firm of brewing sugar merchants, a trade in brewing sugar with the Colony. A trial shipment had been made from Antigua. The crop was nearly all harvested, and splendid rains had been falling over the Island and everything was assuming a greener and healthier appearance. The weather in **St. Lucia** (Hon. E. Du Boulay), was very favourable, heavy rains continuing. The decision of the Government as to the proposed harbour extensions was anxiously awaited. In **St. Vincent** (Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), the weather had been everything that could be desired for the crops, rains having been continuous, though not such as to cause washings. In **Trinidad** (The Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, June 19th), the question of the proposed increase in the number of Coolie Immigrants for the coming season from 2,400 to 3,000 was still under consideration. Mr. Chamberlain had cabled to say that he was unable to sanction the additional 600, unless his conditions were complied with. The Select Committee of the Agricultural Society, appointed to enquire into the proposed importation of Labourers from the Canary Islands, presented their report on June 11th. The rainy season had well started and there were rains every day.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," July 3rd, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Miss M. Gill, Miss Haynes, Col. and Mrs. St. Leger, Mr. F. A. Clairmonte, Mr. D. A. Wiles, Mr. W. F. Keen. DEMERARA.—Miss Pearson, two Masters Pearson, two Misses Farrar, Mrs. Webb, Rev. W. Farrar, Mrs. B. Chatterton, Miss M. H. Sharples, Mr. D. Smith, Mr. H. R. W. Greig. JAMAICA.—Mrs. Barthropp, His Grace The Archbishop of the West Indies. TRINIDAD.—Mrs. E. Sicard, Mr. G. Carry, Mr. H. A. DeBoissiere, Mrs. Collins, Miss L. Solis, The Hon. and Mrs. Aucher Warner. ANTIGUA.—Hon. and Mrs. J. Maguiley, Mrs. E. B. Jarvis. GRENADA.—Mrs. G. W. Williamson, Miss Eider, Miss E. Renwick, Mr. Ferguson. ST. KITTS.—Rev. and Mrs. Hooper. ST. LUCIA.—Rev. Father Cadow, Mr. T. DuBoulay, Miss DuBoulay, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Mitchell, Mr. C. R. Kennaway, Miss R. Meagher, Mrs. Mountjoy, Master A. Fergusson. TOBAGO.—Mr. and Miss Archibald.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," July 10th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Commander E. M. Cooper-Key, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Baber, Mr. W. C. Baber, Capt. Rooke. JAMAICA.—Mr. Banks, Mrs. Bonip, Mrs. Johnson. DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. Braddon, Miss E. Young, Mr. J. H. de Jonge, Rev. J. G. Cruickshanks, Miss R. H. Gill. TRINIDAD.—Mr. Atkinson, Mr. and two Misses Andre, Mr. J. R. Wilson, Mr. E. L. Atkinson, Mr. W. J. S. Tucker. ST. LUCIA.—Mrs. Corvie, Mr. A. L. Armstrong.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL. Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," June 26th, 1901:—JAMAICA.—Lady Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. D. Balfour and Ch., Mrs. and Miss Douat, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Ellis and Ch., Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hamilton and Ch., Rev. and Mrs. C. G. Hardwick and three Ch., Master E. N. Bancroft, Mr. W. Conran, Mr. Clements, Mrs. J. L. Cox and two Ch., Mr. Carrington, Mrs. Guild, Miss Nethersole, Mr. C. P. Oldrey, Mr. J. G. Peet, Mrs. Pinnock, Mrs. Steer and three Ch., Mrs. A. K. Todd.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," July 6th, 1901:—JAMAICA.—Mr. Thos. Bowler, Mr. J. R. Fraser, Mr. J. Ferguson, Mr. D. W. Ferguson, Hon. D. S. Gideon, Miss Guy, Hon. Dr. Johnston, Lieut. J. Joyce, Mrs. and two Misses Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. Mercanton, Mr. A. C. Melhado, Mr. D. M. Panton, Mr. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. A. Young, Mr. C. H. Bowles, Mr. S. Buchanan, Mr. Jos. Thrift.

RUM.

There is practically no change to note in this market during the past month, which remains in a languid condition. In proof descriptions some 400 to 500 puns of Demerara have been disposed of at barely previous quotations. The large stocks are slowly diminishing, being now about 12,500 puns, as against 14,470 puns at the end of April. In Jamaica the arrivals so far have been heavier than last year, and stocks slightly increased. Business, however, has been effected in the usual "Home Trade" brands at fairly steady values, but other descriptions are very difficult to move, except the really fine marks, which are scarce and wanted. Stocks of all descriptions are now 25,340 puns, against 16,417 last year.

COCOA.

TRINIDAD.—A generally dull tone has characterised this market during the last month, and both for home trade and export the demand has been of a most limited nature. Prices have given way about 1/- per cwt. for good and fine qualities, and 2/ per cwt. for middling; quotations at the last sales, held on July 2nd, being 67/- to 71/- for low to good middling, and 71/6 to 85/- for fine and superior, but even at this decline it is extremely difficult to effect sales.

	1901	1900
LANDED, 1st Jan. to 29th June..	21,204 bags	against 40,324 bags.
DELIVERED	25,620	25,465
STOCK	21,611	33,494

GRENADA.—Large supplies have been offered during the month, and with Importers generally willing to meet the market, the greater part has been disposed of; prices ruled steady at the opening, but eventually gave way to the extent of 6d. to 1/- per cwt. for good and fine, and 1/- to 1/6 per cwt. for ordinary to fair; closing quotations being 60/- to 62/- for ordinary to good fair and 62/6 to 67/- for middling to fine.

	1901	1900
LANDED 1st Jan. to 29th June ..	34,696 bags	against 33,974 bags.
DELIVERED	28,887	28,240
STOCK 29th June.. .. .	14,345	15,077

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	2½d. to 2¾d. per lb.	LOGWOOD...	... £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ...	34s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 5s. per ton.
BEESWAX ...	£7 7s. 6d. to £8 per cwt.	FUSTIC ...	... £4 5s. per ton.
HONEY ...	17s. to 27s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ...	... £3 10s. per ton.
LIME JUICE	1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d. per gall.	ARROWROOT ...	... 1½d. to 1¾d. per lb.

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Hhds.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.		
BARBADOS —									
Jan. 1st. to June 20th, 1901	46,033	—	—	—	—	—	33,596		
Jan. 1st. to June 20th, 1900	22,486	—	—	—	—	—	22,411		
BRITISH GUIANA —	Tons.								
Jan. 1st to June 19th, 1901	32,494	10,834	29,400	4,988	43,583	76,250	417		
Jan. 1st to June 20th, 1900	28,202	10,102	16,500	—	46,037	128	1,469		
TRINIDAD —	Bags & Brls.								
Jan. 1st to June 19th, 1901	433,753	106	13,181,814	15,040	88,687	5,067,877	2,344	143	245
Jan. 1st to June 19th, 1900	332,627	377	18,950,410	1,860	53,519½	5,004,781	4,442	72	74

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom, 29th June.....	185,662	48,265	61,109	84,007	87,112
France, 1st June	281,174	349,144	400,000	331,483	390,106
Germany, 1st June	512,315	402,153	479,069	619,354	358,260
Hamburg, 3rd July.....	72,900	73,100	140,500	140,600	77,500
Austria-Hungary, 1st June	324,034	331,817	293,765	325,219	388,726
Holland, 15th June.....	39,524	29,630	22,304	56,139	67,998
Belgium, 15th June.....	30,478	62,327	63,821	86,758	59,273
	1,446,087	1,296,436	1,460,568	1,643,560	1,428,975
United States, 3rd July, Total Stocks	290,000	151,456	289,728	325,894	648,068
Cuba, six principal ports, 3rd July, Total Stocks	130,000	40,000	61,500	77,417	12,445
Cargoes afloat, 4th July	87,645	63,382	86,311	35,381	15,363
Total.....	1,953,732	1,551,274	1,898,107	2,082,252	2,104,851

Total stocks, not Lich's.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BARBADOS CROPS.

We are indebted to Mr. R. Rutherford for the following figures showing the exports of Sugar from the Island of Barbados since the year 1843. To estimate the total crop of the Island for any particular year, 5,000 hogsheads should be added as representing approximately the amount of sugar consumed locally. This year it is anticipated that the crop will reach fully 60,000 hogsheads.

Hhds.			Hhds.			Hhds.		
1843	..	24,587	1863	..	42,281	1883	..	52,851
1844	..	23,146	1864	..	36,199	1884	..	62,085
1845	..	24,777	1865	..	47,209	1885	..	67,418
1846	..	21,966	1866	..	57,241	1886	..	46,357
1847	..	33,111	1867	..	53,398	1887	..	69,416
1848	..	28,165	1868	..	58,242	1888	..	72,489
1849	..	33,077	1869	..	32,835	1889	..	65,202
1850	..	35,302	1870	..	39,270	1890	..	85,223
1851	..	38,731	1871	..	53,907	1891	..	49,672
1852	..	48,611	1872	..	39,167	1892	..	59,175
1853	..	38,719	1873	..	37,337	1893	..	66,890
1854	..	45,181	1874	..	47,293	1894	..	65,061
1855	..	39,290	1875	..	65,000	1895	..	36,493
1856	..	43,077	1876	..	37,346	1896	..	49,399
1857	..	38,798	1877	..	47,879	1897	..	54,242
1858	..	50,778	1878	..	43,511	1898	..	47,740
1859	..	39,666	1879	..	57,146	1899	..	45,787
1860	..	42,684	1880	..	54,217	1900	..	49,259
1861	..	49,845	1881	..	51,433			
1862	..	46,120	1882	..	54,937			

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), June 24th, "Seasonable weather." (Messrs. T. Daniel & Co., Ltd., in Lqdn.), July 2nd, "Fine rains generally throughout the Island," July 5th, "Seasonable weather." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 27th, "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Contributions of books, papers, photographs of West Indian scenery, etc., will be acknowledged from time to time under the above heading. The following received during the past fortnight can be seen at the Committee Rooms, in addition to the current official gazettes, &c.:—"Barbados Agricultural Gazette," Vol. 7, No. 5, "The Financial News," "International Sugar Journal," Vol. 3, No. 31, "The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre," "Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society," June, "The Louisiana Planter," "The Produce Markets Review," "West Indian and Commercial Advertiser," Antigua Market Report (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.), Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.), Barbados Market Review (Messrs. Jones & Swan), Demerara Market Reports (Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co., The Chamber of Commerce, and Messrs. Wieting & Richter), Trinidad Market Reports (Messrs. A. Cumming & Co., Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.), Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co., (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadven and Co., Park Son & Co.'s New York Produce and Market Reports, Wilson Smithell & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers:—

The Antigua Observer.

The Antigua Standard.

The Barbados Advocate.

The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).

The Barbados Globe.

The Clarion (British Honduras).

The Argosy (Demerara).

The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).

The Dominica.

The Dominica Guardian.

The Federalist & Grenada People.

The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).

The Gleaner (Jamaica).

The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).

The St. Christopher Advertiser.

The St. Christopher Gazette.

The Voice (St. Lucia).

The Sentry (St. Vincent).

The Times (St. Vincent).

The Daily News (Trinidad).

The Mirror (Trinidad).

The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

NOTE.—FULL PARTICULARS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION MUST BE PROPOSED BY ONE AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY. SUBSCRIBERS 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.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, July 23rd, 1901.

THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

The Third Reading of the Finance Bill was agreed to by a majority of 170 in the House of Commons on July 17th last. A further letter, the full text of which appeared in the *Financial News* of July 11th on the subject of the sugar duties and the forthcoming Brussels Conference, has been addressed by the West India Committee to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and has elicited the reply that his letter of July 14th, a summary of which appeared in the Press, was intended as a reply to the particular proposals we made and not as an argument on the General question of Countervailing Duties.

With regard to the re-assembling of the Brussels Conference, indications are not wanting to show that the British Government are earnest in their intentions to attain this object. The Paris *Temps* contained on July 13th an article on the Sugar Industry, which, according to Reuter's Agency, concluded with the following important remarks:—"Taking everything into consideration, the first decision to be arrived at would be to re-assemble the International Conference at Brussels for the solution of the question of export bounties. Nothing could be compromised by such a step, from which, indeed, good results might be expected. A minority of irreconcilables has hitherto been able to counteract the findings of the Congress, and it is not easy to see what benefit the sugar industry has obtained from this attitude. An international understanding alone can put a simultaneous end to the bounties which place business on an artificial basis."

THE COOLIE SETTLEMENTS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

The following letter was addressed to the Secretary of State on July 10th inst. :

Sir,

The attention of my Committee has been called to the matter of the Coolie Settlements in British Guiana, and their financial position in regard to the Colonial Exchequer and the Immigration Fund.

2. It appears that by certain resolutions, passed in the years 1888 and 1895 by the Combined Court of British Guiana, the local Government was authorised to give to such time-expired coolie immigrants, as would be disposed to avail themselves of the boon, free grants of land in lieu of their right to return passages to India.

3. Six estates were accordingly purchased by the local Government, drained, and marked out in allotments, which have been readily taken up by time-expired coolies.

4. Many of the properties so allotted have since been resold to other than immigrants, and while my Committee think it perfectly right that the initial cost of the properties should be borne by the Immigration Fund they feel that the fund should not be taxed—as it appears to be at present—with the maintenance of the allotments (equivalent to freehold), which should properly fall on the owners as if they had acquired land in the ordinary course.

5. Our object in bringing this matter to your notice is respectfully to request you to draw the attention of the local Government to it with a view to their directing that such steps as may be necessary may be taken to separate the initial cost of the settlements from that of their permanent maintenance, so that no part of the latter should fall on the Immigration Fund.

6. In this connection my Committee wish to express their opinion that it should be distinctly understood that the Fund for the repatriation of Coolie Immigrants should be clearly earmarked as held by the Government in Trust for the Planters, and should be applied for this purpose only. Should it at any time show a surplus over the amount likely to be required for repatriating the Coolies we venture to hope that the arrangement might be reconsidered and the contribution from the Planters reduced.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) H. K. DAVSON,

Deputy Chairman.

On July 20th we were informed by Mr. Chamberlain that a copy of our letter would be forwarded to the Governor of British Guiana for his report.

DUTY ON BARREL AND HOGSHEAD SUGAR.

The following letter was addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on July 17th instant on this subject :—

SIR,

1. I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a correspondence* which has passed between my Committee and His Majesty's Board of Customs with reference to the collection of Duty on Barrel and Hogshead Sugar.

2. In view of the drainage which takes place in this class of Sugar during the interval between its landing and actual delivery to the Buyer, my Committee requested that the duty upon it might be collected upon delivery weight instead of upon landing weight.

3. His Majesty's Commissioners of Customs replied that inasmuch as there was no provision in the Finance Bill for charging duty otherwise than upon landing weight they were unable to entertain our request.

4. We would respectfully remind you, Sir, that prior to the abolition of the Sugar Duties in 1874, the duty on Barrel and Hogshead Sugar was charged upon landing weight, but upon delivery of the sugar it had—as it has now—by contract with the buyer to be re-weighed, and a rebate of duty was then allowed upon the amount of sugar which was found to have been lost through drainage.

5. In these circumstances I am to express a hope that you will be pleased to cause such provision to be made as may obviate Barrel and Hogshead Sugar being placed—as they are at present—at a disadvantage as compared with sugar not subject to such loss.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Bart., M.P.

(Signed) A. E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY FOR THE WEST INDIES.

It is understood that the Government contemplates the introduction of a system of wireless telegraphy in the West Indies. The first Islands to enjoy the advantages of Signor Marconi's important discovery, will, it is said, be Trinidad and Tobago, while as soon as the necessary financial arrangements can be made, communication will be established between Antigua and Montserrat and between St. Kitts and Nevis. If put into effect this step will mark an important advance in the efforts made by the Colonial Office towards bringing closer both socially and commercially the various Islands of the West Indies as recommended by the Commissioners.

*For correspondence referred to see Circular 48, page 4.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

The appointment is announced of Sir Henry Moore Jackson, K.C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary of Gibraltar, to be Governor of the Leeward Islands.

Ralph Champneys Williams, Esq., C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Barbados, has been appointed Resident Commissioner for the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

NEW MEMBER.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on July 11th inst., Mr. Spencer H. Curtis in the chair, Mr. CHAS. GUY A. WYATT, proposed by Mr. Spencer H. Curtis and seconded by Mr. Edward G. Barr, was unanimously elected a Member of the West India Committee. We again venture to express the hope that Members will bring forward candidates for election in order that the West India Committee may be maintained on its present sound footing. We also take the opportunity of reminding Members that a new List of Members is in course of preparation for the press, and requesting them to notify to the Secretary any change of their address.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

There was a large attendance at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club, organised by Mr. J. Rippon, on July 10th last. Those present included Mr. G. E. D. Astwood, Mr. W. Duncan, Mr. A. G. Evans, Mr. L. Evelyn, Mr. P. Evelyn, Mr. G. S. Ewen, Mr. G. H. Jackson, Mr. C. F. Just, Mr. Elliot G. Louis, Mr. J. E. Mitchell, Mr. G. H. Pile, The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, The Rev. Digby S. Read, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. Arthur Shephard, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, and Mr. T. J. Wilkinson. The next dinner, the arrangements for which have been undertaken by Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, will be held to-morrow, Wednesday, at 7.30 p.m.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE LEVY.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee held on July 11th instant, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis in the Chair, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

“ This Committee has learned with sincere regret of the death of Mr. George Levy, their Honorary Correspondent in Jamaica and Secretary of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, and desiring to record its sense of the services rendered by him to the West Indies, resolves that the Secretary be instructed to communicate with the family accordingly.”

BOER EXILES AND THE WEST INDIES.

We are officially informed by Mr. Chamberlain that there is no foundation for the rumour which has recently gained currency that the settlement of Boer Exiles in the Island of St. Vincent is under consideration.

BEET PROSPECTS.

The past fortnight on the Continent commenced very dry and complaints were made of damage to the Beetroot crops. Thunderstorms have since been reported from both France and Germany; rain has fallen in France in most districts, whilst in Germany the fall has been irregular. Copious rains are urgently needed. No harm has apparently been done as yet, and Lichts weights remain good. In any case, complaints have not raised values, and Austria, which had an indifferent yield per acre last year, may compare better than France or Germany. A *Reuter's* telegram from St. Petersburg announced yesterday that 20 per cent. of the sugar beet in the Government of Kieff had been destroyed by caterpillars and beetles.

MAIL NOTES.

The R.M.S. "Orinoco" anchored at Plymouth at 9.20 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17th inst. The mails were despatched by the 3.40 a.m. train. The first delivery of letters was made at the Committee room at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, July 18th, *eighteen hours after the arrival of the steamer*. The Hon. C. A. Shand wrote from **Antigua**, on July 3rd, that His Excellency Sir Francis Fleming, the Governor, was leaving the Colony on that day, earlier than was expected, his departure having been accelerated by bad news received by cable respecting Lady Fleming, who was reported to be dangerously ill—news which will cause very general regret. Sir Francis was to be succeeded by Sir Harry Jackson, a son of the late Bishop Jackson, as Governor of the Leeward Islands. Mr. Francis Watts, the Government Analyst, was also returning by mail. There had been a continuance of rains, and at Fitch's Creek as much as 6.50 inches were registered, but some districts had not been equally favoured. A great many properties had closed grinding operations, and estimates had in a good many cases not been maintained. Mr. Forster M. Alleyne wrote that **Barbados** had been blessed with the wettest June on record. He thought that no estate in the Island had had less than 12 inches of rain. At Porters they had had 17.62, and one estate in St. Thomas 26.34, yet the rain had fallen so well that where watercourses had been kept properly clear and free there had been no wash. Much of the foreign manure was applied before the rains came, and the change wrought in the canes had been wonderful. They were under a vigorous growth and very healthy. On June 2nd the barometer fell very low, with heavy rains and they were not surprised to hear subsequently that there had been a heavy blow to sea about 60 miles to the West of the Island. No damage had been reported. Towards the end of May there was a great deal of thunder and lightning, especially in the North of the Island. Two mills were struck at Alleynedale and Oxford, and other minor accidents happened. The price of sugar and molasses had not improved—it might be quoted at \$1.95 (including hhd.) for sugar, and 11 cents for molasses. Estates in **British Guiana** (J. C. McCowan, Esq.) were all closed down, and only small lots of refining crystals had been sold during the fortnight—price \$2.37½. The "Lena," return coolie ship, sailed on July 3rd with 650 immigrants. During the fortnight there had been no meeting of the Legislature. The weather was favourable except in some parts of Essequibo and the Eastern part of Berbice, where rain was much wanted. We learn from Mr. E. A. Agar that in **Dominica** the weather had been very wet. On July 3rd there were exceptionally heavy rains, and some very violent wind squalls, due to a disturbance that passed South of the Island, but no damage was reported. The Agricultural Society recently held a special meeting to consider the question of shipping bananas to London. Mr. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator, had taken the matter up keenly, as had one or two others, with the result that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had arranged to carry them at 2/- the bunch for the present. The Agricultural Society and several individual planters were accordingly making a small shipment. The Hon. C. Macaulay Browne informs us that in **Grenada** the cocoa crop shows a shortage of only **620** bags as compared with the same date last year, the shipments being **50,184** bags and **50,804** bags respectively. The total crop shipped to September 30th, last year, was 53,338 bags. He doubted if the present crop would reach those figures. The weather for the last few weeks had been most favourable. There had been good soaking showers, but not heavy enough to cause any washing away of soil or landslips. In **Jamaica** (R. Craig, Esq.) there had been rain almost every day—splendid seasons—but not particularly healthy weather. Business showed no signs of revival. Mr. S. Soutar writes that a large number of persons attended the late Mr. George Levy's funeral, testifying to the respect in which he was held by all classes. The crop returns in **St. Kitts** (Hon. E. G. Todd) were not on the whole disappointing, fully coming up to estimates and in some cases exceeding them, the weather was "simply splendid" and all that could be desired by the young crop. Abundant rains had fallen in **St. Lucia** (Hon. E. DuBoulay) and a little sunshine would be acceptable. The question of immigration was still engaging attention in **Trinidad**. A meeting of the Standing Committee on Immigration had been held and *inter alia* the proposed immigration from Tenerife was discussed. It was agreed that if anything came of the movement the cost should be defrayed out of the "Immigration Fund," the planters share of the cost of importing labourers being borne by individual planters taking the immigrants. No decision had been arrived at as to the proposed increase in the number of Coolie Immigrants. Sunshine and shower fairly evenly distributed was being experienced to the advantage of all agriculturists. From **St. Vincent** we received no communication. With one accord our correspondents testified to the loss which the West Indies had sustained by the death of Colonel Victor Milward, M.P.

THE MAILS.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," July 17th and 18th, 1901:—
ANTIGUA.—Miss Drinkwater, Mrs. W. M. Gordon, Rev. and Mrs. P. Bartels, Hon. Francis Watts, Miss Nugent.
BARBADOS.—Masters H. and W. Fretz, Miss L. Mapp, Mrs. and Miss J. A. Mahon, Mr. L. W. Sampson, Mr. R. Haynes, Mr. W. S. Rickford, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. George Sealy, Major A. B. Kaye, Mr. W. W. Nurse.
DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright, Miss Juner, Mr. J. A. Snell, Mr. Lucie Smith, Mr. J. P. Da Silva, Mr. N. P. McKinnon.
DOMINICA.—Rev. Father G. Douge.
GRENADA.—Mr. G. W. Williamson, Mrs. D. Smythe.
JAMAICA.—Mrs. J. Cargill, Hon. J. B. Houghton and Son, Mr. and Mrs. Marcus, Mr. C. L. Walker and Son, Miss Aileen Mann, Mr. T. C. Prendergast, Mr. W. Dickson, Mr. A. Walker, Capt. and Mrs. Bonitto, Mr. Carl Jacobsen.
ST. KITTS.—Mr. Brunn, Mr. Justice Purcell, Dr. and Mrs. Fretz, Mrs. Archibald Roger.
ST. LUCIA.—Lieut. C. Hamilton, Capt. E. Beamish.
ST. VINCENT.—Mrs. Twose and Son.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," July 24th, 1901.—ANTIGUA.—Miss J. C. Johnson, Mrs. Wm. Mackenzie. BARBADOS.—Miss F. Tringhanham. DEMERARA.—Mr. S. R. Hogg. GRENADA.—Mrs. M. Elliott, Miss Alexis, Miss Renwick. TRINIDAD.—Mrs. I. Reed, Miss H. Frank, Mr. W. F. Cleaver, Mr. M. Paschen.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Maria," July 12th, 1901.—JAMAICA.—Major and Miss Audain, Mr. T. H. Andreae, Miss M. Barrows, Dr. and Mrs. G. E. Brooks, Mr. Brew, Mdm. Burnett, Mr. S. F. Charlton, Mr. H. M. C. Cobbold, Rev. Mr. Chinn, Miss L. Curzon, Dr. A. S. Dillon, Mr. S. C. Driver, Signor P. Gheradi, Hon. and Mrs. E. C. Hall, Mr. Kernham, Mr. Charles H. Levy, Mr. Martinson, Mr. R. H. Otto, Mr. Thomas Shaw, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. Alfred Vickers, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Westmorland, Mrs. M. E. Westmorland, Mrs. Williamson, Mr. E. R. Whitehead, Mr. E. Wright.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," July 20th, 1901.—JAMAICA.—Mr. J. F. Ashley, Mr. A. G. Clifton Findlay, Mr. W. E. Fowler, Mr. Aston C. Gardner, Mr. Howard Gardner, Mr. W. D. Forsyth Grant, Mr. Arthur Herbert, Rev. G. R. Heath, Mr. H. W. Heath, Mr. A. O. R. King, Master King, Mr. Victor Munn, Major Powell, Mr. J. Purdie, Mr. C. F. Raper, Mr. F. G. Reed, Mr. Robison, Mr. J. H. Walker.

RUM.

The market shows no change, and scarcely any business has been done.

COCOA.

There is no improvement to notice in the market, and, with buyers showing little or no disposition to operate, prices are still tending easier. 35 bags Africans at 54/- to 55/-, in store, and 13 bags Para at 69/- per cwt., ex quay.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.

(Landed terms)	PIMENTO ...	2½d. to 3d. per lb.	LOGWOOD...	... £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
	GINGER ...	34s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
	BEESWAX ...	£7 7s. 6d. to £7 17s. 6d. per cwt.	FUSTIC ...	... £4 5s. per ton.
	HONEY ...	14s. to 26s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ...	£3 10s. per ton.
	LIME JUICE	1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per gall.	ARROWROOT	... 1d. to 1½d. per lb.

EXPORTS.

From—	Sugar. Hhds.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold, ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.			
BARBADOS—										
Jan. 1st to July 4th, 1901	54,308	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38,772
Jan. 1st to July 4th, 1900	36,559	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26,395
BRITISH GUIANA—	Tons.									
Jan. 1st to July 3rd, 1901	33,031	11,260	43,113	4,988	46,647	76,250	417			
Jan. 1st to July 4th, 1900	36,648	11,971	16,500	—	50,584	128	1,575			
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.			Coffee lbs.	Asphalt. Tons.		Puns.	Tons.	Brls.	
Jan. 1st to July 3rd, 1901	443,463	106	14,939,104	15,040	99,713	8,213,277	2,402	143	245	
Jan. 1st to July 3rd, 1900	362,143	578	20,177,130	1,860	58,904½	5,036,387	5,332	72	74	

VEXATIOUS MAIL DELAYS.

Complaints continue to reach us as to the vexatious delays in the delivery of the West India Mails. Though the R.M.S. "Orinoco" reached Plymouth at 9.20 p.m. on July 17th inst., the first delivery of mails at the Committee Room was not made till 3.30 p.m. on July 18th, 18 hours after the arrival of the mail steamer, the Mail Bags having been despatched by Goods Train. The experience of Glasgow in this connection appears to have been even worse, as we are informed by the West India Association, that mail letters were not delivered there till the first post on July 19th, though a letter posted by a passenger, after landing, reached Glasgow at 9.15 p.m. on July 18th. We understand, however, that as the outcome of our recent deputation to the Postmaster-General, the existing state of affairs is likely to be remedied before long.

VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF SUGAR IN EUROPE AND N. AMERICA.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 13th July	174,148	48,571	62,493	86,281	87,698
France, 1st July	243,266	275,608	330,000	303,594	333,216
Germany, 1st July	372,493*	282,159*	342,091*	436,630*	243,629
Hamburg, 17th July	58,400	62,800	142,800	131,000	71,000
Austria-Hungary, 1st July	252,082	254,968	230,014	268,481	324,085
Holland, 1st July.....	33,699	22,782	16,282	49,225	62,442
Belgium, 1st July.....	15,959	44,889	57,668	77,884	51,652
United States, 17th July, Total Stocks	1,150,047	991,777	1,181,348	1,353,095	1,173,722
Cuba, six principal ports, 17th July, Total Stocks	297,000	146,023	284,587	335,179	586,469
Cargoes afloat, 18th July	121,000	24,000	51,000	72,500	11,000
Total.....	92,850	63,382	79,386	31,693	18,602
Total.....	1,660,897	1,225,182	1,596,321	1,792,467	1,791,793

* Total stocks, not Licht's.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), July 9th, "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." July 22nd, "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." **DEMERARA.**—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), July 13th, "Some showers have fallen, but more rain wanted." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), July 15th, "Weather too dry."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE acknowledge with thanks the following publications received during the past fortnight:—"*Barbados Cricketers Annual for 1900-01*," by J. Wynfred Gibbons, *Globe Office, Victoria Street, Barbados, price 1/-*; *Colonial Reports No. 322 Bermuda*, "The Financial News," "The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre," "The Louisiana Planter," "Our Western Empire," Vol. 1., No. 1., *Monthly Report of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada, including Report of Commercial Agent of Trinidad and Tobago (April, 1901)*, "The Produce Markets Review," *Antigua Market Report (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.)*, *Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.)*, *Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.)*, *Barbados Market Review (Messrs. Jones & Swan)*, *Demerara Market Reports (Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co.)*, *The Chamber of Commerce, and Messrs. Wieting & Richter*, *Trinidad Market Reports (Messrs. A. Cumming & Co., Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.)*, *Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.)*, and *Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co., (London and New York)*, *E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen and Co., Park Son & Co.'s New York Produce and Market Reports, Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers:—*

The Antigua Observer.
The Antigua Standard.
The Barbados Advocate.
The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).
The Barbados Globe.
The Clarion (British Honduras).
The Argosy (Demerara).
The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).

The Dominican.
The Dominica Guardian.
The Federalist & Grenada People.
The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).
The Gleaner (Jamaica).
The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).
The St. Christopher Advertiser.
The St. Christopher Gazette.

The Voice (St. Lucia).
The Sentry (St. Vincent).
The Times (St. Vincent).
The Daily News (Trinidad).
The Mirror (Trinidad).
The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

NOTE.—FULL PARTICULARS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION MUST BE PROPOSED BY ONE AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY. SUBSCRIBERS 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.

West India Committee.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Saturday, August 3rd, 1901.

The Conference.

We have reason to believe that His Majesty's Government has accepted the invitation of Belgium to attend the proposed Conference at Brussels for the consideration of the abolition of the Sugar Bounties. France and Austria have already accepted, and it is confidently expected that Germany will do so also. There seems therefore no longer any reason to doubt that the Conference will actually meet in the course of the autumn of this year.

This satisfactory intelligence will be especially welcome in view of the significant news which has reached us from the United States during the past fortnight. The establishment of Free Trade between the United States and Porto Rico, has been proclaimed by President MacKinley, as the outcome of the resolution passed by the Legislature of the Island on July 4th last. According to the *International Sugar Journal* this decision will give Porto Rico a premium on its sugar equal to about \$37.74 per ton (2,240 lbs.) on centrifugals, and \$32.25 on muscovados and syrup or molasses sugars.

The Sugar Trust of the United States has announced an increase of capital of fifteen millions, chiefly on account of the extension of its business to Cuba. Mr. Havemeyer, in an interview, characterised the movement by the Trust to have Cuban Sugar Free-listed as about equally prejudicial to the West Indian Cane Producers and those American Beet Growers in whose interests the countervailing system was devised.

Mail Delays.

We have again to record a gross case of delay in the delivery of the West Indian Mail letters, no less than 16 hours having elapsed between the arrival of the R.M.S. "ATRATO" at Plymouth at 2 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31st, and the delivery of Mail letters at this office. Indeed, the writer who came round in the Mail steamer from Plymouth to Southampton, arrived in London very shortly after the mails were delivered, although the customary call at Cherbourg was made. Letters were not delivered at Glasgow till 8 a.m. on August 1st. But on July 23rd we were officially informed by Mr. Chamberlain that the Postmaster-General was in correspondence with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, with a view to ascertaining whether arrangements could be concerted for the prevention of these delays, thus confirming our statement on the subject made in Circular 49. With reference to the case of the R.M.S. "ORINOCO" recorded in the same Circular, Sir Charles Dalrymple, on Thursday, July 22nd addressed an enquiry to the Secretary to the Treasury in the House of Commons. Mr. Austin Chamberlain in reply said that the Mails were forwarded from Plymouth by the first available train, and unless a special train had been employed the letters could not have been delivered any earlier. The Postmaster-General had for some time past under consideration the question of making special arrangements for forwarding the West Indian Mails from Plymouth on occasions such as that referred to by the Hon. Member, but he had not yet been able to arrive at a definite conclusion on the subject.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

We are indebted to Dr. Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, for copies of two pamphlets which have just been issued by the department over which he so ably presides. Their titles are "Sweet potatoes from the West Indies" and "The Cultivation of Vegetables in the West Indies." Of these, the latter, which contains suggestions for growing some of the more common English vegetables, should prove very useful to small cultivators. The former gives a variety of recipes for cooking sweet potatoes which are largely grown in Barbados and elsewhere in the West Indies. It is hoped that during certain seasons of the year, when most plentiful, it may be possible to export them, at a profit, to European markets. Sweet Potatoes vary in colour, size and flavour; also in productiveness. Experiments in testing these qualities have lately been made by the Department of Agriculture and will be published separately. In the meantime, with the aid of a certain number of planters, who have kindly promised assistance in the matter, an attempt is being made to ship Sweet Potatoes to test their value commercially. For twelve months from this date the best varieties of Sweet Potatoes, grown in the West Indies, will be offered for sale in London and elsewhere by Agents whose addresses will be published in due course.

The Proposals for Improved Mail Services.

The question of the improvement of the West India Mail Services continues to engage the attention of the West India Committee through the medium of whose Hon. Correspondents the views and requirements of the various Islands and British Guiana are being ascertained.

Official Appointment.

It was announced on July 27th last, that the King had been pleased to appoint Everard Ferdinand im Thurn, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., Colonial Secretary Designate of Ceylon, to be Lieutenant-Governor of that Island. The King has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of Robert M'Killian Routledge, Esq. (Stipendiary Magistrate of Port of Spain), to be Second Puisne Judge of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago. We learn that Sir James A. Swettenham, the newly appointed Governor of British Guiana, who has gone on a visit to the United States, will probably assume his new duties towards the end of this year.

New Members.

The following new Members were elected at a meeting of the Executive Committee, held on July 25th ultimo, Mr. Harry K. Davson in the Chair.

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
Messrs. THOM & CAMERON.	Mr. HENRY K. DAVSON.	Mr. EDWARD G. BARR.
Mr. WILLIAM HORNE.	Mr. ELLIOT G. LOUIS.	Sir E. NOËL WALKER, K.C.M.G.
Mr. CHARLES HOPE LEVY.	Mr. COLIN M. GILLESPIE.	Mr. HENRY K. DAVSON.
Mr. A. McDOWELL NATHAN.	Mr. J. RIPPON.	Mr. W. P. B. SHEPHEARD.

The total number of Members elected during the current year amounts to 32.

The West India Club.

Those present at the successful dinner arranged by Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, on July 24th, included the Earl of Stamford, Sir E. Noël Walker, K.C.M.G., Mr. L. P. Branday, Mr. W. H. Butler, Mr. J. Chapman, Mr. G. S. Ewen, Mr. John Hinkson, Mr. G. H. Jackson, Mr. A. Johnson,

Mr. E. Kynaston, Mr. Elliot G. Louis, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Mr. C. de Laroque, Mr. Levy, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. W. Monnington, Mr. J. H. Mitchell, Mr. W. W. Nurse, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. George A. Sealy, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. A. Shephard, Mr. J. Shephard, Mr. Scult, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, and Mr. A. E. Aspinall.

Mail Notes.

The R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored at Plymouth at 2 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31st inst. The Mails were despatched by the 8.30 train. The first delivery of letters was made at the Committee Room at 6 p.m., on Wednesday, July 31st, 16 hours after the arrival of the steamer. The Hon. C. A. Shand wrote from **Antigua** on July 17th that the weather had continued showery and that about four inches of rain had been registered for the month to that date. A steady exodus of labourers was taking place to the neighbouring islands of Guadeloupe, Dominica and Martinique, and unless they returned at the beginning of 1902, the reaping of next year's crop would be a difficult problem provided that the weather continued favourable up to the end of the current year. Even then, trouble was being experienced on some estates to procure the requisite hands to weed the grass which had developed a rapid growth since the rains commenced, and it was unfortunate that some inducement could not be offered by the Government to prevent the able bodied breadwinners *especially*, from quitting the Island, as later on in the year there would be a crowd of applicants for poor relief among the women and children who had been left to shift for themselves. From **Barbados** we hear from the Hon. J. Gardiner Austin, July 19th, that our esteemed correspondent, Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, had left in H.M.S. Proserpine, for a holiday in St. Lucia. From all districts he had received cheerful accounts. The rainfall had varied very much in spite of the limited area, but nowhere had any positive injury been effected. During the night of the 13/14th they had a very stiff blow from the E.N.E. which gave cause for alarm from the rapid fall of the Barometer, but happily, after two or three hours, it rose as rapidly and all passed off without any casualty. A small craft was blown on to the Reef but had since been got off. Mr. J. C. McCowan wrote to us on July 18th from **British Guiana** that the Immigrants who sailed on the 3rd inst. in the "Lena" remitted \$25,433, and took with them jewellery to the value of \$4,500. Sir D. P. Ross, Surgeon-General, had left by the Mail on leave. There had been no Meeting of the Legislature during the fortnight. The weather might be said to be favourable but more rain was required generally. He was glad to be able to report good showers on the Corentyne and Essequibo Coasts, where it had been badly wanted. There had been no sales of Refining Crystals during the fortnight. From **Dominica** we hear from Mr. E. A. Agar that the trial shipments of bananas mentioned in his last letter met with disaster at Barbados. The weather was so bad that, as Captain Owen informed him, all the fruit was damaged in the transfer. It was a pity that it was not jettisoned at once, rather than that the first consignment should reach Southampton in, as was almost certain, a rotten condition. It was, through lack of experience in the handling, damaged before it was put on board. The high winds and the heavy rains of the past two weeks had rendered it advisable to postpone further shipments of bananas for a short time, as much of the fruit being reserved for that purpose had fallen. The rains had, he regretted to say, also somewhat damaged the early cacao crop throughout the Island; this, however, need not involve any shortage. It was anticipated that the crop as a whole would substantially exceed last year's. The lime crop was now coming in generally, the weather being on the whole favourable for it. They were attempting to get up a small exhibit for the Halifax Exhibition to be held in September next. Mr. J. Soutar informs us that in **Jamaica** he was glad to report a continuance of favourable weather, alternate rain and sunshine, which was having a most beneficial effect upon the growing crops. Business continued very dull, there was no demand for Bananas, and tens of thousands of bunches were rotting for want of a market. From the Hon. E. G. Todd, **St. Kitts**, we hear that the weather was all that could be desired, and the young crop had been greatly benefited by the magnificent rains. Everything was refreshed, and he did not think nature could improve upon what was going on now from a sugar planter's point of view. **Trinidad** (The Hon. G. T. Fenwick, July 18th).—Though there had been showers the weather had been too dry for the last three weeks for the time of year. Since the previous, however, there was a change, and nice rains have fallen, with every appearance of a continuance of them. The dry weather had probably done more good than harm in giving planters the opportunity of getting their land cleaned. We regret the absence of advices from **Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent**.

Beet Prospects.

According to Mr. Czarnikow, the effect of recent rains is not visible in last week's weights of Licht, but ought to shew during the next few weeks. Reports from France and Belgium are generally very favourable, and prospects in Germany and Austria have decidedly improved. The rain came in time and has freshened up the leaves which were drooping. The abnormally high polarization will, of course, decrease, to the benefit of the weight.

Coolie Immigration.

The Secretary of State has sanctioned the introduction of 2,400 Coolie Immigrants into Trinidad for this season. These will be introduced under the existing laws. For convenience of reference we append in tabular form the numbers of East India Immigrants into British Guiana and Trinidad during the past eight seasons :—

BRITISH GUIANA.					TRINIDAD.						
Season 1893-94	5,932	Season 1893-94	..	..	..	..	1,927
" 1894-95	7,114	" 1894-95	..	..	..	..	2,519
" 1895-96	2,474	" 1895-96	..	..	..	..	2,000
" 1896-97	2,494	" 1896-97	..	..	..	..	3,087
" 1897-98	1,202	" 1897-98	..	..	..	..	1,834
" 1898-99	2,399	" 1898-99	..	..	..	..	1,292
" 1899-00	4,274	" 1899-00	..	..	..	..	1,800
" 1900-01	*4,000	" 1900-01	..	..	..	..	*2,400
" 1901-02	*4,000	" 1901-02	..	..	..	..	*2,400

* Numbers sanctioned by the Government.

The Immigration Agent General for British Guiana reports that the savings of the return immigrants, who sailed for Calcutta in the "Lena," on July 3rd, amounted to \$25,000, and that jewellery of the value of \$4,500 was deposited with him for transmission to Calcutta.

The Mails.

We again appeal to Members of the West India Committee and West Indian Club to notify to the Secretary their address when visiting or leaving this country.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," July 1st, 1901:—**BARBADOS.**—Mrs. J. L. Pile, Capt. H. L. Fox, Mr. G. W. Hutchinson, Miss E. Hutchinson, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Boyle, Sister Mary Aquinai, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Burn, Mr. E. Hargreaves, Mr. H. Tietz. **DEMERARA.**—Mother Mary Columba, Rev. Mother Incarnation, Mr. J. A. Potbury, Mrs. Daly, Mrs. W. H. Nash, Mr. Justice Hewick, Sir D. Palmer Ross, C.M.G., Miss Palmer Ross, Mr. A. Brand, Mrs. and Miss Woodgate Jones. **JAMAICA.**—Mrs. and Miss Constantine, Hon. G. McGrath, Miss Wheatle, Miss Titley, Mr. H. T. Titley, Mrs. W. T. Eden, Masters McGrath (three), Mr. G. Leisse, Mr. J. E. Meikle, Capt. and Master Langmaid, Capt. and Mrs. Street. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. G. Pudsey, Misses M. and A. Devenish, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Carner, Miss M. Tappin, Mr. J. Meyer, Mr. H. S. Tappin, Mr. C. Ferricelli, Mr. S. Alberti, Mr. P. V. Figarelli. **GRENADA.** Mr. and Mrs. A. Hayward, Mrs. and Miss Urich, Mr. P. Urich, Mr. Geo. Brown. **ST. KITTS.**—Mr. Justice Danavall, Mrs. Danavall. **ST. LUCIA.**—Master A. Hunter.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," August 7th, 1901:—**BARBADOS.**—Master C. Wright, Master H. Manning, Master A. Manning, Lieut. Weldon. **DEMERARA.**—Dr. Fonseca, Mr. W. A. Mittelholzer, Mr. and Mrs. De Cairns, Dr. and Mrs. McKinnon, Mr. Quelch, Dr. Weddup. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. F. Vyver, Mr. F. G. Vyver, Mr. W. H. Dyson. **TRINIDAD.**—Mrs. I. Read, Mr. T. B. Marriott. **ST. LUCIA.**—Dr. Fergusson, Mr. G. Dennehy, Miss L. Dennehy, Miss Fergusson. **GRENADA.**—Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Mitzger, Miss Copeland, Mr. A. S. T. Long. **TOBAGO.**—Rev. S. R. Browne.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," July 24th, 1901:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. C. G. Bradley, Miss N. Broderick, Mr. R. N. Bonitto, Rev. J. B. Ellis, Mrs. J. B. Ellis, Mr. H. G. Grove, Mr. W. G. Heaver, Captain D. G. Parsons.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," August 3rd, 1901:—**JAMAICA.**—Messrs. W. R. and E. T. Awdry, two Misses Clerk, Mr. Coombs, Mr. Donald, Lieut. A. E. Fitzgerald, Messrs. C. and E. Gideon, Mr. A. M. Hall, Master W. L. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Livingstone, Rev. and Mrs. McNeil, Mr. J. D. Musson, Lieut. G. M. Oldham, Mr. J. Pringle, Mr. Sullivan, Mr., Mrs., Master and Miss Thompson, Miss S. R. Wright.

Rum.

The market generally during the past month has been very inactive. However towards the close rather more business has been transacted, holders having met the buyers to the extent of 1d. per gallon. A considerable quantity of proof descriptions has been disposed of, amounting to about 1,600 puns. Demerara at 11d. to 11½d., thus greatly relieving the first hand stock. A quiet tone has prevailed in the Jamaica market, but, as importers decided to meet the requirements of the trade, a fair business has passed at a decline of 1d. per gallon. Stocks have increased during the period under review, the total now amounting to 26,296 puns., against 17,614 last year, and 20,555 in 1899.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—The tone of the market during the last month has been extremely dull with scarcely any support forthcoming either for home trade or export; prices have continued to give way until at the close they show a further decline of fully 2/- per cwt. At the last public sales, held on the 30th July, out of a total of 1,938 bags offered barely 700 were sold, and the lower prices appear to offer no inducement to the trade. Quotations are 65/- to 69/- for low to good middling, and 69/6 to 85/- for fine and superior.

	1901	1900
LANDED, 1st Jan. to 27th July ..	25,418 bags	against 43,374 bags.
DELIVERED	26,749 ..	27,383 ..
STOCK, 27th July	24,696 ..	34,646 ..

GRENADA.—With practically nothing offering during the first three weeks of the last month this market remained in a quiet state and presented no feature of interest. At the sales held on the 30th July 1,716 bags were offered and, meeting with a moderate demand, about 1,000 bags sold at previous rates to a decline of 1/- per cwt. Quotations being 59/6 to 61/- for ordinary to good fair and 61/6 to 66/6 for middling to fair.

	1901	1900
LANDED 1st Jan. to 27th July ..	36,591 bags	against 36,652 bags.
DELIVERED	30,385 ..	30,392 ..
STOCK, 27th July	14,242 ..	15,429 ..

West India Produce.

(Landed terms) **PIMENTO** ... 2½d. to 3d. per lb.
GINGER ... 35s. to 62s. per cwt.
BEESWAX £7 7s. 6d. to £7 15s. per cwt.
HONEY ... 14s. to 24s. per cwt.
LIME JUICE 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per gall.

LOGWOOD... .. £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 to £4 5s. per ton.
FUSTIC £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
" ROOTS ... £3 12s. 6d. to £3 17s. 6d. per ton.
ARROWROOT ... Good manufacturing, 1½d. per lb.

Exports.

From—	Sugar. Hhds.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold. ozs.	Co'npts.	Molasses. Puns.	Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
BARBADOS—										
Jan. 1st. to July 18th, 1901	58,946	—	—	—	—	—	42,331			
Jan. 1st. to July 18th, 1900	39,031	—	—	—	—	—	29,463			
BRITISH GUIANA—	Tons.									
Jan. 1st to July 17th, 1901	33,046	11,540	52,013	4,988	50,331	76,250	132			
Jan. 1st to July 16th, 1900	37,455	12,682	16,669	—	54,677	128	1,593			
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.			Coffee lbs.	Asphalt. Tons.		Puns.	Tres.	Brls.	
Jan. 1st to July 17th, 1901	454,949	106	16,601,194	15,040	107,312	8,621,507	2,589	143	245	
Jan. 1st to July 17th, 1900	369,282	578	20,803,920	1,860	65,442	5,437,851	5,963	72	74	

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 27th July	159,569	49,352	55,952	89,178	79,253
France, 1st July	245,915	275,608	330,000	303,594	333,216
Germany, 1st July	370,493*	282,159*	342,091*	436,630*	243,629
Hamburg, 31st July	52,300	44,700	144,600	137,700	63,500
Austria-Hungary, 1st July	251,758	255,338	230,014	268,481	324,085
Holland, 15th July	27,683	18,978	11,065	39,927	57,205
Belgium, 15th July	12,983	37,219	53,447	72,136	46,121
United States, 31st July, Total Stocks	1,120,701	963,354	1,167,169	1,347,646	1,147,009
Cuba, six principal ports, 31st July, Total Stocks.....	253,000	133,287	242,765	306,862	535,678
Cargoes afloat, 1st August	110,000	11,994	48,500	70,000	10,400
.....	87,975	63,382	79,386	29,376	27,961
Total	4,571,676	1,172,017	1,537,820	1,753,884	1,721,048

* Total stocks, not Lights.

Weather Telegrams.

BRITISH GUIANA.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), July 25th, "Moderate rain generally."
(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), August 2nd, "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation."
TRINIDAD.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), July 29th, "Showery and favourable for cultivation."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications:—"*Badminton Magazine*," No. 70, August, containing article, "Three days with a Gun in Guiana," by Mr. E. R. Dawson, "Sweet Potatoes from the West Indies," and "Cultivation of Vegetables in Barbados," issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, "Selections from Colonial Medical Reports of 1898 and 1899," including British Guiana, British Honduras, St. Kitts Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad, "The Financial News," "The International Sugar Journal," August, No. 32, Vol. 3. "The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre," "The Louisiana Planter," "Our Western Empire," Vol. 1., No. 1, "The Produce Markets Review," *Antigua Market Report* (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.), *Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer* (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.), *Barbados Market Report* (Messrs. Leacock & Co.), *Barbados Market Review* (Messrs. Jones & Swan), *Demerara Market Reports* (Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co., The Chamber of Commerce, and Messrs. Wieting & Richter), *Trinidad Market Reports* (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co., Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.), *Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report* (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and *Circulars from Messrs. C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co., (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Park Son & Co.'s New York Produce and Market Reports, Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and the following West Indian Newspapers:—*

The Antigua Observer.
The Antigua Standard.
The Barbados Advocate.
The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).
The Barbados Globe.
The Clarion (British Honduras).
The Argosy (Demerara).

The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).
The Dominican.
The Dominica Guardian.
The Federalist & Grenada People.
The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).
The Gleaner (Jamaica).
The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).

The St. Christopher Advertiser.
The Voice (St. Lucia).
The Sentry (St. Vincent).
The Times (St. Vincent).
The Daily News (Trinidad).
The Mirror (Trinidad).
The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).

Special Notice.

Members of the West India Committee are earnestly requested to notify to the Secretary their address when visiting or leaving this country. Full particulars of Membership may be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Billiter Square Buildings, London, E.C.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

West India Committee.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, August 20th, 1901.

The Deutsche Zuckerindustrie on Bounty Abolition.

The *Deutsche Zuckerindustrie*, contrary to its former views, appears to be now bitterly hostile to all attempts to settle the bounty question. The Editor has seized on the recent debate on the Finance Bill as a means of emphasizing his protest against the abolition of bounties. In order to prove that there is no fear of countervailing duties in England, he quotes the Chancellor of the Exchequer's reply to the motion of Mr. Flower, to give preferential treatment to the Colonies. The affirmation of the Minister that preferential duties are of no benefit to producers in the Colonies is, the Editor argues, in flat contradiction to the views of those who instigated the "differential duties in favour of cane sugar in force in British East India." This criticism was so erroneous and mischievous that Mr. Martineau wrote "to point out that there is no connection between preferential rates on Colonial Sugar and duties to countervail Bounties. In the first case the Colonies are simply protected, in the second, the duty is a duty on bounties, not on sugar. It is paid by the bounty-fed producer, not by the British consumer, and it is levied not for the purpose of giving a preference to the Colonial producer, but in order to remove a preference to foreign producers in British Markets." The Editor disputes the accuracy of this view, and a long correspondence has resulted which will at all events have the useful effect of enabling the readers of the *Deutsche Zuckerindustrie* to hear both sides of the sugar question, and perhaps to come to the conclusion that abolition of bounties would after all be the most advantageous settlement so far as their own interests are concerned. This is already the view of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, and apparently of its readers.

The Usual Mail Delays.

Once more there has been an exasperating delay in the delivery of the Mails from British Guiana and the West Indies. The R.M.S. "La Plata" anchored off Plymouth at 8 p.m. on August 14th. Missing the 8.26 p.m. train, the Mails were as usual consigned to Exeter in a *goods train*, where they were transferred to a slow passenger train, which reached Paddington at 12.33 p.m. on August 15th, with the result that no delivery of letters was made at the Committee Room before 3.40 p.m. on that day, while we are informed by the West India Associations in those cities that letters did not reach Liverpool till 19 hours and Glasgow till 36 hours after the arrival of the Mail Steamer! Now a reference to Bradshaw shows that the distance between Plymouth and Bristol can be covered by a fast train in 2¾ hours, a time which a light Mail special could doubtless improve on. Had the Mails been sent in a "special" as far as Bristol, even as late as 9.45 p.m., they could have reached Bristol at 12.30 a.m., connecting there with the 12.45 for Paddington, and the 1.20 a.m. via the Severn Tunnel for the North, thus ensuring a delivery early on August 16th, instead of at an hour so nearly coinciding with the closing of the banks. The inconvenience thus caused is felt as much in official as in unofficial quarters and we have reason to believe that further representations are about to be made by the Colonial Office to the Post Office on this subject, which we hope may result in the speedy adoption of the recommendation so often put forward by the West India Committee.

Nevis and Steamer Communication.

We recently received from Estates Proprietors in Nevis complaints as to the inconvenience caused by the failure of steamers to call there and the consequent difficulty which was experienced of shipping the Sugar Crop of the Island. Her late Majesty's Commissioners, who visited the West Indies in 1897, specifically referred to Nevis as an Island requiring cheap and frequent means of communication with the other islands. When, however, it was decided to give effect to the recommendations of the

Commission by entering into a contract with Messrs. Pickford & Black, Nevis was omitted from the arrangements and Proprietors were consequently placed at a considerable disadvantage as compared with their more fortunate neighbours in St. Kitts and Antigua, having in many cases to bear the cost of drogherage for their produce from Charlestown to Basseterre, St. Kitts, a distance of 11 miles. We accordingly drew Mr. Chamberlain's attention to the matter and are glad to be able to record the receipt of an assurance from him that the question of a call at Nevis by the Steamers of Messrs. Pickford & Black's Line shall not be overlooked, should any opportunity occur of modifying the existing conditions of the Contract.

The Royal Mail Company and Fruit.

Many inaccurate statements have recently appeared in the Press as to the arrangements being made for the shipment of fruit from the West Indies to this Country by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Such statements as that to the effect that bunches of bananas will be packed in huge hermetically-sealed drums like tomato cans may be at once dismissed as void of foundation. The actual facts are these: Lawtons Patents, Limited, have been allowed on certain terms to fit a part of the R.M.S. "Para," with an air-tight room in which bananas, &c., can be carried on the homeward voyage, the air in that space being dealt with according to their process. The amount of space taken is between 60,000 and 70,000 cubic feet. The "Para" sailed from Southampton on August 7th, and is due back at that Port on September 12th.

New Member.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on August 8th inst., Mr. Cyril Gurney in the chair, Mr. ROBERT KIRKE, proposed by Mr. Edward G. Barr and seconded by Mr. A. McConnell, was elected a Member of the West India Committee.

The New Governors.

Sir H. Jackson, the newly-appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands, will leave for Antigua in the middle of October. Sir James A. Swettenham, who is expected to return from the United States on November 6th, will, we are informed, assume the Governorship of British Guiana at the end of December.

Mail Notes.

The R.M.S. "La Plata" anchored off Plymouth at 8.30 p.m. on August 14th. The mails were despatched by the 3.40 a.m. train, and the first delivery of letters was made at the Committee Room at 3.40 p.m. August 15th. Up to July 31st the weather throughout the West Indies appears to have been favourable for the growing crops. Our Hon. Correspondent in **Barbados**, Mr. Foster M. Alleyne, has been courteous enough to send us a copy of the memorandum on the subject of the cane fires, presented to the Barbados Agricultural Society by a sub-committee of that body. We believe Mr. Alleyne has rendered the most valuable assistance of his legal knowledge and experience in dealing with the subject, and we trust that effective legislation will be the result. Dr. D. Morris delivered an important lecture on the sugar cane in the Planters' Hall, on July 23rd, which is reported at length in the Barbados press. From **British Guiana** (J. C. McCowan, Esq.) we learn that at a meeting of the Planters' Association, held on July 29th, Mr. R. G. Duncan was elected chairman, and Messrs. J. Monkhouse, H. Y. Delafons and S. H. Culpeper, members of the Council, for the current year. The question of improved Mail services was brought up at the meeting, and the feeling expressed was that the Colony could not afford to pay more than it was doing at present. Sir Walter Sendall returned by the Mail, and Mr. Ashmore, the Government Secretary, had been sworn in as Acting-Governor. The weather had been favourable, good showers with alternate sunshine prevailing, and the crop on the ground was reported to be doing fairly well. There was no transaction of produce to report. The nominal quotation for refining crystals was \$2.32. In **Dominica** (E. A. Agar, Esq.) the lime crop was coming in well, though some of the estates on the Leeward Coast appear to have suffered somewhat from the drought, but the crop was expected to exceed last year's. The weather continued wet and seasonable. Mr. Septimus Wells has again been kind enough to provide us with interesting notes regarding **Grenada**, where the favourable weather still continued to the great satisfaction of agriculturists who were looking forward to a good crop of cocoa. Although the rains had been very heavy at times, little injury had been caused to cultivation or roads by the flooding of streams. Dr. Paulin Orgias, who had filled the office of Surgeon-General of the Colony for 20 years, and had practised in the Island (of which he is a native), for nearly 50 years, had been entertained at a banquet at the "Home Hotel," upon his retirement from the Government service. The Governor was preparing a new medical scheme, the details of which

were as yet a secret, for the Windward Islands. An epidemic of dysentery had broken out in some districts of the Island, the malady being attributed to the sudden change of the weather. From **Carriacou** reports were favourable. Water was now obtainable there in abundance and the people were actively engaged in planting pigeon peas and corn, two of the staple products of the Island. **Jamaica** (S. Soutar, Esq.)—The weather during the fortnight had been all that could be desired by the growing crops, most of which were promising. Coffee and oranges would be both early and good. Bananas were in abundant supply, but there was little or no demand. Business was very dull, and prices of almost all products were low. The revenue of the Colony had fallen very short of the estimate. From Mr. W. J. S. Tucker we have received some interesting information respecting **Tobago**, communicated to him by Mr. Short of that Island. The principle requirements of the Island appear to be telegraphic communication with Trinidad (in Circular 49 we were able to announce that the Government contemplated the introduction of a system of wireless telegraphy for these Islands), and coasting steamers—these latter are likely to be started on September 1st. The cocoa crop is not likely to exceed last year's in spite of the increased cultivation, as the long spell of dry weather has affected the yield, but there should be a good increase next year. Castillea rubber is being largely planted up. There are now from 95,000 to 100,000 Castillea rubber trees planted, the majority of which are from one to four years old, and about 7,000 Ceara rubber trees. A sample of Castillea rubber sent home last year was valued by Lewis & Peat at 3s. 6d. per lb. Sugar remained stationary, but in another two or three years a great decrease in cane cultivation was to be expected. The Hon. E. G. Todd reports from **St. Kitts** that the crop prospects could not be better so far as could be judged at that distance from their conclusion. The weather was all that could be wished for. Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. inform us that general disappointment was felt in **St. Vincent** at the decision of the Government not to settle some of the Boer prisoners in the Island. The circulation of money which their settlement in the Island would have entailed would have looked upon by the people as a perfect godsend. The weather continued favourable for all growing crops. In **Trinidad** the weather was hot and showery and most favourable to agriculturists. The Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick sends us the following table, which shows the marvellous expansion of the cane farming industry in the Island:—

CANE FARMERS' CROP, 1901.

ESTATE.	Tons of Sugar made from Estate Canes Not Weighed.	Tons of Estate Canes Ground.	Tons of Canes Purchased.	Amount Paid for Canes.	Number of Farmers.	
					East India.	West India.
Arancenez	183	—	950	£1,571	16	27
Breechin Castle	—	38,981	4,340	9,758	61	105
Bronite	1,015	—	14,348	32,509	255	211
Caroni	—	34,536	1,556	2,597	53	78
Craigish	—	1,649	5,195	11,701	148	156
Colonial Co.'s Estates	—	131,015	28,911	59,412	966	1,177
Esperanza	—	27,977	13,026	28,573	292	277
Forres Park (d)	—	9,294	12,787	30,478	241	178
Hindustani	—	3,932	5,058	10,116	107	192
Lothians	404	—	5,716	13,159	160	420
Mon Desir	(b) 400	—	3,284	6,380	(c) 80	(c) 100
Mon Plaisir	—	15,607	2,485	5,896	71	112
Orange Grove	—	35,133	7,467	13,443	101	487
Palmiste	—	12,525	17,290	38,486	330	307
Perseverance, Cedros	—	10,490	3,019	8,935	19	37
Reform	(h) 1,650	—	16,800	38,987	(c) 399	(c) 400
Tennant's Estates	—	82,208	17,010	38,220	466	402
Woodford Lodge	—	31,550	(j) 8,685	19,801	63	71
	3,652	434,003	169,918	369,482	3,819	4,737
Returns for 1898	—	—	105,753	202,901	2,326	3,824
" " 1899	1,571	426,305	100,741	219,011	2,825	3,870
" " 1900	1,280	364,355	105,996	227,865	2,826	3,591

(a) 95 acres Estate canes and 35 acres Farmers' Canes left over owing to break-up of weather.
 (b) Total crop from both Estate and Farmers' Canes.
 (c) Estimated. (d) In addition to 3,345 tons purchased from Endeavour Estate on private terms.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," August 14th, 1901:—**BARBADOS**.—2nd-Lt. G. C. B. Farrell, Mr. Bert. de Lamarre, Mr. Joseph Staal, Mr. C. F. Viles, Mr. H. Howden, Mr. C. da Costa, Dr. D. Morris, C.M.G., and Mrs. Morris, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. A. H. Easty, Master J. C. Hutson, Mr. J. P. M. Burton. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. E. J. Macquarrie, Dr. Dardelin, Sir W. J. and Lady Sendall, Capt. Fielden, Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. M. de Cairos, Hon. Jas. Thomson, Mr. G. Sanford. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. and Mrs. D. I. Motta, Miss DaCosta, Master Delgado, Hon. J. V. and Mrs. Calder, Mrs. W. C. G. Arrowsmith, Miss Gladys M. Gruchy, Mr. E. F. H. Cox, Mrs. G. E. Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Nutt, Miss Lewis. **TRINIDAD**.—Mrs. E. May, Mr. E. W. Whiteaway, Mr. and Mrs. L. O'Connor, Miss E. Gopaul, Mr. James Miller, Mr. J. B. Todd, Mr. Siebert, Mr. Louis Gehrels, Mr. Angel Mattei, Mr. Fco. Komagnoli, Mr. and Mrs. A. Pietrantonio. **GRENADA**.—Rev. Father Holmes. **St. Kitts**.—Rev. M. B. King. **St. Lucia**.—Miss Weymouth. **St. Vincent**.—Mrs. and Miss Smith. **Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," August 21st, 1901**:—**BARBADOS**.—Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hunter. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. and Mrs. Garnett, Mr. E. W. F. English, Mrs. and Miss Cruickshank. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. W. H. Dickson, Mr. Prendergast, Mr. De Jonge. **TRINIDAD**.—Dr. T. King, Dr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer, Master Leotaud, Mr. F. Pugsion, Mr. A. S. Bowen, Mr. E. Biemans, Dr. C. Bovallius, Mr. Freymuth. **GRENADA**.—Miss N. Alexis, Miss E. Rauson.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," August 7th, 1901:—**JAMAICA.**—Dr. R. G. S. Bell, Mr. R. W. Bradley, Mr. G. N. Cox, Miss Cover, Right Rev., Mrs. and Master Douet, Miss J. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis, Mr. J. Ferguson, Mr. D. Ferguson, Mr. R. C. Guy, Master M. Gallwey, Miss House, Mr. and Mrs. Lamb, Mr. E. J. Morales, Mrs. and two Misses Osmond, Master A. F. Roxburgh, Mrs. and two Misses Kerrie, Mr. and Mrs. Saucean, Mr. L. C. Vandenbroeck, Mr. G. Wihan, Mrs. Withers, Mr. R. Bewley, Miss Nellie Scott, Mr. Ginter.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," August 17th, 1901:—**JAMAICA.**—

Rt. Rev. The Archbishop of the West Indies, Rev. H. Alcock, Mrs. H. J. Baker, Mr. Barnes, Mr. E. Boyle, Mr. Bradford, Mr. Braham, Mr. and Mrs. Reid Campbell, Mr. J. G. Earle, Mrs. E. A. H. Haggart, Mr. E. C. Hendy, Mr. Schans, Mr. J. Smith, Mr. Spence, Mr. A. E. Sutcliffe, Miss A. E. Holden, Mr. Johnson, Miss Jones, Lieut. W. E. Lancaster, Dr. E. J. O. Nixon, Mr. Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. D. Graham-Young, Mr. Miguel Aleman, Mr. T. H. Littlebury, Mrs. T. H. Littlebury.

Rum.

There is no change to report in this market, and sales are of a retail character.

Cocoa.

The Market remains steady, with small sales passing at previous rates, including 130 bags Trinidad at 67s. to 68s.

West India Produce.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ... 2½d. to 3d. per lb.	LOGWOOD £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ... 37s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 to £4 5s. per ton.
BEEWAX £7 5s. to £7 12s. 6d. per cwt.	FUSTIC £4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton.
HONEY ... 14s. to 23s. per cwt.	" ROOTS £3 15s. to £4 per ton.
LIME JUICE 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. per gall.	ARROWROOT ... Good manufacturing, 1½d. per lb.

Exports.

From—	Sugar. Hbds.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.			
BARBADOS —										
Jan. 1st. to August 1st, 1901	59,770	—	—	—	—	—	44,148			
Jan. 1st. to August 1st, 1900	44,158	—	—	—	—	—	30,427			
BRITISH GUIANA —	Tons.									
Jan. 1st to July 31st, 1901	35,856	12,530	55,859	4,988	54,232	76,250	518			
Jan. 1st to August 2nd, 1900	37,566	12,702	16,669	—	59,215	128	1,593			
TRINIDAD —	Bags & Brls.			Coffee lbs.	Asphalt. Tons.		Puns.	Tons.	Brls.	
Jan. 1st to July 31st, 1901	461,503	106	17,592,804	15,840	111,085	9,277,677	2,738	143	245	
Jan. 1st to July 31st, 1900	373,632	578	22,450,880	2,180	73,257	5,652,571	6,438	72	74	

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 10th August	141,966	51,328	49,332	87,407	70,462
France, 1st August	187,508	215,110	289,000	253,139	291,759
Germany, 1st August	246,366*	173,210*	205,300*	286,673*	159,262
Hamburg, 14th August	63,880	38,200	143,200	129,800	53,500
Austria-Hungary, 1st August	178,000	168,415	139,945	207,522	258,721
Holland, 1st August	19,900	11,665	6,438	32,851	57,573
Belgium, 1st August	11,193	28,640	44,656	65,565	36,384
United States, 14th August, Total Stocks	848,813	686,568	879,871	1,062,957	927,661
Cuba, six principal ports, 14th August, Total Stocks ...	201,000	107,211	206,313	264,554	510,477
Cargoes afloat, 15th August	96,000	9,500	50,000	72,809	8,900
	169,937	158,512	208,796	88,422	30,920
Total.....	1,315,750	961,791	1,344,980	1,483,742	1,477,958

* Total stocks, not Licht's.

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), August 6th, "Seasonable weather." August 10th, "Weather is favourable for the growing crops." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), August 12th, "Heavy showers beneficial to the cultivation." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), August 13th, "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation."

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

West India Committee.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, September 3rd, 1901.

The Brussels Conference.

In our Circular No. 50 we announced that His Majesty's Government had given its adhesion to the forthcoming Brussels Conference, and that France and Austria had also consented to attend. We are now glad to be able to report that the Conference is likely to meet in October. We understand that the delay has been caused by the desire that Roumania should participate in the deliberations. She has now consented to do so, and we hear that Germany has also agreed. We presume, therefore, that the official notification of the reassembling of this Conference, which was adjourned on June 25th, 1898, will shortly be announced.

Mail Delays.

It gives us much satisfaction to be able to announce that arrangements have now been completed which will obviate the delays so constantly experienced of late in the delivery of the mail letters from British Guiana and the West Indies. The recommendations of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have been adopted, and in future, when the mails are landed between the hours of 8.26 p.m. and 5.30 a.m. they will be conveyed by special train to Bristol or Exeter when such a course will enable them to catch mail trains for London and the North, and when necessary direct to London. The special train will also take such passengers as are desirous of availing themselves of it. The new arrangements are in fact already in operation. The mails from the R.M.S. "Trent," which were landed at Plymouth after the departure of the night mail, were despatched in a special train to Exeter, where they were transferred to the night mails, with the result that a delivery of letters in London took place after first post to the great satisfaction of all concerned, instead of at 4 p.m. as would otherwise have been the case. Our thanks are due to the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, the *Times*, and the Press generally, for the support they have accorded to us in fighting the battle of the mails, which has resulted in such a successful issue. Apart from the question of the mails, it will be of the utmost satisfaction to our friends in the West Indies to know that when no regular train is available a special train will be guaranteed.

The Recent Gale.

On Wednesday, August 21st, we received by cable the intimation that it was blowing a hurricane at Kingstown, St. Vincent, and that the schooner "Carib" had been wrecked, while no particulars had been received from the country districts. We at once communicated this information to the Secretary of State, who had received no advices but immediately despatched a telegram of enquiry to Sir R. B. Llewelyn, the Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands. On August 22nd we received reassuring messages from Barbados and St. Vincent; from the former Island to the effect that there had been a gale of wind and that, though there had been heavy rains generally throughout the Island, no damage was done on land, and from the latter that the estates had not suffered damage, though vessels and jetties had been destroyed. This reassuring news was strengthened by the following telegrams from Sir Robert Llewelyn, which we were able to communicate to the press on August 26th: "Heavy gale from the ——" passed Grenada and St. Vincent; damage estimated, public works St. Vincent £1,000; no damage Grenada; no lives lost; no news from St. Lucia; expect to receive further reports; outward mail overdue to-morrow morning." "In continuation of my telegram of

* The direction of the wind was not stated in the telegram.

yesterday's date, Administrator, St. Vincent, reports by post, country uninjured: damage confined to Government wharf, sea-frontage and local shipping in harbour, Kingstown. Very heavy sea caused all the damage, not wind."

Cane Farming in Trinidad.

Of late years the cane farming industry, whereby the sugar canes are grown by small farmers who sell their crop to the factories, has made rapid strides in Trinidad. In our last Circular, No. 51, page 3, we gave details of the crop for 1901, and the following table will show conclusively what a large industry cane farming is becoming in Trinidad:—

Canes Grown by Farmers in Trinidad.

Year.	Received by Colonial Co. Tons.	Received by others. Tons.	Total.	Number of Farmers.
1882	321	—	321	—
1883	783	—	783	—
1884	2,242	—	2,242	—
1885	3,058	—	3,058	—
1886	2,260	—	2,260	—
1887	4,648	—	4,648	—
1888	6,913	—	6,913	—
1889	9,668	—	9,668	—
1890	8,549	—	8,549	—
1891	6,355	—	6,355	—
1892	6,418	—	6,418	—
1893	3,624	—	3,624	—
1894	2,623	—	2,623	—
1895	4,873	30,585	35,458	3,712
1896	19,340	55,921	75,261	3,712
1897	18,558	—	18,558	—
1898	22,941	82,812	105,753	6,140
1899	22,717	84,024	106,741	6,696
1900	17,561	98,435	115,996	6,417
1901	27,917	142,001	169,918	8,556

The system now in vogue is for the cane farmers to cut their canes at their own time, and deliver them at the factories or weighing stations, the price paid for them being generally 9s. per ton. For some years the Colonial Company's factory was the only one purchasing canes, but the system soon began to spread to other districts, and the industry increased so rapidly that in 1895 returns were called for by the Agricultural Society from all the factories, and have been made ever since with the exception of 1897. We hope that the publication of the above figures may prove an incentive to the Agricultural Society to obtain, as far as possible, the data for that year. The inauguration of this successful industry is due to our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, who had the valuable assistance of the Rev. W. Grant of San Fernando who was instrumental in dissipating the suspicion which existed in the minds of the Creoles concerning it.

The Trade of Trinidad.

We are indebted to Professor Carmody for copies of a leaflet which, on behalf of the Agricultural Society, he has compiled for the Halifax Exhibition, giving statistics of Trinidad trade. The values of the imports and exports from 1897 to 1900 are given, from which it appears that the trade of the Island with Canada at present represents only 1.9 per cent. of the total. Professor Carmody comments on the principal exports of the Island in the following terms:—

Trinidad Cacao has a very high reputation in the world's markets. As exported, the beans have undergone a process of fermentation and subsequent drying in the scorching tropical sun. The keeping qualities of Trinidad-cured Cacao are remarkable. It undergoes a further process of manufacture in the importing countries, and is usually sold,

1. With portion of the fat extracted,
2. With the addition of starch (prepared cacao),
3. With the addition of sugar (chocolate).

The sale of Chocolate Confectionery has increased enormously in recent years; and the general consumption of Cacao is increasing every year. The Cacao and Chocolate made in the colony contain all the fat (50 per cent.) natural to the Cacao Bean, and without any admixture of starch or sugar. Cacao Butter is not a local production, but is a bye-product in the manufacture of the first type of Cacao referred to above.

Sugar prepared exclusively from the Sugar Cane in the large Central Factories of the Colony. In these factories, sugar can be produced polarising 98 to 99 per cent. of pure sugar, and then is equal to Refined Sugar. None of the yellow or white Crystals of similar quality require refining. The refining process removes the characteristic agreeable flavour of cane sugar. Beet sugar is not fit for consumption until the characteristic disagreeable flavour is removed by refining. Herein lies the chief difference between *Cane* and *Beet* sugars.

The superiority of cane over beet sugar is seen especially in:—

1. Sweetened Aerated drinks, Cordials, Liqueurs, &c.
2. Fruit preserving.
3. Brewing.
4. Cookery.

Large quantities of Molasses are produced as a bye-product in the manufacture of sugar. The molasses from cane sugar is very superior to that from beet which contains an excessive quantity of alkaline salts.

Molasses is used for

1. Making rum.
2. Cattle feeding.
3. Making Golden Syrup, Treacle, &c.

Rum is made locally from molasses, and 300,000 gallons are consumed annually in Trinidad. Among the Liqueurs made from it rum shrub is the best known. Bay rum is another local product.

Mail Notes.

The Royal Mail Steamer "Trent" anchored off Plymouth at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, August 27th. The Mails were dispatched by special train, and were delivered by first post on Wednesday, August 28th. The mail brought letters dated up to August 15th, and from these it appears that, though there has been no revival of commercial activity, conditions for the growing crops continue favourable. Writing from **Barbados** on August 15th, Mr. Forster M. Alleyne said, "Our only hope is the reassembly of the Brussels Conference, and we are rejoiced to see from your Circular, No. 49, that there is good hope of its being held. This seems to us to be our last chance of fair play. The increasing crops of Cuba and Porto Rico, even without the probable preferential treatment of these Islands by the United States, point to a rapid extinction of a market for us in America. We shall not know where to look if our home markets are still closed to us. Is this cruelty going to last for ever?" His estimate of 65,000 hhds. for the Island's Crop for the year seemed likely to be exceeded as over 64,000 hhds. had already been shipped. By the courtesy of the Hon. J. Gardiner Austin (whose preferment to the legislative Council of the Island appears to have caused much satisfaction) we hope shortly to be in a position to publish statistics of the Island crops from 1806, thereby supplementing the figures from 1843 to 1900, which we gave in Circular No. 48. There had been a wonderful improvement in the canes, the growth being everywhere most marked. In St. Lucy's parish the abnormal rains of July 5th, amounting in some places to over 20 ins. in one day, had caused a wash and a partial loss of canes, but only that over a certain area. As a whole, the heavy rains had done unmixed good. August had been a good month in most places, but they were very greedy at that time of the year and there were few estates which would not be glad of an inch. The practical lectures to planters inaugurated by Dr. Morris had been continued by Professor D'Albuquerque, and the attendance had been most gratifying. Certainly over 150 managers and practical planters had been present at them, abundant proof that the Barbadian Planter was always prepared to take any hint. All these men had to drive many miles to attend these lectures. In **British Guiana** (J. C. McCowan, Esq.) the weather had been showery and favourable. On some estates in Berbice and Essequibo more rain was wanted. A meeting of the new Agricultural Board was held on August 9th, particulars of which will be found in the Mail Edition of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle* (August 14th, p. 4). 300 time-expired coolies had arrived in the Colony from St. Lucia en route to India by the next return ship then shortly due. The weather in **Dominica** (E. A. Agar, Esq.) was favourable. The Island was sending a small representative collection of exhibits to the Halifax Exhibition, open early in September. It was unfortunate that the notice given was too short to allow of much being collected, but it was proposed to renew the large quantity of fresh fruit by every steamer while the Exhibition remained open, and this it was hoped would attract attention. From **Jamaica** (S. Soutar, Esq.) we learn that the weather continued favourable for the growing crops, which had made a good start. In the interior of the Island almost daily rains have fallen, while on the sea coast more rain would be acceptable. The valuation law passed last session after considerable pressure from the Government, under which property owners had to make returns by the 31st of August of all property in their

possession, giving description of the same including particulars of tenure, cultivation, gross value, rental value and unimproved value, was meeting with considerable opposition, and it was feared that certain large Corporations in the Island might cease their operations. In **St. Kitts** (Hon. Edward G. Todd) the Government of the Presidency was preparing an ordinance to modify the existing spirit excise law, the feature of which appeared to be the introduction of the "locked still" system. The young crop looked splendid, the weather having been sunshiny with refreshing light showers. In **Trinidad** there was little or nothing stirring of general interest. The weather was very unsettled, days of great heat and absence of rain being followed by severe thunder storms and heavy showers. It was, however, good growing weather.

The Circular.

When, at the commencement of the new Century, we commenced to issue the *Circular* fortnightly instead of monthly, we expressed the hope that Members would help us to continue to do so by introducing candidates for election to the West India Committee. Thirty-three new members have been elected since January 1st, and we hope that Members who appreciate the *Circular* will mark their approval by assisting us to augment that number before the end of the year.

Beet Prospects.

According to Mr. Czarnikow the reports of the growing Beet crops are generally favourable, though Licht's weights for German districts show great irregularity. That crop as well as the French crop were exceptionally good last year; it would be rash to calculate again on exceptional results, but the sowings in Germany are about 7 per cent. more, whilst France has probably only sown a small excess. In Austria, however, last year's crop was not specially good, and, in addition to 7 per cent. extra sowings, an increased yield per acre seem to be expected. The news from some Russian districts about damage done by insects is decidedly unfavourable, though exaggerated in the newspapers; it seems that near Kieff 20 to 25 per cent. of the fields are partly destroyed. Russian crops do not, however, as a rule, influence our markets much.

Obituary.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Leon Giuseppi, which occurred in Trinidad on the 7th ult. Mr. Giuseppi was for many years a member of the West India Committee.

Erratum.

In our last Circular, under the heading "The Royal Mail Company and Fruit," we referred to the space to be set aside in the R.M.S. "Para" for the conveyance of fruit as 60,000 cubic feet. This was obviously a slip and should have been 10,000 cubic feet. The "Para" is due at Southampton, September 26th.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," August 28th, 1901.—**BARBADOS**.—Miss L. Trimmingham, Mrs. Milner, Miss Inez, Mr. F. E. W. G. Austin, Captain Jones, Mr. N. T. Carrington, Mr. F. N. Martinez, Mr. R. A. Roebuck. **DEMERARA**.—Mrs. F. Fowler, Col. and Mrs. McInnis, Miss Bull, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Conrad. **JAMAICA**.—Miss E. E. Wilson, Mr. A. B. Glen, Mr. G. A. Douglas, Mr. A. Dews, Mr. A. Pawsey, Dr. and Mrs. Berry, Major and Mrs. Evans-Hombe, Capt. J. E. L. Gibbs. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. W. Riley, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Sellier, Miss A. L. Sellier, Mr. G. E. Cleaver, Mr. Ernest John, Mr. H. W. Richardson, Mr. C. K. Jardine, Mr. E. J. Scott. **ANTIGUA**.—Miss Robertson, Mr. Robt. McDonald, Mrs. McDonald, Mr. H. Goodwin. **DOMINICA**.—Miss D'Aeth, Mr. D'Aeth. **GRENADA**.—Miss Susan Bell, His Honor Chief Justice Tarring. **ST. LUCIA**.—Lieut. A. W. Hepper, R.E., Dr. Born, Mrs. Jenner-Parsons, The Hon. S. Barnard. **ST. VINCENT**.—His Honor Chief Justice J. B. Walker.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," September 4th, 1901.—**BARBADOS**.—Miss Hodgson. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. T. Edmondston, Mr. and Mrs. McCulloch, Miss McCulloch, Miss Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Summerson. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. D. Young, Miss Steimett, Miss Ormsby, Mr. L. Smith. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. A. M. Low, Mr. R. A. Low, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. R. Cambridge, Senor Don Garcia Permay. **DOMINICA**.—Mr. S. Davies, Mr. J. Sowray. **GRENADA**.—Mr. G. Kent.

Forward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," September 18th, 1901.—**BARBADOS**.—Rev. and Mrs. Menzies. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. A. P. Mackey, Mr. W. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Murray, Miss Fowler, Mr. W. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. G. R.

Garnett, Mrs. C. Ridley, Mrs. J. F. Trotter, Miss Garnett. JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Miles, Mr. and Mrs. A. Charley, GRENADA.—Miss Forester, Mr. and Mrs. de Frietas, Mr. and Mrs. Tarring. St. VINCENT.—Mrs. MacDonald and Mrs. Keilhom.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Antonio," August 21st, 1901.—JAMAICA.—Mr. P. F. Ashley, Hon. and Rev. Francis Bavin, Mrs. Bavin, Mr. Isaac Brandon, Mrs. Denniston, Mr. W. B. Douglas, Miss Ethel Delisser, Mr. Arthur Earle, Mr. Percy Fox, Mr. W. C. Fowler, Mr. Reginald G. Foster, Mr. W. D. Forsyth Grant, Miss Grant, Mr. A. Herbert, Mr. Robert Mason, Mr. J. C. Nolan, Miss Sybil Orrett, Mr. J. P. Provan, Mr. Leslie Williams, Mrs. Leslie Williams, Mrs. White, Miss White, Mr. J. H. Walker, Mr. A. Wilson.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," August 31st, 1901.—JAMAICA.—Miss H. M. Andain, Miss Barrows, Mr. T. Reeves Blakeley, Mr. J. Bourdas, Junr., Mr. R. W. Bradley, Mr. Bradley, Lieut. E. L. T. Grant, Mr. P. H. Gregg, Mrs. Braine-Hartnell, Mr. E. Gillard Hatfield, Mr. W. H. Haughton, Lieut. C. E. Inglis, Mr. C. R. Isaacs, Mrs. Isaacs, Mr. P. J. Lee, Mrs. F. J. Lee, Mr. A. Munro, Mr. E. P. Nuttall, Mr. J. C. O'Connell, Mrs. J. C. O'Connell, Mr. G. H. Ribbon, Miss Salmond, Mr. Watson, Mr. J. B. White, Mrs. J. C. Withers, Mr. G. Anderson, Mr. W. Cullen, Mr. W. H. Kirkpatrick, Mr. G. Speed, Mr. H. Sullivan, Mr. Taylor.

Rum.

There is no improvement to record in this market since our last issue, prices having generally ruled in buyers' favour, and sales difficult to effect. In proof kinds, a fair business has been transacted in the early part of the month, amounting to about 900 puns, chiefly Demerara, at 11d. for fair, to 1s. 1d. per proof gallon for choice marks, the market being thus cleared, with the exception of a few parcels. Recently the "Sargasso" has arrived with some 650 puns, which, however, are not ready for the market.

The Jamaica trade has been very slow, until the last week, when by some concessions here and there a moderate business has resulted. Stocks of all descriptions are 26,272 puns against 18,889 last year, and 23,220 in 1899.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—The market during the last month has continued quiet, and at the public sales there was very little bidding, the greater part of the quantity offered being bought in; privately, however, there has been a fair amount of business done at steady rates for fine and superior, and at a decline of 1/- per cwt. for middling qualities, existing quotations being 64/- to 68/6 for low to good middling, 69/- to 85/- for fine and superior.

	1901	1900
LANDED, 1st Jan. to 24th Aug. ..	30,543 bags	against 48,497 bags.
DELIVERED " " " "	28,602 " "	20,008 " "
STOCK, 24th August	22,116 " "	38,124 " "

GRENADA.—Scarcely any business has transpired during the month, the total quantity offered at auction only amounting to 495 bags, of which part was sold at a decline of 1/- per cwt. We quote 59/- to 60/6 for ordinary to good fair and 61/- to 65/6 for middling to fine.

	1901	1900
LANDED 1st Jan. to 24th Aug. ..	38,169 bags	against 38,380 bags.
DELIVERED " " " "	32,134 " "	32,458 " "
STOCK, 24th August	11,066 " "	15,265 " "

West India Produce.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	2½d. to 3d. per lb.	LOGWOOD... ..	£4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ...	37s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
BEESWAX	£7 5s. to £7 12s. 6d. per cwt.	FUSTIC	£4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton.
HONEY ...	14s. to 23s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ...	£3 15s. to £4 per ton.
LIME JUICE	1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. per gall.	ARROWROOT ...	Good manufacturing, 1½d. per lb. weak.

Exports.

From—	Sugar. Hhds.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds. Single Stones.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	M.lasses. Puns.	Tons. Brls.
BARBADOS —							45,248	
Jan. 1st. to August 15th, 1901	64,222	—	—	—	—	—	33,750	
Jan. 1st. to August 15th, 1900	47,970	—	—	—	—	—		
BRITISH GUIANA —	Tons.						518	
Jan. 1st to August 14th, 1901	36,066	13,017	65,330	4,988	58,732	76,306	1,593	
Jan. 1st to August 2nd, 1900	37,566	12,702	20,629	2,930	65,359	128		
TRINIDAD —	Bags & Brls.			Coffee lbs.	Asphalt. Tons.		Puns.	Tons. Brls.
Jan. 1st to August 14th, 1901	493,646	266	18,029,024	15,840	121,290	9,344,277	2,801	143 245
Jan. 1st to August 14th, 1900	373,668	578	24,004,340	2,580	81,915	5,729,771	6,438	72 74

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 24th August	133,135	46,769	46,673	102,236	68,493
France, 1st August	187,508	215,110	289,000	253,139	291,759
Germany, 1st August	246,366	183,270	205,300	286,673	159,262
Hamburg, 28th August	64,470	37,300	140,000	125,300	44,100
Austria-Hungary, 1st August	178,000	168,415	139,945	207,522	258,721
Holland, 15th August.....	13,902	7,177	3,913	26,217	52,141
Belgium, 1st August	11,193	28,640	44,656	65,565	36,384
United States, 28th August, Total Stocks	834,574	686,681	869,487	1,066,652	910,860
Cuba, six principal ports, 28th August, Total Stocks ...	197,000	89,744	175,674	239,192	489,735
Cargoes afloat, 29th August	85,000	6,377	32,000	68,002	8,200
Cargoes afloat, 29th August	129,978	132,472	185,546	79,270	27,062
Total.....	1,246,552	915,274	1,262,707	1,453,116	1,435,857

Weather Telegrams.

ANTIGUA. (Messrs. Boddington & Co.), August 27th, "Rainfall general." **BARBADOS**—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), August 20th, "Light partial showers," August 22nd, "Gale of wind, no damage on land. Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." **DEMERARA.** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), August 23rd, "Weather favourable for cultivation." **ST VINCENT.**—(Mr. William Goodwin), 2.30 p.m., August 21st "It is blowing a hurricane here, have lost Carib Rees Wharf. We are without particulars country," August 22nd, "No damage to estates, but vessels and jetties destroyed."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

General.

Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute, Vol. xxxii., 1900-1901, containing papers: "Trinidad and its Future Possibilities," by Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, K.C.M.G., and "Impressions of the British West Indies," by Henry de R. Walker. "Scale Insects of the Lesser Antilles," Part 1., "Cultivation of Vegetables in Barbados," by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, Colonial Reports—Barbados, 1900—Bahamas, 1900. "Our Western Empire," Vol. I., No. 3, September. "The International Sugar Journal," Vol. 3, No. 33, September. "The Sugar Journal and Tropical Cultivator," Queensland, Vol. 2, No. 1.

Market Reports.

*Antigua (Messrs. Bennet, Byson & Co.).
Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.)
Barbados Market Review (Messrs. Jones & Swan).
Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (Messrs. Wieting & Richter).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.).
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. E. Typp & Co.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Park, Son & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.*

Newspapers.

<i>The Antigua Observer.</i>	<i>The Dominican.</i>	<i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i>
<i>The Antigua Standard.</i>	<i>The Dominica Guardian.</i>	<i>The Sentry (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Barbados Advocate.</i>	<i>The Federalist & Grenada People.</i>	<i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i>	<i>The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).</i>	<i>The Daily News (Trinidad).</i>
<i>The Barbados Globe.</i>	<i>The Gleaner (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Mirror (Trinidad).</i>
<i>The Clarion (British Honduras).</i>	<i>The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).</i>
<i>The Argosy (Demerara).</i>	<i>The Jamaica Times.</i>	
<i>The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).</i>	<i>The St. Christopher Advertiser.</i>	

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

NOTE.—FULL PARTICULARS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION MUST BE PROPOSED BY ONE AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY. SUBSCRIBERS TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ARE ENTITLED TO THE FORTNIGHTLY CIRCULAR, WEATHER TELEGRAMS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR. SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON JAN. 1ST. FOR THE YEAR THEN CURRENT.

West India Committee.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, September 17th, 1901.

The late President McKinley.

In no part of the world outside the United States will the death of Mr. William McKinley, the third President of the United States to fall a victim to the dastardly attack of an assassin, be felt more keenly than in British Guiana and the West Indies. The friendly attitude of the United States towards our West Indian Colonies has been in marked contrast to that of the Mother Country, and it was considered only right that an expression of the poignant grief felt by the West Indian community in London at the sad termination of the late President's illness on September 14th should be at once communicated to the American people. The following telegram was accordingly sent to Mr. Hay, the Secretary of State :—

"The Chairman, on behalf of the West India Committee, wishes to express the profound regret with which the West India Body in London has heard of the death of the President, and their sincere sympathy with the family and the American Nation."

Even upon the day before the cowardly attack, in an important speech at Buffalo, the late President spoke of the desirability of Reciprocity treaties and the necessity of buying "wherever the buying will thereby enlarge our sales and productions." No doubt when he spoke these words, the late President had in his mind the idea of reciprocal trade with our West India Colonies. It is probable, and earnestly to be hoped, that his policy will be carried out by Colonel Roosevelt, the new President.

Coolie Immigration.

A special general meeting of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad was held on August 26th last, to consider a letter from the Governor inviting an expression of the views of the members of the Society on the question of providing for the repatriation of Indian Immigrants, in accordance with the directions of the recent dispatch from the Secretary of State. The following motion moved by Mr. Leotaud, and seconded by Mr. Sellier, was carried almost unanimously :—

"That the planters ordering Coolies do pay for their repatriation and that the export tax be not increased for the purpose."

Mr. Llanos then moved :—

"That the period during which immigrants to be introduced shall be entitled to repatriation be limited to two years after they have completed industrial residence."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. White, and was carried by the meeting. It was the opinion of the meeting that there should be a clear understanding by the Government that all moneys deposited in respect of the contingent liability to repatriate immigrants should be treated as a trust for that purpose, to be refunded to planters in the event of the liability lapsing.

In connection with immigration we have to report an important new departure in the mode of shipment of coolie immigrants. Instead of employing only sailing vessels as heretofore, one steamer has been chartered for Trinidad, and another for Demerara. These two steamers have already sailed from Calcutta. That for Demerara, the "Fazilka," was due there about September 20th, while that for Trinidad, the "Oirawa," left Calcutta on August 24th.

Mail Notes.

Owing to the recent gales, which were reported in last Circular, the R.M.S. "Orinoco" did not reach Plymouth till Thursday, September 12th. The Hon. C. A. Shand wrote August 28th from **Antigua** that all out there were very anxious as to the result of the Brussels Conference, but disappointment had so often followed in the footsteps of expectation, that, until the agreement to discontinue bounties had been actually signed, sealed, and delivered, they would still lack faith in the *bona fides* of His Majesty's Government. Should however, the failure on that occasion be due to any half heartedness on the part of His Majesty's representatives, the brand of Cain would for ever rest upon them, for they would have murdered more than an individual—an industry. The American market was being gradually closed to the British West Indies, and when that evil day arrived, when all the dependencies recently acquired by America in the West Indies had been admitted to free trade relations by the United States Government, the end would at last have arrived also for their industry. Writing from **Barbados** Mr. Forster M. Alleyne described the very severe "blow" experienced there on the morning of Tuesday, August 20th. After a breeze from the N.E., the wind blew suddenly very hard from the South, obtaining a velocity of 50 miles an hour, accompanied by torrents of rain. Scarcely any damage was done on land however; the canes were blown over in many places, but had since recovered, except in a few cases where they were broken. A few small houses were damaged and some trees suffered. The English Mail had arrived very late on the previous day, so that all the R.M. Steamers were in Carlisle Bay, transshipping cargo, when the storm burst, at 6.30 a.m. The sea had risen as if by magic, and ran very high. The Royal Mail Superintendent at once ordered the steamers to put to sea, which they did, carrying in some instances unintentional passengers. The "Esk" had to return twice before she could get on to St. Lucia. Meanwhile the lighters which were engaged in transshipping cargo to the steamers suffered terribly when cast adrift. Two schooners were driven against the pier head and became total wrecks in an instant. About Bridgetown the rainfall was as much as 12 inches. In the Country 4 to 6 inches. The Barometer was still very low and heavy showers were continuing almost daily. No less than 16 lighters were severely damaged or totally destroyed, of which 9 belonged to Messrs. M. Cavan & Co. The canes were very healthy and had much grown, but not to the extent that would have been the case if there had been more sunny days after the rains. A fortnight's sunny weather would be of great advantage. The report of the Barbados Agricultural Society on the subject of Cane Fires had been sent down by the Governor to the Executive Committee, and had, he was told, been rejected by them. It was not likely that anything more would be heard of it. The same state of things would, therefore, doubtless continue next year. In **British Guiana** (J. C. McCowan, Esq., 29th August) nothing was doing whatever in produce; the price of refining crystals was about \$2.15, but that was only nominal. The departure of a steamer from Calcutta, on the 10th inst., with 860 coolies for Demerara was advised. **Dominica** (E. A. Agar, Esq., August 29th).—The disturbance that passed to the S.W. on the 20th delayed the Mail-boat from Barbados for twenty-four hours. Some slight damage was done to the jetty, &c., a few canoes were broken but crops suffered very little. The Exhibits for the Halifax Exhibition had been safely despatched, there were about 80 in all and on the whole good samples, well put up and representative of the fruits and products of the Island. From the Hon. C. MacBrowne we learn that in **Grenada** two Meetings of the Managing Committee of the Agricultural Society had been held since his last letter and a General Meeting was to take place on September 3rd, when the desirability of having an exhibition next year was to be discussed, Mr. Broadway had been appointed Secretary of the Society. Weather continued favourable for crops. Writing on August 26th, S. Soutar, Esq., reported that **Jamaica** was still favoured with seasonable weather and crops were promising. **St. Kitts** (Hon. E. G. Todd).—There was nothing of importance to report from that side except as to the weather. The Mail was detained nearly two days, having had to put back to Barbados, in consequence of a development of a hurricane. It passed south of St. Kitts by a long distance, for they only had the blustering of the outer circles of the storm and the advantage of nice rains which had been repeated. The Island had generally benefited by the atmospheric disturbance. **St. Vincent** (Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.)—That unfortunate Island had again been visited with a disastrous storm and although the damage by this one, had fortunately, been confined to the maritime interests, the loss had been great, and such that they could ill afford there. The only matter of interest or importance in **Trinidad** since the Hon. G. T. Fenwick last wrote had been the Meeting of the Agricultural Society to consider the best way of arranging for the payment by the planters, without any share being paid from the General Revenue, of that portion of the cost of repatriation of coolies not paid by the Immigrants themselves.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO. Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," September 12th, 1901.—**BARBADOS**.—Mrs. Thorpe, Miss Field, Miss Bryden, Mr. A. S. Bryden, Mr. W. B. Kearney, Mr. H. Pinedo, Mr. A. F. Levitt, Mr. C. M. Goodridge, Mr. F. H. Wall, Miss Craddick, Mr. S. Collier. **DEMERARA**.—Rev. Canon and Mrs. F. W. T. Elliott, Dr. and Mrs. Stephenson, Mrs. Ozanne, Miss Leslie, Mrs. A. D. Williams, Mrs. Sossman, Mr. F. Gover, Mr. W. P. Harrigan. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. J. and Miss O. H. Pearman, Mrs. S. Marchallick, Mr. J. and H. Sharpe, Master H. Kerr, Miss Capper, Miss Anderson. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. A. Peterson, Mr. W. M. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Crosthwaite, Mrs. G. D. Humphreys, Mr. A. W. Lewis, Master H. Lewis, Mr. J. Monro. **ANTIGUA**.—Mr. G. O. Nugent. **ST. LUCIA**.—Mr. F. Mountjoy.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," September 18th, 1901—**BARBADOS**.—Rev. and Mrs. Menzies, Miss O'Mara, Mr. L. W. Sampson, Lieut. McGrigor, Major A. B. R. Kaye, Miss Bowman, Miss Cowper Smith, Mr. W. Jeffery, **DEMERARA**.—Mr. A. R. P. Mackey, Mr. W. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Murray, Miss Fowler, Mr. W. Morrison, Mr. Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Garnett, Mrs. C. Ridley, Mrs. J. B. Trotter and Miss Trotter, Miss Garnett, Miss Cruikshank, Mrs. Cruikshank, Mr. G. Wyatt, Hon. B. H. Jones, Mr. J. A. Snell, Mr. F. Kiellor, Mr. A. De Jonge, Mr. and Mrs. Lucie Smith, Mr. J. D. Peterskin, Mr. R. Evans, Mr. P. Kay, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Miles. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. and Mrs. A. Charley, Mr. and Mrs. Glazebrook, Mrs. Stuart, Rev. G. H. B. Hay, Mrs. Bailey, Capt. Langmaid, Mr. E. Greg, Mr. W. Scott Heriot. **TRINIDAD**.—Miss Walker and Miss d'Ade, Mr. H. Recse, Mrs. Brenstein, Mr. W. H. Richardson, Mr. G. H. Craven. **GRENADA**.—Miss Forrester, Mr. and Mrs. Tarring, Mrs. Hope and Mrs. Munro, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Gay, Mr. and Mrs. de Frietas, Mr. J. Copland, Mr. H. R. Hasluck. **ST. LUCIA**.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Plummer, Miss Agard. **TOBAGO**.—Mr. T. Blakely.

Forward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," October 2nd, 1901—**BARBADOS**.—Rev. H. L. Bovell, Mrs. Boxill, Mr. N. Boxill, Miss A. L. Bovell. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. R. J. Wreford. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. and Mrs. J. L. de Gannes, Rev. A. Hombersley, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Siegert, Mr. and Mrs. Von Bauditz. **GRENADA**.—Mr. J. Pehser, Rev. Father Holmes. **ST. VINCENT**.—Miss R. Patterson.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Morant," September 4th, 1901:—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. C. T. Awdry, Mr. W. Awdry, Mrs. Cooke, Master and Miss Clark, Mrs. G. Duncan, Miss Duncan, Mr. A. C. Houchen, Miss E. H. S. Kemp, Mr. D. M. Panton, Mr. A. B. Granger, Miss A. Woolcott, Mr. A. T. Webb.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," September 14th, 1901:—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. H. Beaumont, Miss Beaumont, Mrs. Cousins, Capt. Daniell, Lieut. Gilchrist, Rev. C. J. Hardwick, Mrs. Hardwick, Mr. A. Herbert, Lieut.-Colonel Joynt, Mrs. Joynt, Mr. H. M. Laws, Mr. A. H. Stockley, Dr. J. Williams, Mrs. Williams, Mr. F. G. Bond, Mr. J. B. Mason, Mr. H. Shill.

Rum.

The market maintains a steady tone, but only small sales have taken place at recent rates.

Cocoa.

There is an improved demand in this market, and moderate transactions have been made at full rates, including 400 bags Guayaquil Arriba at 77s., and 100 bags Haiti at 54s.

GRENADA.—August 29th, 1901.—Shipments since 15th inst.: 27 bags for Trent and 42 bags to New York. Total Export since October 1st 52,938 bags against 53,196 bags in 1900, 51,812 in 1899, 53,145 bags in 1898 and 54,448 bags in 1897.

West India Produce.

(Landed terms) **PIMENTO** ... 2½d. to 3d. per lb.
GINGER ... 37s. to 60s. per cwt.
BEESWAX ... £7 5s. to £7 12s. 6d. per cwt.
HONEY ... 16s. to 23s. per cwt.
LIME JUICE 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. per gall.

LOGWOOD... ... £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 to £4 5s. per ton.
FUSTIC £4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton.
" ROOTS ... £3 15s. to £4 per ton.
ARROWROOT ... Good manufacturing, 1½d. per lb.

Exports.

From—	Sugar. Hhds.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
BARBADOS —									
Jan. 1st. to August 29th, 1901	62,640	—	—	—	—	—	45,282		
Jan. 1st. to August 29th, 1900	48,225	—	—	—	—	—	35,229		
BRITISH GUIANA —	Tons.								
Jan. 1st to August 28th, 1901	38,460	13,211	67,580	4,988	62,724	76,306	518		
Jan. 1st to August 2nd, 1900	35,500	14,328	20,629	—	69,471	128	1,623		
TRINIDAD —	Bags & Brls.			Coffee lbs.	Asphalt. Tons.		Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
Jan. 1st to August 28th, 1901	467,133	1,605	18,301,364	15,840	129,076	9,487,877	3,044	158	348
Jan. 1st to August 28th, 1900	373,668	578	24,585,740	2,580	90,926	5,765,571	6,554	72	74

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 7th September	123,454	42,651	46,692	100,290	76,654
France, 1st August	187,508	215,110	289,000	253,139	291,759
Germany, 1st August	258,293	183,270	205,300	286,673	159,262
Hamburg, 11th September	67,510	28,300	135,624	93,900	39,700
Austria-Hungary, 1st September	117,596	95,178	81,867	156,906	182,145
Holland, 1st September.....	9,345	4,400	2,735	17,717	44,782
Belgium, 15th August.....	12,737	29,631	39,923	64,014	36,763
	776,443	598,480	801,141	972,639	831,065
United States, 11th September, Total Stocks	187,000	61,416	174,745	204,624	465,690
Cuba, six principal ports, 11th September, Total Stocks	83,000	6,342	24,000	64,549	7,650
Cargoes afloat, 12th September	184,189	201,399	256,315	160,434	9,975
Total.....	1,230,632	867,637	1,256,201	1,402,246	1,314,380

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) September 3rd, "Seasonable weather."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) September 9th, "Weather dry some showers would be acceptable." September 16th, "Some showers have fallen but more rain wanted."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

General.

Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, August, 1901; Trinidad Botanical Department's Bulletins of Miscellaneous Information, May, July and August. Photograph of Herr F. O. Licht.

Market Reports.

Antigua (Messrs. Bennet, Byson & Co.).
Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.).
Barbados Market Review (Messrs. Jones & Swan).
Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (Messrs. Wieting & Richter).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.).
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Park, Son & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.

Newspapers.

<i>The Antigua Observer.</i>	<i>The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).</i>	<i>The Jamaica Times.</i>
<i>The Antigua Standard.</i>	<i>The Dominican.</i>	<i>The St. Christopher Advertiser.</i>
<i>The Barbados Advocate.</i>	<i>The Dominica Guardian.</i>	<i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i>
<i>The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i>	<i>The Federalist & Grenada People.</i>	<i>The Sentry (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Barbados Globe.</i>	<i>The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).</i>	<i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Clarion (British Honduras).</i>	<i>The Gleaner (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Mirror (Trinidad).</i>
<i>The Argosy (Demerara).</i>	<i>The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).</i>

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

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BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, October 1st, 1901.

The Situation.

The exceedingly low price at which the new beetroot crop is being sold is causing some anxiety. In 1897, when the state of affairs in the West Indies was so critical as to induce the Government to send out a Royal Commission, the price of sugar had never fallen within £1 a ton of the price at which it is now selling. No doubt the countervailing duties which have been imposed in the United States differentiate the position, but it may be said that after making full allowance for these duties the price realisable in the United States for West Indian Sugar is no higher than it was in 1897. It thus becomes more important than ever that the Brussels Conference should meet without delay and put an end, once and for all, to this unstable condition of things which will inevitably continue, so long as the Foreign State Bounties exercise their paralysing influence.

The Paris Correspondent of the *Politische Correspondenz*, in a recent issue of that Journal, stated that the negotiations for the re-assembling of the Conference had been resumed more especially at the instance of France with the firm intention of arriving at a result. Owing to the very prejudicial effects upon the Treasury of the existing Sugar Legislation, the Government had intended introducing a law with the object of reducing the fiscal advantages given to exporters of Sugar; but it gave up the idea, thinking that this delicate matter would be discussed at the forthcoming International Conference. The correspondent added that for the moment it seemed beyond doubt that the Conference would meet.

The Rum Surtax.

At last the question of the Rum Surtax appears to be within measurable distance of settlement. Members will have been surprised that so little mention of the grave injustice has of late been made in the Circular. Our silence has been due to our knowledge that the matter has very recently been engaging the closest attention of the Colonial Office and Treasury. We are now informed by the Colonial Office that Mr. Chamberlain has addressed a despatch to the Governors of the various West Indian Colonies upon the subject of the Rum Surtax, suggesting that the case of Colonial distillers might be met by the payment to them from Colonial funds of an export allowance, calculated on the same principle as the similar allowance made to British distillers.

If the proposal is adopted, it is recommended that an Imperial excise official should in the first instance visit the Colonies concerned, for the purpose of determining the nature and extent of the burden imposed upon distillers by existing restrictions, and the amount at which a compensatory allowance upon export might equitably be fixed and also in order to advise the Colonial Governments how far it is necessary or desirable that the existing system should be re-cast. The cost of such a mission would, it is understood, fall upon the Imperial Treasury, and in the event of the finances of any Colony being proved not to be in a condition to enable the allowance to be paid from Colonial funds, His Majesty's Government would be prepared to consider whether a grant should be made in aid of that object from Imperial funds.

Proposed New Mail Service.

Our request that the proposals of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for improved steamer services might be published, has been acceded to. We have received from Mr. Chamberlain the accompanying copy of a dispatch on the subject, which was addressed to the Governor of Trinidad. Copies have also been communicated to the Governors of British Guiana, Barbados, Jamaica, the Windward Islands, and the Leeward Islands.

31st September, 1901.

Sir,

In my despatch No. 196 of the 10th ultimo, I informed you that I hoped to address you shortly on the subject of the West Indian Mail Service.

2. I have, as you are aware, been for some time engaged in negotiations with a view to arranging for a call by the Main Line Steamers, of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, at Trinidad, and also for the landing and embarkation of passengers and their luggage free of charge at Port of Spain.

3. I have now the honour to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Company to the General Post Office, dated the 24th December last, submitting certain proposals for the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

4. It will be noticed that in this letter two alternative schemes are suggested, the main outlines of which are as follows:—

(a) A service with a speed of $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots from Southampton and Barbados, and of 14 knots over the remainder of the route, omitting Jacmel but providing for a call by the main line steamers at Trinidad.

Subsidy asked £97,500 for a five years Contract from the date when the amended service begins, £90,000 for a 10 years contract.

(b) A 14-knot service on the main line, calling at Trinidad, Jacmel being omitted, with a weekly instead of a fortnightly intercolonial service. Subsidy asked £97,500 for a five years' contract. A further suggestion is also made to take in mails at Plymouth and increase the speed as far as Barbados to $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots, if it is desired to allow a longer time for return correspondence in England. This last modification would involve an additional subsidy of £3,000 per annum.

5. The advantages which these proposals offer are obvious, but the following points on the other side may be briefly noticed.

(a) Both schemes omit the call at Jacmel.

(b) The time allowed under the second scheme for return correspondence in this country, unless the additional £3,000 per annum referred to above were paid, is so short that it would be impossible in the case of the greater part of the United Kingdom to answer letters by the return mail.

(c) Only about one day and a half would be available under the second scheme for return correspondence in British Guiana.

(d) The Royal Mail Steamer would under the second scheme leave Jamaica the day before the Direct Steamer, thereby partly neutralising the benefit of the present arrangements for a double mail service between that Colony and the United Kingdom.

(e) The advantage offered by the suggested weekly inter-colonial service is discounted by the fact that such a service is now already to some extent provided by the existing services of the Royal Mail and of Messrs. Pickford and Black.

(f) The subsidy asked for the call at Trinidad, if the term of the contract remains as at present is too high to be entertained while there appear to be strong objections which will be noticed more fully later, to extending the present contract to ten years.

(g) Nothing is said as to the landing and embarking of passengers and their luggage free of charge at Port of Spain.

6. I accordingly requested that a further enquiry might be addressed to the Company, asking whether if the contract were left as at present in other respects, they would be prepared to arrange for a call by their main line steamers at Trinidad for an extra subsidy of £3,000 per annum, and if not what subsidy they would require for such a call, and also what arrangements they would make for the landing and embarking of passengers.

7. I have since received in reply the enclosed copies of further correspondence with the Company, from which it appears that they decline to provide for the call at Trinidad, other arrangements being as at present, without an additional annual subsidy of £17,500, with the existing five years' contract, or £10,000 with a ten years' contract.

8. With regard to service No. 2, for which in the event of the term of the contract being extended to ten years no additional subsidy is asked, the objections already noticed as to the time allowed for return correspondence in the United Kingdom and in British Guiana appear very serious, and moreover I am strongly of opinion that it would be unwise for the West Indian Colonies at the present time to commit themselves to any arrangement involving the payment of a large subsidy for a mail service for a longer period than that of the existing contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The mail service is not an experimental service for the development of trade, requiring a prolonged period in order to give the experiment a reasonable chance of success; and there is some probability that at the end of another four years the West Indian Colonies generally will be in a better position than at present to determine their exact requirements in respect of mails and passengers and the best means of meeting them. In four years too there may have been time, I hope, to judge of the practicability of developing a fruit trade between this country and other West Indian Colonies than Jamaica, as well as of extending and developing their existing trade in other West Indian products; while at the same time the increased interest which has recently been shown in the West Indies makes it reasonable to suppose that what is required may possibly be obtainable on better terms four years hence than would now be forthcoming.

9. Although therefore I much regret that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have not found themselves able to arrange for the call at Trinidad for a reasonable increase of subsidy, other conditions, excepting perhaps the call at Jacmel, remaining the same, I should not as at present advised be prepared now to sanction an extension of the Company's contract for a longer period than the existing term. At the same time I shall be glad to consider the views of your Government, and of the other West Indian Governments concerned, to whom I am communicating a copy of this despatch for publication in each Colony.

10. I have to add that a further representation will be made to the Company urging that both at Trinidad and British Guiana arrangements should be made for the landing and embarking of passengers and their luggage free of charge.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor, Sir A. Moloney, K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

Central Factories in Sight.

We are credibly informed that the Secretary of State has under his careful attention at the present time the question of the erection of a Central Sugar Factory in Antigua. Advantage has been taken of the presence of Dr. D. Morris and Mr. Francis Watts in this country to consider the details of a feasible proposal, but no final decision has as yet been arrived at.

The New Colonial Company, Ltd.

We understand that the New Colonial Company are sending out a 35 ton Vacuum Pan for the Usine St. Madeleine in Trinidad, and a 25 ton pan for Plantation Albion, in Berbice. During the past crop experiments were conducted upon the Company's "Forres Park" Estate in Trinidad with the Mangano Electric Process of Clarification, which has been so far successfully applied to beet juice, resulting in a very considerable saving in the cost of manufacture of sugar. It has been found that the effect of this process upon cane juice differs from that which it exercises over beet juice, but further experiments are to be made, and with a modification of the process, it is anticipated that satisfactory results will be attained.

Barbados Crops from 1806.

Through the courtesy of the Hon. J. Gardiner Austin we are now enabled to supplement the figures of the Barbados Sugar Crops from 1843 which we gave in our Circular 48 with those from the year 1806. These will, we hope, prove useful for purpose of reference.

	Hhds.		Hhds.		Hhds.
1806	16,178	1838	32,890	1870	39,270
1807	15,284	1839	28,083	1871	53,907
1808	13,231	1840	13,767	1872	39,167
1809	17,026	1841	17,568	1873	37,337
1810	15,620	1842	21,331	1874	47,293
1811	15,379	1843	24,587	1875	65,000
1812	14,484	1844	23,146	1876	37,346
1813	12,345	1845	24,777	1877	47,879
1814	17,732	1846	21,966	1878	43,511
1815	16,694	1847	33,111	1879	57,146
1816	20,176	1848	28,165	1880	54,217
1817	21,088	1849	33,077	1881	51,433
1818	21,070	1850	35,302	1882	54,937
1819	23,515	1851	38,731	1883	52,851
1820	14,850	1852	48,617	1884	62,085
1821	17,111	1853	38,719	1885	67,418
1822	13,265	1854	45,181	1886	46,357
1823	27,324	1855	39,290	1887	69,416
1824	22,398	1856	43,077	1888	72,469
1825	24,304	1857	38,798	1889	65,202
1826	21,507	1858	50,778	1890	85,223
1827	17,968	1859	39,666	1891	49,672
1828	28,225	1860	42,684	1892	59,175
1829	23,438	1861	49,845	1893	66,890
1830	27,062	1862	46,120	1894	65,061
1831	27,351	1863	42,281	1895	36,493
1832	19,493	1864	36,199	1896	49,399
1833	27,888	1865	47,209	1897	54,242
1834	28,116	1866	57,241	1898	47,740
1835	25,088	1867	53,398	1899	45,787
1836	25,138	1868	58,242	1900	49,259
1837	32,406	1869	32,835	1901	62,640

New Members.

At the Fortnightly Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday, September 19th last, the following new Members were elected:—Mr. E. B. LYNCH, proposed by Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, and seconded by Mr. Elliot G. Louis; Mr. WILLIAM J. HARVEY, proposed by Mr. Edward G. Barr, and seconded by Mr. Henry K. Davson.

Attention is called to the fact that subscriptions from Members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year commencing on the following first of January.

"The Sugar Question in 1901."*

The above is the title of a brochure from the pen of M. Yves Guyot, the esteemed editor of the *Sicile*, which has just been published by the Anti-Bounty League. M. Guyot has earned the gratitude of our friends in the West Indies for the consistent manner with which he has attacked the Bounty System. As a copy of the pamphlet has been posted to every Member of the Committee, it is not necessary for us to do more than mention the main purpose of the work which it is claimed has been already achieved by the original French Edition—the conversion of a great many public men in France to the Anti-Bounty Movement.

In view of the probability of a second Brussels Conference it was decided, on the advice of the late Sir Courtenay Boyle, to place an English Edition before interested circles in Great Britain and her Colonies, in order that some information relating to the regulations in the position of the Sugar industry in the European Beet-growing countries might be available. The work is ably translated by M. Jules Hedeman and has an interesting introduction by our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, who truly points out that it might indeed be entitled, "How the French Legislature extracts £4,000,000 annually from the pockets of French tax payers, as a contribution to enrich some 350 Sugar growers."

Mail Notes.

The homeward Royal Mail Steamer "Para" anchored off Plymouth at 10 p.m. on September 25th, and the Mails were delivered with commendable punctuality by the first post on Thursday, September 26th. Little of interest appears to have taken place in the West Indies in the fortnight ending September 12th. Hopes were centred on the reassembling of the Brussels Conference. Mr. Foster M. Alleyne wrote from **Barbados** on September 12th, that any postponement of the Conference or delay in settling the bounty question would be of vital importance. With the prospect of Cuba and Puerto Rico monopolising the American Market and the home market being closed to them by the bounties, the prospects were dark indeed. Unless the question were settled before next year, they would not know what class of sugar to make; and then low class sugar would be unsaleable unless the British refineries were reopened. Beet had touched the record point of 7s. 10½d. per cwt., and the local price of sugar in Barbados was not more than \$1.25 per 100 lbs. which was below the cost of production. Very little rain had fallen during the fortnight and more was wanted. The canes were universally green and healthy, but in the Leeward Parishes were not nearly so thick in the hole at present as last year. Christ Church had an excellent crop, but as a whole ratoons were not so forward as they should be, owing, probably to the constant rain of the previous three months. Professor D'Albuquerque's lectures on "Soils" had continued to be attended with very great interest. In **British Guiana** (J. C. McCowan, Esq.), the weather was favourable for ripening the canes soon to be cut. Refining crystals were quoted nominally at \$2. The Hon. A. H. Alexander, the Immigration Agent-General, who had been in ill health for some little time returned to England by the Mail. The Agricultural Committee of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society had issued for the guidance of planters a pamphlet on cane farming. **Dominica**.—From Mr. E. A. Agar we learn that some alarm was being caused in Roseau by the damage done to the sea wall during the recent heavy weather. Some part of the wall was undermined, and the protection afforded by it so slight that the houses 50 yards from the sea vibrated under the shock of the waves. At a recent meeting of the Legislative Council the following money votes among others were passed—

Contribution towards the Imperial Memorial in London to the late Queen Victoria ..	++	£100
Erection of a Public Library in Roseau as a local Memorial to the late Queen Victoria ..	++	£300
Provision of books and furniture for the Library	++	£140
The establishment of telephonic communication between Roseau and Portsmouth (North of the Island).. .. .	++	£650

The lime crop had slackened, but there was a good crop of fruit setting for November. Cacao was beginning to ripen here and there. The exceptionally heavy rains in July had prevented any prospect of a bumper crop though there was every reason to believe that it would be satisfactory. Oranges were coming in and a certain quantity were being shipped to London and New York but the fruit was still rather green. He believed that the quality of the fruit exported this year would be on the whole higher than last, several shippers having realised the necessity of selecting and handling the

* "The Sugar Question in 1901" by Yves Guyot, the Anti-Bounty League and Hugh Rees, Limited, 124, Pall Mall, S.W.

oranges with care. The weather for the past fortnight had been rather dry—a good thing for the cacao. **Jamaica.**—The exports of the Island during the quarter ended June 30th amounted to £492,585, against £448,377 for the corresponding period in 1900, an increase of £44,208. The friction between growers and buyers of fruit at Port Maria was subsiding. In **St. Kitts** (Hon. Edward G. Todd) the weather remained satisfactory, while the crops were very promising. A thunderstorm passed over the Island on September 9th, and delightful rain to the extent of over an inch fell. In **St. Lucia** (Hon. E. DuBoulay) the weather had been dry and exceedingly hot. The question of making reciprocal arrangements with the United States had again been before the Legislative Council and a resolution was adopted authorising the Secretary of State to enter into negotiations with this object in view. In **Trinidad** (Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) the weather was oppressively hot with little or no wind and frequent showers. It was fine growing weather though uncomfortable for man and beast. So far the prospects of both cane and cacao crops were promising. We have had no communication from our Hon. correspondents in **Antigua, Grenada, St. Vincent** and **Tobago**.

The West India Club.

The success which attended the fortnightly Club dinners earlier in the year has justified the Committee in arranging for their continuance throughout the winter. The next dinner will take place to-morrow at the Howard Hotel, at 7.30 p.m. The Sports Committee of the Club is at present actively engaged in making arrangements for the visit of an English Cricket Team to British Guiana and the West Indies during the coming winter. It is understood that the team will be Captained by Mr. H. D. G. Levesen Gower.

The Royal Mail Company and Fruit.

In our Circular 51 we gave particulars of the arrangements which had been made for the conveyance of fruit from Jamaica to this Country by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The R.M.S. "Para" arrived at Southampton on Thursday last, but we understand that the Lawton's Patent process for sterilizing the fruit was not altogether successful owing to a leak in the apparatus. The fruit, however, arrived in good condition and was all sold on arrival.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," September 26th, 1901:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. C. A. Harman, Mr. E. M. Cutting, Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Biddy, Mr. H. R. Brandon, Mr. Geo. Carrington. **DEMERARA.**—Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Barnes, Mr. E. P. Gladwin, Dr. and Mrs. Egan, Hon. A. H. Alexander, Mrs. Reid, Miss M. Valladares, Mr. D. C. Cameron, Rev. and Mrs. Matthews, Mr. R. Fowler. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pearson, Miss Hilda Lindo. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. and Mrs. M. de I. Terxeira, Mr. Geo. White, Mr. C. I. Milne, Mr. J. Paget, Rev. Father Spielmann, Rev. Father S. Maguire, Mr. J. H. Burke. **DOMINICA.**—Mrs. Styles. **ST. VINCENT.**—Mr. J. McD. Richards.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," October 2nd, 1901:—**BARBADOS.**—Rev. and Miss Bovell, Mr. and Mrs. Bexill, Mr. W. Nurse, Mr. D. Wiles, Mr. E. Deane, Colonel Booth. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. MacKinnon, Mrs. Donolly, Mrs. Good, Mr. Croed, Miss Wakelyn, Mrs. Mackay, Mr. R. Farrer. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Sadler, Mr. and two Misses Walker, Mr. Ellis and family. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. and Mrs. DeGannes, Rev. A. Homberseley, Mr. Siegert and family, Mr. R. Bryant, Captain Hamlyn, Mrs. and Miss Von Bauditz, Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Sorzane, Mrs. de Verteuil, Miss J. Bird, Mrs. E. Sicard, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hamlyn, Mr. T. Tunstall, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wilson, Miss Donaldson. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. Lewis, Mr. Heath. **GRENADA.**—Mr. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Hosking, Mr. A. Ross, Mr. Craig, Mr. Leinger, Dr. Latour and family. **ST. LUCIA.**—Miss Keith, Miss Peter, Hon. and Mrs. Barnard. **ST. VINCENT.**—Miss Patterson, Mr. G. Erroy.

Forward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," October 16th, 1901:—**BARBADOS.**—Lt.-Col. St. Leger, Mrs. St. Leger, Dr. Morris, C.M.G., Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Challenor, Mr. Spence, Miss Waldron. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Oughton, Mrs. T. Oughton, Mrs. Ogilvie, Miss Levy, Miss Poole, Mr. J. Pinnock, Miss Pinnock. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. Littlepage, Mr. J. Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Warner. **ANTIGUA.**—Sir Henry and Lady Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Wytham. **GRENADA.**—Rev. Father Holmes, Rev. J. C. Wolseley. **ST. KITTS.**—Mr. and Mrs. Drayton.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Royal," September 18th, 1901.—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. Coombs, Mr. Arnold Clodd, Miss Isabel Clerk, Miss Amy Clerk, Miss Bella Donald, Mr. B. I. Donald, Mr. A. G. C. Findlay, Mr. E. Gideon, Mr. C. Gideon, Mr. A. W. Gardner, Mr. H. Gardner, Mr. A. Gardner, Mr. W. L. Kerr, Rev. Jas. Luke, Mrs. Luke, Mr. J. Pringle, Mr. J. F. Raper, Mr. A. Rackham, Mr. W. G. Rackham, Miss Ivy Rackham, Miss L. Rackham, Miss Radcliffe, Mr. C. Saunders, Mr. J. Sullivan, Mr. Jas. Smith, Mr. A. Thomas and two Brothers, Miss G. Tomlinson, Miss Ada Brown, Mr. L. J. T. Beck, Mr. W. W. White.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," September 28th, 1901.—**JAMAICA.**—Kaddir Bak, Mr. R. E. Bonitto, Mr. Brandon, Mr. Bandmann, Mr. Bulkeley, Mr. Bell, Mr. Baker, Mr. Bentyman, Miss Bremer, Mr. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Coyne, Miss Chamberlain, Mrs. Case, Miss Darley, Miss Delmege, Master Desprez, Mr. Davis, Mr. Dene, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Fiedel, Miss Forsythe, Miss Forrester, Mr. and Mrs. Gilks, Miss Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Griner, Miss Hill, Mrs. Jamieson, Miss E. Keeling, Mr. Leigh, Mr. Leitch, Master Lynch, Mr. W. May, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Mumford, Mr. S. J. Morales, Mr. Metcalfe, Miss Nethersole, Mr. Rudolph Otto, Mr. and Miss Pemberton, Mrs. Pinnock, Mr. and Mrs. Provan, Mr. A. Phillips, Mr. Pope, Mr. Perceval, Miss Palmer, Miss Reed, Mrs. Rerrie, Miss Rothwell, Mr. C. Solomon, Miss Scott, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. Spance, Major and Mrs. Stoney, Miss Sewell, Mr. Shields, Mr. P. H. M. Starr, Mr. Robert Todd, Mr. Trusco, Mr. S. J. Upton, Miss Vie, Miss Vernon, Mr. A. Vickers, Mr. Vedel, Mrs. and Miss White, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Miss Wilson.

Rum.

During the past month this market has developed no new feature, and although the tone has been quiet, yet values realised remain fairly steady. In proof kinds the recently landed parcels have been disposed of, amounting to about 1,000 Puns. Demerara, at fully previous prices. There is no improvement to note in the Jamaica market, stocks of which show no decrease, thus pointing to a larger crop than that of last year. Total Stocks at date 26,343 Puns. against 20,198 in 1900, 24,661 in 1899, and 26,399 in 1898.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—There has been a decidedly stronger demand during the past month, both manufacturers and exporters showing more disposition to buy and fully 4,500 bags have changed hands. The inquiry at first was almost entirely restricted to qualities of the value of 67/- to 68/- per cwt., but subsequently a fair amount of business was transacted in low middling qualities at 63/- to 66/-, and sales were also made to a good extent in fine marks at 70/- to 73/6 per cwt., superior being unchanged. The market, except for this latter description, shows an advance of from 1/- to 1/6 per cwt. for the month and closes with a firm tone at the improvement.

	1901	1900
LANDED 1st Jan. to 21st Sept. . .	35,805 bags against	51,336 bags.
DELIVERED	31,539	31,941
STOCK, 21st Sept.	24,441	38,030

GRENADA.—The market opened quietly at barely steady prices for fair to middling, but at firm rates for fine. The supplies during the last three weeks have been on a limited scale and with a fair demand the whole has been disposed of at 59/- to 61/6 for ordinary to good fair and 62/- to 65/6 for middling to fine.

	1901	1900
LANDED, 1st Jan. to 21st Sept. . .	39,902 bags against	39,244 bags.
DELIVERED	33,595	35,681
STOCK, 21st Sept.	11,338	12,906

West India Produce.

Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	3d. to 3½d. per lb.	LOGWOOD...	... £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ...	37s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
BEESWAX ...	£7 10s. to £7 15s. per cwt.	FUSTIC ...	... £4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton.
HONEY ...	16s. to 23s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ...	... £3 15s. to £4 per ton.
LIME JUICE	1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. per gall.	ARROWROOT ...	(St. Vincent) 1½d. to 4d. per lb.

Exports.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.			
BRITISH GUIANA—										
Jan. 1st to Sept. 11th, 1901	38,460	13,250	67,580	4,988	65,949	76,306	518			
Jan. 1st to Sept. 12th, 1900	35,116	14,452	20,629	—	73,408	128	1,730			
TRINIDAD—				Coffee lbs.	Asphalt. Tons.			Puns.	Tons.	Brls.
Jan. 1st to Sept. 11th, 1901	469,143	1,605	18,727,554	15,840	135,551	10,060,729	3,347	158	158	438
Jan. 1st to Sept. 11th, 1900	373,913	578	25,079,165	2,580	98,783	5,788,171	7,019	72	72	88

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom, 21st September	113,437	42,625	40,702	90,775	69,901
France, 1st September	124,520	159,091	245,095	165,605	223,421
Germany, 1st September	137,402	76,365	62,296	156,534	74,127
Hamburg, 25th September	55,700	18,100	109,400	83,900	32,000
Austria-Hungary, 1st September	117,596	95,118	81,867	156,906	182,145
Holland, 15th September	7,020	3,318	1,737	12,881	34,948
Belgium, 1st September	10,712	14,422	29,442	54,573	30,750
	566,387	409,039	570,539	721,174	647,292
United States, 25th September, Total Stocks	172,000	38,699	179,317	183,024	444,396
Cuba, six principal ports, 25th September, Total Stocks	80,000	5,905	18,500	42,920	6,700
Cargoes afloat, 26th September	146,739	160,170	174,416	132,929	7,727
Total.....	965,146	613,813	942,772	1,080,047	1,106,115

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) September 17th, "First part of the fortnight dry, latter rainy." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), September 17th, "Heavy rains generally." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) September 18th, "Rainy weather for last few days. Some showers have fallen, but more rain wanted in Berbice."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

General.

The Financial News, Journal des Fabricants de Sucre, Louisiana Planter, Produce Markets Review, Sugar Journal (Queensland), Barbados Agricultural Gazette and Planters' Journal, Vol. 7—No. 7, "Cane Farming," The Royal Agriculture and Commercial Society of British Guiana, "Bee-keeping in the West Indies," and Manures and Leguminous Plants at Barbados, 1898-1901, The Imperial Department of Agriculture, The Queensland "Sugar Journal and Tropical Cultivator," Vol. 2, No. 2.

Market Reports.

Antigua (Messrs. Bennet, Bryson & Co.).
Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.).
Barbados Market Review (Messrs. Jones & Swan).
Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (Messrs. Wisting & Richter).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown).
The "Gleaner" Mercantile Intelligencer, Jamaica (The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.).
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Park, Son & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.

West Indian Newspapers.

The Antigua Observer.
The Antigua Standard.
The Barbados Advocate.
The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).
The Barbados Globe.
The Clarion (British Honduras).
The Argosy (Demerara).
The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).
The Dominican.
The Dominica Guardian.
The Federalist & Grenada People.
The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).
The Gleaner (Jamaica).
The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).
The Jamaica Times.
The St. Christopher Advertiser.
The Voice (St. Lucia).
The Sentry (St. Vincent).
The Times (St. Vincent).
The Mirror (Trinidad).
The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

NOTE. FULL PARTICULARS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION MUST BE PROPOSED BY ONE AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE AND THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY. SUBSCRIBERS TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ARE ENTITLED TO THE FORTNIGHTLY CIRCULAR, WEATHER TELEGRAMS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR. SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON JAN. 1ST. FOR THE YEAR THEN CURRENT.

Subscriptions from New Members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January.

West India Committee.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
 LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, October 15th, 1901.

A Gloomy Outlook.

Five years have elapsed since the Royal Commission—consisting of General Sir Henry Norman, Sir Edward Grey, and Sir David Barbour—was sent out by Mr. Chamberlain to report on the general conditions and prospects of British Guiana and the West Indies. The result of their recommendations, of which, with the notable exception of the erection of Central Factories, most have been carried out, can now be gauged, and it is perfectly clear that they have done little or nothing to avert the crisis which will always arise when the bounties create a constantly recurring glut of sugar on the markets. It is only fair to Sir Henry Norman to remember that he disagreed with his colleagues and that the remedy which he recommended, and which is the only one likely to be effective, has not been adopted. We alluded in our last Circular to the unprecedentedly low price to which sugar has fallen. As stated by the Chairman of the Colonial Bank at the meeting of shareholders the price is now about 15/- per ton below the lowest price ever previously reached. The effect of this upon our West Indian Colonies is creating no little anxiety.

As regards British Guiana and Trinidad no serious consequences are likely to arise in the near future. The advantageous position in which the sugar industry in these Colonies is placed owing to the use of modern machinery, together with the benefit which they have derived from the United States imposing countervailing duties upon bounty fed sugar, will enable them to tide over the crisis. In Barbados, Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Vincent, however, a very different condition of affairs is to be feared, as owing to the complete lack of confidence caused by the Foreign Bounty System capital is not forthcoming for the erection of improved machinery. Already the condition of the labouring classes, more especially in Antigua and St. Kitts, is by no means all that could be wished, and it seems inevitable that the present low prices will entail great suffering during the coming twelve months. From Jamaica reports are no more promising, and in spite of the successful inauguration of a line of fruit steamers to this country, it is very generally realised that the resuscitation of the sugar industry is essential to the permanent prosperity of the Island.

The Kanaka Question in Queensland.

The proposal of the Federal Government of Australia to prohibit the entry into the Commonwealth of any person under contract to perform manual labour is meeting with very strong opposition from Queensland, where the sugar industry is largely dependent upon the introduction of Kanaka labourers from Polynesia for its existence. It is claimed that the abolition of Kanaka immigration would mean the annihilation of the sugar industry. On the other hand the Federal Tariff Bill which was introduced by Mr. Kingston, on October 8th, provides for a Customs Duty on Sugar of £6 per ton with an excise duty of only £3 per ton, and a rebate of £2 where the sugar is grown by white labour only. Though this may prove an incentive to the inauguration of a sugar beet industry in other parts of Australia, it will hardly be accepted by the Planters in Queensland, as a compensation for the prohibition of Kanaka labour, experience having shown that white labour is unsuited for work in the Cane field.

The Proposed New Mail Services.

With reference to the despatch from Mr. Chamberlain to the Governor of Trinidad upon this subject which was published in our last Circular (No. 54) we have received the following explanatory letter dated October 4th, 1901, from the Secretary of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. It remains to be seen whether the proposals of the Company appear workable and acceptable to the West Indian Colonies, whose views on the subject are awaited.

"Sir,—The attention of the Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has been called to a despatch, signed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, addressed to the Governor of Trinidad and to other West India Governments, regarding the contract mail service, which appears in Circular No. 54 of your Committee, and also in the daily journals of October 1st.

"The Company had expressed a wish through His Majesty's Postmaster-General, who is the medium of communication on mail contracts, that the opinion of the West India Governments should be ascertained on the terms named by the Company for an accelerated service, with Trinidad placed on the main, instead of on a branch, line from Barbados, as hitherto. On August 16th the Company were informed by the Post Office that the Secretary of State for the Colonies would accede to their wishes, but they were not aware that a despatch had been sent, or its nature, until it appeared as above mentioned.

"The Court of Directors, looking to the tenor of that despatch, and feeling that they have done a great deal to meet the views of the Government, consider it necessary to offer a few remarks in order to prevent any misconception of the Company's position in this matter.

"In December, 1898, after the return of the West India Commission, tenders were publicly invited by the Colonial Office for the fortnightly line of fruit steamers between Jamaica and England, to carry a large quantity of bananas each voyage. This Company tendered at £40,000 a year for five years.

"At a later date, at an interview which the Directors had with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, they were informed that £40,000 was out of the question, and that the service could be done for perhaps £10,000, but the Directors said that the Company's offer could not be reduced. A contract of £10,000 was eventually signed with a produce Company, but it did not come to maturity.

"A few months after this, without any further communication with this Company, the Colonial Office entered into a contract with Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., for £40,000 for ten years, the same as this Company asked for a five-years' contract. This Company was afterwards informed that Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. would buy the fruit, and for that reason their tender was accepted.

"In September, 1899, tenders (publicly invited) had to be sent in to the Post office for the General West India Mail Service, one of which omitted Jamaica, and another included Trinidad on the main line. The former involved giving up one of the most important and lucrative of the West India Islands, and the Company's base for coaling and other operations. Besides responding to the particular forms of tender, the Directors proposed to increase the speed from 13 to 14½ knots, call at Trinidad with the main line steamer (but omit Jacmel), and give a weekly instead of a fortnightly service up and down the Windward and Leeward Islands, as the West India Commission had advocated more frequent interinsular communication. The Directors pointed out that providing a special class of vessel of

higher speed would entail an outlay, which should be to some extent recompensed by a contract for ten instead of five years, for which longer term the Company would carry out the improved service (providing also an additional intercolonial vessel) for £80,000 a year, the amount of the then existing and present subsidy. This proposal would bring Trinidad two days and British Guiana and the Leeward and Windward Islands, one day nearer to England. If the term were only five years, £97,500 a year would be required for the reason above mentioned.

"The Directors had on previous occasions expressed their willingness to call at Trinidad with the main line steamers, but if the Company had adopted the view of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to include Trinidad on the main line at the rate of speed of the present time-table, one day would be lost on the voyage to Jamaica and Colon, causing a great disadvantage to the public, especially at Jamaica, as well as loss to the Company.

"Thus the Company have offered to give a 14½-knot instead of a 13-knot service to the West Indies with a saving of two days in the time between England and Trinidad, and to place an extra mail steamer in the West Indies for the same subsidy as at present, £80,000, if a ten-years' contract be granted. This service is alluded to in paragraph 8 of the despatch of the Secretary of State, but it is not clearly stated.

"The Directors have not refused to land and embark passengers and their baggage free of charge. The matter is being fully inquired into in the West Indies, as it is a question which will doubtless affect the whole of the Islands.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"J. M. LLOYD, Secretary.

"To the Secretary, West India Committee."

News by Mail.

Mail advices received by the R.M.S. "Atrato" which arrived at Plymouth at 4.15 a.m. on Wednesday, October 9th, confirm the growing feeling of apprehension to which we gave expression in our last Circular, at the low price of sugar caused by the Foreign Bounty System. From the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, we extract the following items of interest:—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) September 25th. Planters were anxiously awaiting the re-assembly of the Brussels Conference upon which so many vital questions depended. Copious rains had fallen over the whole Island, and on the 11th there was something of a gale from the South-east which knocked the more forward canes about a good deal, but, in the still hot weather they were recovering rapidly, and crop prospects for 1902 were full of promise. Cultivation on the heavy lands was brought to a sudden standstill by the rains and all ponds were full to overflowing.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.), September 25th. Dissatisfaction was felt at the late arrival—not for the first time—of the Royal Mail Steamer "La Plata" which was nearly a day late. The re-assembly of the Brussels Conference was anxiously looked for. With beet at 7s. 6d. and Muscovado Sugar at \$1.20; the most serious apprehension was felt in the Island as to the prospect of disposing of the next crop. Taking as it did 13s. 6d. to grow and manufacture a ton of canes, the produce of which would be, apparently, not worth more than 8s. 3d. to 8s. 6d. No cane had as yet been found which would give so marvellous a yield as to enable the Island to defy the bounties. To make sugar pay at existing prices, they would have to make three tons per acre and not one of the new varieties—nor even the old Bourbon—would give that uniformly all over the Island. September had been a favourable month, some heavy rains having fallen interspersed with periods of sunshine. The rainfall for the month varied from 6 to 10 inches to date according to the locality. The canes were under a

good growth, but it seemed to be the general opinion that they were not so thick in the hole as last year. In some districts ratoons were very low, especially those of the new seedling B 147. Some announcement was expected from the Governor as to Central Factories when the Legislature met on October 8th. A Memorial Service was held in the Cathedral at the time of the funeral of the late President McKinley and was attended by the Governor and all classes of Officials.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), September 24th. Cable communication was again restored on the 16th inst., after an interruption of a fortnight, which caused considerable inconvenience to the community. The Court of Policy and the Combined Court met on the 13th, when a motion by the Government to appoint Mr. Barnes, Warden of Mines at Pahang, head of the proposed amalgamated offices of Government Lands and Department of Mines, at a salary of £1,000 per annum, was defeated by the elective members. The Sugar Market was deplorably low, and the news of a sale of centrifugals in New York at a price equal to \$1.90 in British Guiana, was by no means cheering. After two very wet days, September 16th and 17th, the weather had been fine and favourable for the reaping operations which will be general in another fortnight.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), September 27th. The weather had been fine. A large firm in Exeter was making enquiries with regard to bananas, and one or two planters had agreed to make shipments to them. The Royal Mail Company had definitely arranged to put on a coasting steamer service, but the date of its inauguration had not transpired.

Grenada.—(Hon. C. MacCaulay Browne, C.M.G.), September 26th. Cacao crop prospects were very encouraging. Pickings were expected to be early, some small ones having been made already, though the heavy pickings would be in November. The total crop to date was 53,354 bags against 53,320 at the same date in 1900.

Jamaica.—(S. Soutar, Esq.), September 24th. At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, held on September 11th last, the selection by the Council of Mr. J. L. Ashenheim as Secretary, in the place of the late Mr. George Levy, was confirmed. (R. Craig, Esq.), September 23rd. The season's rains—or at all events heavy rains—had set in, and the rivers were in flood. As a rule this was not looked for till October, but last year the rains began at about the same time. Trade showed no improvement, and the outlook was black, with nothing that the writer could see to redeem it.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), September 24th. The tide of emigration from the Island was unfortunately continuing, making the difficulty of obtaining a plentiful labour supply in the future certain. Considerable excitement had been aroused in Basseterre by the action of the Government in increasing the tax in house lots by 150 per cent. There had been more rain than was needed from a planter's point of view.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. Emanuel du Boulay) September 27th. On the 19th heavy rains, which were principally confined to the Castries district, were experienced. Since then, the weather had been very hot with light showers. Crops were making good progress, and if nothing unforeseen occurred a similar crop to that for the current year was looked for.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) September 27th. So far as the growing crops were concerned the weather was all that could be desired, but the heat was unprecedented, and was causing a good deal of ill health quite new to the Island.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) September 26th. The weather continued satisfactory. A good cacao crop was looked for, though planters expected to reap little or nothing before Christmas.

The Cane-Sugar Movement.

The Cane-Sugar Movement which commenced in 1890 with the "Cane-Sugar Union," was revived last year by the establishment of "The West India and British Guiana Sugar Planters' Fund," and this year Barbados has started an auxiliary fund in the hands of Trustees under the title of "The Barbados Soft Moist Sugar Association." A private meeting of Barbados proprietors was recently held for the purpose of considering the best measures for securing a certain market, and an improved price for Barbados sugar and molasses, and many present decided to support the Association. It is expected that the Demerara interests will support a similar plan for stimulating the demand for their sugars.

The objective of all these Associations is to differentiate "Cane-Sugar" from "Beet Sugar"; and to stimulate the demand for the specific trade description of "Demerara Sugar" and "Barbados Soft Sugar." The operation of "The Merchandise Marks Act" favours this object by the security it affords to both Buyers and Sellers against false trade descriptions.

The West Indian Club.

Among those present at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club, which was held at the Howard Hotel, October 2nd instant, were: Sir David Palmer Ross, Dr. D. Morris, C.M.G. (Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies), Colonel Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. G. Boyle, Mr. John Hinkson, Mr. P. B. Kearns, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. G. B. Mason, L.R.C.P., Mr. L. De Mercado, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. W. D. P. Shephard, Mr. W. A. P. Shephard, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson and Mr. J. H. Wilkinson. Mr. J. Rippon has kindly undertaken the arrangements for the next dinner, which will be held to-morrow, at 7.30 p.m.

The Colonial Bank.

The 127th half-yearly general meeting was held on October 10th, Mr. H. H. Dobree presiding. In the course of his remarks in moving the adoption of the report, he stated that abnormally strong financial position was by no means a matter for congratulation. It showed that, in the depressed state of business existing in the West Indies generally, there were no means of employing the Bank's funds in the sphere where the directors would wish to employ them if they could do so safely. The season had been favourable. Crops all over the West Indies had been large, but, unfortunately, the price of sugar and its bye-products had ruled exceedingly low. He thought that the whole of the duty of £4 a ton, which was imposed last April, had come out of the pockets of the producer, for in April the price of good crystallized sugar was £16 a ton, and immediately after the imposition of the duty the utmost that could be got from the trade was £16 per ton, duty paid. This meant that the whole of the duty had come out of the pockets of the importer—a most unfortunate thing for West India proprietors. The low price of sugar caused great anxiety to every one connected with the production of the article. The present price of 88 per cent. beet in London was £7 10s. a ton—about 15s. a ton less than the lowest price previously touched; and the cause of this was unquestionably the unhealthy system of bounties which prevailed on the Continent. Their sole hope at the present moment was in the conference which was expected to be held in Brussels within probably a couple of months—at all events, before the end of the year—when it was confidently expected that the Continental Powers would agree to the abolition of the bounties; and he trusted that the present Government would not make the results of

that conference abortive, as the weak Government of 1888 did with the report of the then conference. It would interest them to know that the new direct line of steamers to Jamaica was performing the mail service with exemplary punctuality, and they were informed that the owners of the steamers were quite satisfied as far as they had gone. They had been able to import bananas and other Jamaica fruit in an exceedingly good condition, and they appeared to have a good market for it in this country. At all events, a good fruit trade between Jamaica and this country was something to look forward to. It was currently reported that the Imperial Government were intending—or had, he might say, intimated their intention—to assist financially in the erection of sugar factories in Antigua and Jamaica. He thought this was an earnest that the Government of the present day intended to help the West Indies; certainly, the present Colonial Secretary had shown far greater interest in our West India Colonies than any of his predecessors, and much was hoped from his enlightened assistance.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," October 9th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mrs. T. Law Gaskin, Mr. A. H. J. Greenidge, Master H. Manning, Master A. Manning, Mr. G. S. Browne. DEMERARA.—Mr. R. Allan, Mr. H. A. R. Allan, Mr. M. Clarke, Mr. A. Gilchrist, Dr. A. D. Williams, Mr. M. Bealosterski, Rev. Belsher. JAMAICA.—Mr. P. J. Brown, Rev. G. A. Whittaker. TRINIDAD.—Mr. E. L. Atkinson, Miss King, Mr. J. McIntosh, Rev. M. J. O'Callagan, Mr. L. H. Schoener, Fk. Purcell, D.B.S., A. Hillier, D.B.S., P. O'Brien, D.B.S. ST. LUCIA.—Miss L. Spreadbury.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," October 16th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Lt.-Col. St. Leger, Mrs. St. Leger, Dr. Morris, C.M.G., Mrs. Morris, Mr. Spence, Miss Waldron, Mrs. and Miss Archer. DEMERARA.—Mr. H. S. Brandon, Mr. A. P. Dawson, Mr. J. S. Sowdan, Mr. G. F. Waby. JAMAICA.—Mr. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Oughton, Mrs. T. Oughton, Mrs. Ogilvie, Miss Levy, Miss Poole, Mr. J. Pinnock, Sgt.-Major O'Rourke, Miss Bates, Miss H. B. Gray, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Motta, Mr. Motta, Miss Da Costa, Mr. A. Pawsey. TRINIDAD.—Mr. C. A. Littlepage, Mr. J. Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. A. Warner, Mr. W. Sanderson, Miss Sanderson, Miss D. Sanderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wallace, Rev. F. Stack, Rev. J. McGowan. ANTIGUA.—Sir Henry and Lady Jackson, Master Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Whytham, Dr. A. M. Rose. GRENADA.—Rev. Father Holmes, Rev. J. C. Wolseley, Mrs. and Miss Lawrence. ST. KITTS.—Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Drayton. ST. LUCIA.—Mr. C. R. Kennaway, Hon. G. Ponsonby. ST. VINCENT.—Mr. Alex. Porter.

Forward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," October 30th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Cleeve, Dr., Mrs. and Miss Wolseley, Miss Robinson, Mrs. F. Hilton, Mr. Hutchinson's party. DEMERARA.—Mr. J. J. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. F. White, Mrs. Cox and son, Mrs. Cox, sen. JAMAICA.—Mr. J. W. H. Nichols, Mrs. Nichols, Miss O. H. Peck, two Misses Sant, Mrs. Farquhar, Mr. W. F. Farquhar. TRINIDAD.—Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy, Mrs. L. Agostini, two Misses Agostini, Mrs. and Miss Knox, Miss G. Moloney, Mr. and Mrs. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. de Lemos, Mr. and Mrs. G. Wenzel, Mr. L. O'Connor.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," October 2nd, 1901:—JAMAICA.—Mr. F. G. Bradford, Mr. J. Bourdas, jun., Mrs. E. M. E. Bewley, Mr. B. Collier, Master H. O. Carter, Mr. Lindsay P. Downer, Mr. W. W. Granger, Mr. E. G. Hatfield, Mrs. Braine-Hartnell, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Lee, Mr. J. O. Musson, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Muntou, Mr. E. P. Nuttall, Mr. G. H. Ribbons, Mr. W. J. Thorp.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," October 12th, 1901:—JAMAICA.—Rev. Carey Berry, Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Chanter, Mr. Chanter, jun., Mr. Cowper and party, Mr. and Mrs. Eastcott, Mrs. and Miss Ewen, Mr. R. Gillard, Mr. Guy, Mrs. Harris, Mr. L. J. G. Hawthorne, Lady Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. Hogarth, Mrs. Lane, Mr. J. G. Peet, Mr. H. C. L. Sanftleben, Mrs. and Miss Sturridge, Lieut. W. L. Wayman, Mrs. F. B. White, Judge Vickers, Miss Vickers, Mr. Arnold, Miss A. L. Briggs, Miss Brown, Mr. A. Pullen-Burly, Mr. Clodd, Mrs. Clodd, Mr. G. N. Cox, Rev. Ivron Davies, Rev. J. B. Ellis, Mrs. Ellis and child, Mrs. Ewen, Miss Ewen, Mr. A. W. Gardner, Mr. Richard Gillard, Mr. R. Guy, Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Hamilton, Lieut. Harrison, Mrs. Harris and two infants, Mr. L. J. G. Hawthorne, Lady Hemming, Mr. Ihlee, Mrs. Ihlee, Mr. C. Mossop, Mr. Pfeiderer, Mrs. Pfeiderer, Mr. H. Bryant, Miss Gibbing, Mr. Gimgee, Mr. J. Henderson, Mr. L. Hurtle, Mr. J. Mitchell, Mr. C. W. King, Mr. T. Stephens.

Rum.

The rum market continues quiet, and sales are of an unimportant character.

Cocoa.

The following are the total clearances of Trinidad cocoa from October 1st to September 25th, of the following years:—

			England.		France.		America.		Total.
			Bags.		Bags.		Bags.		Bags.
1897-1898	**	**	67,202	**	28,012	**	32,952	**	129,166
1898-1899	**	**	81,097	**	36,262	**	44,675	**	162,034
1899-1900	**	**	88,479	**	24,547	**	40,721	**	153,747
1900-1901	**	**	56,176	**	32,220	**	47,917	**	136,313

West India Produce.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	3d. to 3½d. per lb.	LOGWOOD ...	£4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ...	37s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
BEESWAX	£7 15s. to £8 per cwt.	FUSTIC ...	£4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton.
HONEY ...	13s. 6d. to 20s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ...	£3 15s. to £4 per ton.
LIME JUICE	1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. per gall.	ARROWROOT ...	(St. Vincent) 1½d. to 3¼d. per lb.

Exports.

From—	Sugar.	Rum.	Cocoa.	Diamonds	Gold.	Co'nats.	Molasses.			
	Tons.	Puns.	lbs.	Single Stones.	ozs.		Puns.	Tros.	Brls.	
BRITISH GUIANA —										
Jan. 1st to Sept. 25th, 1901	38,647	13,290	72,761	4,988	69,840	76,366	518			
Jan. 1st to Sept. 26th, 1900	39,995	13,762	20,629	—	79,135	128	1,730			
TRINIDAD —	Bags & Brls.			Coffee	Asphalt.		Puns.	Tros.	Brls.	
Jan. 1st to Sept. 25th, 1901	469,448	1,605	18,769,204	15,840	139,562	10,562,499	3,360	158	438	
Jan. 1st to Sept. 25th, 1900	373,968	578	25,172,325	3,540	102,490	5,850,871	7,099	72	88	

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom, 5th October	99,393	39,480	39,072	83,635	64,591
France, 1st September	124,520	159,091	245,095	165,605	223,421
Germany, 1st September	137,402	76,365	62,296	156,534	74,127
Hamburg, 9th October	48,100	18,900	87,500	69,000	32,300
Austria-Hungary, 1st October	85,400	63,981	61,631	120,329	118,211
Holland, 1st October	3,283	2,130	876	6,356	28,218
Belgium, 15th September	8,789	11,041	19,244	47,934	24,567
	506,887	370,988	515,714	649,393	565,795
United States, 9th October, Total Stocks	164,000	46,790	158,957	175,650	420,133
Cuba, six principal ports, 9th October, Total Stocks ...	77,000	4,929	14,960	40,568	5,700
Cargoes afloat, 10th October	112,131	134,119	195,218	143,675	10,218
Total	860,018	559,826	884,849	1,009,226	1,007,846

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) September 30th, "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." October 8th, "Seasonable weather." **BRITISH GUIANA**—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) October 1st, "Weather favourable for cultivation and grinding." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) October 7th, "Fine and favourable for growing crop." October 12th, "Fine with occasional light showers."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight :—

General.

"The Financial News," "International Sugar Journal," Vol. 3, No. 34, October, "Journal des Fabricants de Sucre," The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, September, 1901, "Louisiana Planter," "Our Western Empire," No. 4, Vol. 1, October, "Produce Markets Review," "Sugar Cane Experiments in the Leeward Islands," Season 1900-01.—The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Market Reports.

Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
 Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.)
 Barbados Market Review (Messrs. Jones & Swan).
 Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
 Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (Messrs. Wieting & Richter).
 Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.).
 Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Park, Son & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.

West Indian Newspapers.

<i>The Antigua Observer.</i>	<i>The Dominican.</i>	<i>The St. Christopher Advertiser.</i>
<i>The Antigua Standard.</i>	<i>The Dominica Guardian.</i>	<i>The Sentry (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i>	<i>The Federalist & Grenada People.</i>	<i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Barbados Globe.</i>	<i>The Gleaner (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Mirror (Trinidad).</i>
<i>The Clarion (British Honduras).</i>	<i>The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).</i>
<i>The Argosy (Demerara).</i>	<i>The Jamaica Times.</i>	

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Pilliter Square Buildings. Subscriptions of new Members elected during the last three months of any year are held as an account of the year commencing on the following first of January.

Back numbers of the West India Committee Circulars (New Series)—with the exception of Nos. 1-11, 13 and 29-32, which are out of print—can be obtained from the Secretary, post free 6d. per copy.

The Late Mr. Colin Macandrew Gillespie.

It is with the deepest grief that we learn as we go to press of the death of Mr. Colin Macandrew Gillespie, which occurred on Friday, October 11th last, after an illness of some weeks' duration. As one of the oldest members and a trustee and treasurer of the West India Committee, and a partner in the firm of Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co., the late Mr. Gillespie was prominently associated with West Indian affairs, and, as the writer can testify, it was largely to his personal efforts that the success which attended the recent reorganisation of the West India Committee was due.

A. E. H.

West India Committee.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, October 29th, 1901.

The Delayed Conference.

Since our last Circular was issued the price of sugar has fallen away still further, and the anxiety felt as to the reassembling of the Brussels Sugar Bounties Conference is increasing. Our recent statement that negotiations were progressing satisfactorily is fully confirmed by the recent telegrams from the Continent, which have appeared in the Press. The explanation given for the procrastination is that it is due to the wish that as many Powers as possible may be represented. An invitation has now been sent to the United States, which must inevitably give rise to further delay, and it is now expected that the Conference will not meet before early in the New Year, the month of January being mentioned in this connection. It is difficult to avoid the suspicion that these constant postponements may have had in view the impossibility of any legislation affecting the position of the bounties until after the Beet campaign of 1902-1903. If this surmise is correct, the position of some of the West India Islands promises to be very critical.

The Development of British Guiana.

An article appeared in yesterday's *Times* alluding to the decision of the Combined Court of British Guiana not to vote the salary attaching to the proposed appointment of Mr. W. D. Barnes as Commissioner of Lands, Forests and Mines, and practically throwing the whole of the responsibility for this decision which is described as "deplorably shortsighted and impolitic," upon the Sugar Industry. So far as the Sugar Industry is represented in this Country, nothing was known of the proposed appointment of Mr. Barnes, and consequently proprietors in this Country can be held in no way responsible for the decision of the Combined Court. The West India Committee always has and no doubt always will favour anything which is likely to conduce to the development and prosperity of the Colony.

The Landslip in Barbados.

We have received by the mail particulars of the serious landslip which devastated Boscobel district in St. Andrew's parish, in Barbados, on October 1st last, as the result of the very heavy rains which have been experienced in the district. It appears that the rains began on September 28th and continued with great violence until Tuesday, October 1st, when the disaster took place. About 450 acres of land slipped away from the lower spur of Cherry Tree Hill down to the cave on the beach, a distance of a mile and a-half. A small part went into the sea but the bulk of it went on to other lands, the whole presenting the appearance of a district which has been visited by a severe earthquake. In this part of the Island most of the houses were built of stone, and of unusual size. These have been swept away with the land. The whole of the works of the Boscobel Estate, the property of Mr. H. E. Thorne, have been destroyed. Though numbers of people were rendered homeless, there was, fortunately, no loss of life, as the catastrophe occurred during the daytime. The Governor, with commendable promptitude, visited the spot, and on Tuesday, October 8th, a public meeting was held in the Council Chamber with a view to inaugurating a fund for the relief of the sufferers. It is highly creditable to Barbados that about £71 was collected in the room. The extent of the damage is estimated by the Governor at £500, and it is hoped that this sum may be forthcoming without the necessity of resorting to a grant from the Legislature.

The American Nation's Thanks.

We have received the following letter from the Acting Secretary of State of the United States, thanking the West India Committee for their telegram of sympathy upon the occasion of the lamented death of President McKinley :—

Department of State,
Washington, *October 10th, 1901.*

Mr. Aspinall,
Secretary, West India Committee,
Billiter Square, London, England.

Sir,

I greatly regret that the pressure of public business attendant upon the lamented death of President McKinley should have prevented an earlier acknowledgment of the telegram of sympathy, in view of that sad event, sent by you on the 16th ultimo on behalf of the West India Committee of London.

In the absence of the Secretary of State, I beg to assure you of this Government's grateful appreciation of your kind message, and to thank you for the expressions of brotherly sympathy extended to this nation in its hour of sorrow.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) ALVEY A. ADEE,
Acting Secretary.

New Members.

The following new Members were elected at Meetings of the Executive Committee on October 17th and 22nd respectively :—MESSRS. CADBURY BROS., LTD., proposed by Sir Nevile Lubbock, and seconded by Mr. Henry K. Davson; and Mr. PERCIVAL J. BROWNIE, of Jamaica, proposed by Mr. E. A. De Pass, and seconded by Mr. Henry K. Davson.

The number of new Members elected during the current year now amounts to 38. We trust that Members will personally endeavour to strengthen the Committee by bringing forward candidates for election. Subscriptions from new Members elected during the last three months of the year will be held to cover the period till December 31st, 1902.

The West Indian Club.

The increasing attendance at the fortnightly Club dinners of the West Indian Club affords ample evidence of the popularity of these social functions. The dinner on Oct. 16th, organised by Mr. Rippon, was very largely attended, those present including :—Sir David Palmer Ross, C.M.G., the Hon. A. J. Davey, the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. Frank Austin, Mr. H. G. Boyle, Mr. Brown, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. L. De Mercado, Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. John Hinkson, Mr. A. S. Hirsch, Mr. Charles Hope Levy, Mr. G. H. Jackson, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. J. S. Macfadyen, Mr. J. E. Mitchell, Mr. Moore, Mr. L. V. Mozley, Mr. W. L. Odella, Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. George A. Sealy, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. A. Shephard, Mr. C. Shephard, Mr. H. Thomas, Mr. J. W. Watson, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, Dr. Wolseley and Mr. A. E. Aspinall.

Members of the West Indian Club desirous of being present at the next dinner, which will take place to-morrow, should inform Mr. L. De Mercado, of Dixon House, Fenchurch Street, who has kindly undertaken the arrangements.

Royal Colonial Institute.

Professor Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S., has been appointed honorary Corresponding Secretary of the Royal Colonial Institute for Trinidad, in succession to Sir Francis Lovell, until lately Surgeon-General of Trinidad, who is about to start on an extended tour in the tropics for the purpose of making known the aims and objects of the London School of Tropical Medicine. It may be useful to record the names of the other hon. Corresponding Secretaries of the Institute for the West Indies, who are—Barbados, C. B. Trimmingham, Esq.; British Guiana, Hon. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G.; Jamaica, Frank Cundall, Esq.; Leeward Islands, Hon. W. H. Whyham, Antigua.

A Forthcoming Meeting.

Mr. W. T. Thomas, Inspector of the Jamaica Constabulary, will deliver an illustrated lecture upon "Jamaica," at the Royal Imperial Institute, on Monday, November 4th next, at 8.30 p.m. The chair upon this occasion will be taken by the Right Hon. the Earl of Stamford. Admission will be free without ticket, but the Council has courteously placed at the disposal of the West India Committee a limited number of tickets for special reserved seats. These can be obtained upon application to the Secretary.

Address Register.

Arrangements have been made for keeping a register of the addresses of outward and homeward passengers by the West Indian Mail Steamers at the Committee Rooms. Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and Messrs. Scruttons, Sons & Co., have consented to post in their steamers notices inviting passengers to communicate their addresses to the West India Committee upon specially prepared postcards, obtainable from the Pursers.

News by the Mail.

The R.M.S. "La Plata" reached Plymouth at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23rd, and letters were delivered in London by first post on October 25th.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) October 9th. Crop prospects were magnificent, but with the prospects of a continuance of poor prices and the rehabilitation of the Cuban industry which must necessarily affect the American Market, the outlook was gloomy. Moreover, owing to the exodus of labourers from the Island, difficulty was likely to be experienced in reaping a large crop. The weather has been unusually hot and sultry with very little wind from the S. and S.W. A severe thunderstorm was raging and 3.36 inches of rain had already fallen.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.), October 10th. The "Trent" which sustained bad weather before the Azores, unlike the "La Plata" had managed to make up time and arrived in Carlisle Bay on Sunday, September 29th. The wind that day began to blow and the sea was very high, the lighters could not land the cargo and all the Royal Mail Steamers had to remain until Tuesday afternoon. The wind inland was nothing particular, but rain fell very heavily. In the Leeward districts about 10 ins. fell on the 29th and 30th and the thunder and lightning were awful. At Boscobel, in St. Andrew's, the heavy rains caused a terrific landslip—(Mr. Alleyne's graphic description of this will be found in another part of the Circular). The end of September was very wet, as much as 21.27 ins. fell on Porter's Estate during the month, but to windward the rainfall was not more than 11.612 ins. At Dunscombe, in St. Thomas, the rainfall of the year was over 100 inches. October had come in with very hot suns, which after the heavy rains, had much benefited the canes which were growing

vigorously. Professor D'Albuquerque was about to give his second lecture upon the experiments of the Imperial Department of Agriculture with varieties of canes, none of which had so far given anything like the yield estimated in the article in the "Times." Mr. J. F. Browne of the late firm of W. P. Leacock & Co., died on the 8th inst.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), October 9th. Grinding operations were fairly general throughout the Colony. The juice so far was poor, but it was hoped that as grinding progressed, it would improve. Refining crystals were quoted at \$1.93. The weather had been hot and dry during the fortnight with the exception of showers during the last three days which were favourable for estates generally. The S.S. "Fazilka" arrived from Calcutta on September 27th, with equal to 850 adult emigrants on board. She returned to Calcutta in water ballast. The ship "Rhône" arrived on October 2nd with equal to 616 adults. There was no meeting of the Legislature during the fortnight. The Acting Governor had been on a visit to the Corentyne district. The Honourables B. Howell Jones and D. M. Hutson had been reappointed members of the Executive Council and Mr. J. H. de Jonge had also been appointed a Member of that body.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), October 9th. A consignment of bananas had arrived in London in excellent condition. They were packed in crates, and classed between the Jamaica and Azores fruit, fetching from 6s. to 6s. 6d.

Jamaica.—(S. Soutar, Esq.), October 10th. The Island continued to be favoured with fine seasonable rains and with good October rains the Sugar Crop would be assured. Considerable interest was being taken in the proposals to establish Central Factories in suitable districts, and the landowners and planters of St. Catherine were formulating a scheme for establishing a Factory capable of turning out not less than 10,000 tons of Sugar, with the usual proportion of Rum, in the vicinity of the Spanish Town Railway Station, thus availing themselves of the Railway facilities over the large and fertile districts of Spanish Town, Old Harbour and St. Thomas-in-the-Vale. A Mr. Heriot from a firm of Glasgow engineers had arrived by the last mail, and was prepared to give estimates and make contracts for the installation of a complete Central Factory plant. The showery weather was interfering, to a certain extent, with the drying of the Pimento Crop which was now being gathered and which was estimated at 60,000 bags. Coffee picking had also begun, and the crop was expected to be quite up to the average and the quality good. Owing, however, to the very low prices ruling for some time past settlers had been neglecting their cultivation, which had grown up in bush and was difficult to get at to pick. Oranges were coming in. The crop would not be large, but the quality full size and good. Large quantities of Bananas were being shipped, but the supply was still greater than the demand.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), October 8th. Abundant and in some places more than enough rain had fallen, causing a loss of soil, except on the dead levels, the land being unable to absorb it all. Terrific thunderstorms had passed over the Island, and on one estate the chimney was struck by the electric fluid. At the time of writing it was stiflingly calm, yet there was fair reason to believe that a hurricane was approaching.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) October 11th. The weather had been very unsettled, the barometer registering the lowest since the disastrous storm of September, 1898.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Feunwick) October 9th. A general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was to be held on October 19th to discuss the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's proposals for improved steamer services. At a meeting of the Standing Committee on Immigration it was, after discussion, decided that the Emigration Agency should be instructed to despatch immigrants

at such dates as would ensure their arrival in Trinidad not later than the end of the year or beginning of January. It appeared that, in addition to postponement of dates of sailings already made public, the departure of the third vessel was postponed for a fortnight, and that of the fourth and last vessel from the third week in November to Christmas Day, or nearly five weeks! Many of the coolies required for the sugar crop would therefore not be received until the crop was closing. The weather continued unusually hot and trying, and complaints were beginning to be made of want of more rain. So far, however, the season had been favourable and prospects of the crops were said to be good.

West India Topics in the Press.

Our note in last Circular under the heading "A Gloomy Outlook," has attracted a great deal of attention, and we would refer Members to the leading articles upon it which appeared in the "Daily Express" of October 15th, the "Financial News" of October 16th, and the "Financier and Bullionist" of October 16th.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," October 24th, 1901:—**BARBADOS.**—Master L. H. Ambridge, Mr. H. L. Johnson, Mrs. C. A. Reid. **DEMERARA.**—Dr. E. D. Rowland, Dr. Welsh, Dr. F. O. Shaw, Master Russell Gill, Capt. and Mrs. Chistison. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. Frith, Mr. Banks. **TRINIDAD.**—Mrs. S. Dreyfus, Mr. T. H. P. Heriot, Miss Bunclie, Mr. W. J. S. Tucker, Mr. John Lowles.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," October 30th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Cleeve, Dr. and Mrs. Wolseley, Miss Robinson, Mrs. F. Hilton, Miss E. Hutchinson, Miss K. Hutchinson, Mr. G. Hutchinson, Mr. A. F. Levitt, Mr. and Mrs. T. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Mahon, Miss Mahon, Miss A. Mahon, Miss Layne, Mr. E. L. Moore. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. J. I. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. F. White, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Etteridge, Mrs. B. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Brodie, Mrs. F. Boyle, Mrs. Delafoss, Mr. F. A. Conyers, jun., Mr. Dunkin, Mr. Smew, Mr. G. McKay. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. H. Nichols, Mr. L. Facey, Mr. and Mrs. Reece, Miss Reece, Miss O. H. Peck, Mrs. Farquhar, Mr. W. F. Farquhar, Captain and Mrs. Barthorp and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Chambers, Miss Evans, Mr. J. H. Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Hardy, Mr. H. R. Hardy, nurse, and maid, Mrs. and Miss Constantine, Mrs. C. H. Jackson. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. and Mrs. R. H. McCarthy, Mrs. L. Agostini, two Misses Agostini, Mrs. and Miss Knox, Miss G. Moloney, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. de Lemos, Mr. and Mrs. G. Wenzel, Mr. L. O'Connor, Mrs. Slyne, Mrs. Brinstein, Mrs. W. Sanderson, Miss Sanderson, Miss D. Sanderson, Miss J. Meyer, Miss Hart, Miss D. Hart, Miss D. Riddell, Mr. G. White, Mrs. Davies, Mr. L. H. Schoener, Miss Lind, Miss Corbally, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. Kearney. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Martin. **GRENADE.**—Mr. A. Ross, Mr. Boyd. **ST. LUCIA.**—Hon. G. Pensonby. **ST. VINCENT.**—Mrs. Twose.

Forward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," November 13th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Sealy, Mr. R. Haynes. **DEMERARA.**—Rev. J. Rae. **JAMAICA.**—Lady Howard of Glossop, Rev. and Mrs. R. Johnston and family, Mr. P. Langdon Thomas, two Misses Langdon Thomas, two Misses Sant, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Calder, Mr. H. Drummond, Mrs. and Miss Drummond, Miss James, Mr. H. Clark, M. J. Greenlees. **TRINIDAD.**—Rev. Hamilton, Mr. and Mr. J. B. Todd, Mr. D. N. Powell, Mr. Thos. Baden-Powell.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Morant," October 16th, 1901:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. H. E. Brett, Mr. Ernest Boyle, Mr. P. Cork, Miss A. E. Holden, Miss Flora Johnston, Mr. A. L. Keeling, Master Manley Lopez, Mr. A. A. McLeod, Mr. J. C. L. Verley.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," October 26th, 1901:—JAMAICA. Mr. J. L. Aitken, Mrs. Atkins, Mr. and Mrs. Balfour, Rev. H. Clark, Mrs. and two Misses Clark, Miss M. Ronaldson, Mr. G. D. Edwards, Miss Facey, Mr. C. Farewell, Mr. A. B. D. Goldie, Comm. Hatchard, Mr. Mackay, Sister Madeline, Mr. J. Milne, Mr. W. Mitchell, Capt. Parsons, Mr. J. W. Perks, Mr. S. Simeon, Mr. G. Wihan, Mr. S. L. Williamson, Mr. R. T. Bailey, Mr. G. F. Bloye, Mr. C. Britton, Mr. Cockshutt, Mrs. Fearn, Sergt. S. O. Moore.

The Late Mr. Colin Macandrew Gillespie.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday, October 21st, 1901, present Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., in the Chair, Mr. Henry K. Davson, Deputy Chairman, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. Cyril Gurney and Mr. R. Rutherford, Treasurers, Mr. Edward G. Barr, Mr. E. A. DePass, Mr. T. DuBuisson, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. H. Hales, Mr. E. Luxmore Marshall, Mr. John Price, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. George White, Mr. P. J. Brownie and Mr. A. E. Aspinall, Secretary, the following resolution was passed unanimously :—

"The Executive Committee desire to record the deep regret of the West India Committee at the death of Mr. Colin Macandrew Gillespie, for so many years a Member of their body, and to mark their esteem and appreciation of his indefatigable services as their Trustee and Treasurer, and resolve that the Secretary be instructed to convey to Mrs. Gillespie and the other members of the family the expression of their heartfelt sympathy."

Repatriation of Trinidad Coolies.

The following letter was addressed on October 28th, to the Secretary of State upon the above subject :—

Sir,

In view of your decision that in future the planters of Trinidad must bear such portion of the expense of the repatriation of Coolies introduced from the 1898 season, inclusive onwards, as is not paid by the immigrants themselves, my Committee desire respectfully to make the following suggestions as to the manner in which the increased contribution from the Planters might be raised and appropriated.

At the present time the male Coolie has to pay one-half of his return passage to India and the woman one-third, the balance being paid by the Planter receiving the Coolie. After five years' indenture the immigrant is free to work with anyone he pleases as long as he remains in Trinidad.

It is proposed to collect from the Planters taking Coolies, each year for ten years a sufficient sum to meet the Planter's liability, this money to be held by the Trinidad Government until the immigrant and his children die or return to India. Such a system would render the liability of the Planter almost unlimited, as it might last fifty years or longer.

It appears to my Committee that after the Coolie has served five years' indenture on an estate and five years' industrial residence in Trinidad two years should be a sufficient and reasonable time for him to make up his mind whether he will return to India at the Planter's expense or remain independent in Trinidad.

The Planter's liability would thus be limited to twelve years, and in the thirteenth year, in the event of the Coolie not desiring to return, a reasonable proportion of the money paid by the Planter would be returnable to him.

Trusting that you may be pleased to recommend the adoption of this suggestion,

I have, etc.,

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

Exports from Grenada and the Grenadines.

We are indebted to Messrs. Jonas, Browne & Son, for the following comparative figures of the exports from Grenada and Grenadines for the past five years :—

CROPS.	GRENADA.		CARRIACOU.	
	1st Oct. to 30th Sept.	Spice. Packages.	Cotton. Bales.	Cotton-Seed. Bags.
1896-1897	54,597	2,920	574	3,389
1897-1898	53,441	3,451	783	5,254
1898-1899	52,141	3,976	641	4,281
1899-1900	53,388	5,633	995	5,816
1900-1901	53,387	4,406	838	4,724

Of the above, the following were shipped to North America and the balance to Europe—

1896-1897	2,180	—	—	—
1897-1898	1,390	525	—	—
1898-1899	1,713	819	—	—
1899-1900	4,180	1,673	—	—
1900-1901	5,440	1,727	—	—

Rum.

Since our last issue this market has maintained the quiet tone previously reported, without material change in values. The stock of Demerara in first hands has now been disposed of, but there is a considerable quantity of Foreign and Mauritius, which is difficult of sale.

Jamaicas move off slowly, without change in values. Stocks are slightly reduced as follows: -

26,051 Puns against 20,443 in 1900, 24,271 in 1899, and 26,668 in 1898.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—During the month only 1,295 bags were offered at the public sales, and being in a great measure of unattractive quality, met with a slow demand, but prices were fully steady. Privately there has been very little doing and the market closes with a quiet tone, but holders show no disposition to accept lower prices in face of the limited supplies in first hands. Quotations are 61/- to 69/6 for low to good middling red, and 70/- to 85/- for fine and superior.

	1901	1900
IMPORTED 1st Jan. to 19th Oct. ..	36,655 bags against	54,529 bags.
DELIVERED " " ..	36,030 " "	38,121 " "
STOCK, 19th Oct. ..	20,800 " "	34,883 " "

GRENADA.—Supplies continue very limited, the total quantity offered at public sale only amounting to 376 bags: the market has displayed considerable firmness, and prices have advanced 6d. to 1s. per cwt., closing quotations being 59s. to 61s. for ordinary to good fair, and 61s. 6d. to 66s. for middling to fine.

	1901	1900
IMPORTED 1st Jan. to 19th Oct. ..	40,232 bags against	39,399 bags.
DELIVERED " " ..	35,006 " "	38,121 " "
STOCK, 19th Oct. ..	10,257 " "	10,621 " "

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom, 19th October	85,079	41,213	41,045	77,784	69,074
France, 1st October	104,609	97,810	206,563	109,595	173,527
Germany, 1st October	126,955	41,366	14,730	84,350	80,471
Hamburg, 23rd October	49,400	15,100	83,500	71,000	41,600
Austria-Hungary, 1st October	85,176	63,981	61,631	120,329	118,211
Holland, 1st October	3,283	2,130	876	6,356	28,218
Belgium, 1st October	4,834	5,096	12,381	39,308	25,032
United States, 23rd October, Total Stocks	459,336	266,696	420,726	508,728	542,133
Cuba, six principal ports, 23rd October, Total Stocks	175,000	50,982	183,529	144,162	423,952
Cargoes afloat, 24th October	66,000	3,892	13,865	37,500	5,450
Cargoes afloat, 24th October	53,024	88,777	149,447	111,534	14,497
Total.....	753,360	410,347	767,567	801,924	987,132

West India Produce.

(Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	3½d. to 3¾d. per lb.	LOGWOOD...	... £4 10s. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ...	38s. to 62s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 to £4 5s. per ton.
BEESWAX ...	£7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt.	FUSTIC ...	... £4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton.
HONEY ...	14s. to 20s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ...	... £3 15s. to £4 per ton.
LIME JUICE ...	1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d. per gall.	ARROWROOT ...	(St. Vincent) 1¼d. to 3¾d. per lb.

Exports.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nuts.	Molasses. Puns.			
BRITISH GUIANA—										
Jan. 1st to Oct. 9th, 1901	39,159	13,329	72,761	4,988	73,746	76,566	518			
Jan. 1st to Oct. 10th, 1900	49,828	14,012	29,587	—	83,211	128	1,730			
TRINIDAD—										
Jan. 1st to Oct. 9th, 1901	470,041	1,605	19,010,944	15,840	146,420	11,209,694	3,481	158	566	
Jan. 1st to Oct. 9th, 1900	374,019	578	25,568,695	3,540	102,990	5,965,846	7,215	72	88	

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), October 15th, "Weather intensely hot."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), October 22nd, "Weather fine, with occasional showers." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), October 24th, "Some heavy rains have fallen."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

General.

Balance Sheet and Financial Statement of British Guiana, 1900-1901. Barbados Agricultural Gazette and Planters Journal, October. Blue Books, St. Lucia, 1900. Leeward Islands, 1900. Colonial Report, No. 332, St. Lucia, 1900. "The Edwards Patent Vacuum Pump, for use with Vacuum-Pans and Multiple Effect Evaporators in Sugar Manufacture."—H. W. Aitken, 140, Bath Street, Glasgow. Jamaica for Tourists—Messrs. Eider, Dempster & Co. Proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad. Report of Economic Experiments in Antigua, and Nature Teaching by Francis Watts, Esq., F.I.C., F.C.S.—The Imperial Department of Agriculture. Report of the Registrar-General, 1900, British Guiana.

Market Reports.

*Antigua (Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co.).
 Barbados Mercantile Intelligence (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
 Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.).
 Barbados Market Review (Messrs. Jones & Swan).
 Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
 Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (Messrs. Wieting & Richter).
 Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown).
 The "Gleaner" Mercantile Intelligence, Jamaica (The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.).
 Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Mau, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfaaden & Co., Park, Son & Co., Wilson Smithell & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.*

West Indian Newspapers.

<i>The Antigua Observer.</i>	<i>The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).</i>	<i>The Jamaica Times.</i>
<i>The Antigua Standard.</i>	<i>The Dominican.</i>	<i>The St. Christopher Advertiser.</i>
<i>The Barbados Advocate.</i>	<i>The Dominica Guardian.</i>	<i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i>
<i>The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i>	<i>The Federalist & Grenada People.</i>	<i>The Sentry (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Barbados Globe.</i>	<i>The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).</i>	<i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Clarion (British Honduras).</i>	<i>The Gleaner (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Mirror (Trinidad).</i>
<i>The Argosy (Demerara).</i>	<i>The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).</i>

Algernon E. Aspinall,
 Secretary.

Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Pall Mall Square Buildings. Subscriptions of new Members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year commencing on the following first of January.

Back numbers of the West India Committee Circulars (New Series)—with the exception of Nos. 1-11, 13 and 29-32, which are out of print—can be obtained from the Secretary, post free 6d. per copy.

West India Committee.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,
Tuesday, November 12th, 1901.

The Sugar Bounties Conference.

The "Times" Brussels Correspondent stated on November 6th, that definite arrangements had been arrived at by the Powers interested for holding the proposed conference for the abolition of sugar bounties in Brussels either in December or in January, but more probably in December. He added that only delegates from sugar exporting countries in Europe would be invited and that the deliberations would be kept strictly private. From enquiry at Downing Street we learn that no invitation to a conference has as yet been received by Great Britain, and it is possible that a meeting of the sugar exporting Powers of Europe may be held as a preliminary to the Conference. The "Patriote" of Brussels in a recent issue also announced that the Conference would meet in January. We have, in spite of reports which have appeared in the Press to the contrary, all along maintained that the Conference would re-assemble and the above announcements of the "Times" and "Patriote" fully confirm our statements, which were not made without there being good ground for the belief in their correctness.

The Executive Committee.

At a Meeting held on October 31st last, Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding, Mr. W. A. Wolseley was elected Trustee and Treasurer and Mr. J. E. Kerr a Member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Kerr is largely interested in the Island of Jamaica, where his appointment will doubtless cause general satisfaction, it having been felt that hitherto Jamaica has not been sufficiently represented upon the West India Committee.

Boer Prisoners for the West Indies.

The question of the settlement of Boer Prisoners in the West Indies has recently been engaging the attention of the Executive Committee. It appears that the Government have for some time past contemplated the despatch of prisoners to various West India Islands and, with this object in view, have caused officials to visit the most suitable sites. From telegraphic and mail advices to hand, it would seem that many of the islands are strongly in favour of assisting the Mother Country and at the same time in a measure benefiting themselves by receiving Boer Prisoners and exiles. The West India Committee are now in communication with the Colonial Office on this subject.

Proposals for Improved Mail Services.

The despatch from Mr. Chamberlain to the Governor of Trinidad regarding the proposals of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, for improved steam services between the West Indies and the Mother Country which we were able to publish in our Circular 54, has, as we anticipated, given rise to much discussion and controversy in the West Indies, more especially in Barbados, British Guiana, and Trinidad where the proposals of the Company have been under consideration of the local organisations of the planters and merchants. As the suggestions of the Company were still the subject of much discussion in the West Indies when the Mail left, we will confine ourselves at present to quoting the opinions of the Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool which we invited subsequent to

a Committee meeting in October last on the subject. The replies of these associations are now before us, and it would seem at the outset that the short time available for the reply to letters from the West Indies has proved sufficient for the condemnation of the proposals. The Glasgow West Indian Association met on October 28th, and decided that the proposed itinerary was quite unsuitable for all the provinces, as in no case did it allow sufficient time for replying to correspondence by the immediately outgoing steamer, especially when it was considered that the service was only a fortnightly one. In Glasgow at the best there would only be a very few hours for reply, and it would be more than probable that correspondence could only be replied to by mail a fortnight later. It was thought that in Glasgow there should be four clear days between the receipt and despatch of the Mails, a similar period being arranged for at Demerara and Jamaica. If the present service could be accelerated to an ocean service of $14\frac{1}{2}$ -knots, and an inter-colonial service of 14 and $14\frac{1}{2}$ -knots as might be found necessary when adjusting the time bills, some addition to the present subsidy might reasonably be allowed. Plymouth was considered the Port at which mails should both be embarked and landed. The hour of departure being about noon, so as to allow of letters being posted up to 5.30 p.m. in Glasgow.

The West India Association of Liverpool, after duly considering Mr. Chamberlain's despatch, have come to the conclusion that the existing service, giving as it does ample time for replies to correspondence both in British Guiana and this country, is far preferable to the suggested one. Liverpool and other Northern Centres by the best proposals would only have 30 hours in which to reply to correspondence, which would be quite inadequate. Moreover, as a rule, mail letters called for correspondence over the country before they could be thoroughly replied to, and this applied also to British Guiana, whose letters had to be exchanged with outlying estates.

The Association realise that under the proposed time table they might get replies to letters in four weeks instead of five, but as the time for replying would be so limited there would in actual practice be a wait of six weeks instead of five. The Association while recognising the value of an accelerated service—the present ocean speed being abnormally low for an important mail route in these days, express their opinion that unless they can have a reasonable time in this country and British Guiana, the extra despatch will not be worth the cost, seeing that if a steamer were from any means delayed, fourteen days would elapse before correspondence could be answered.

The Association suggest, as a minimum—

1. That there should be at least four clear days in this Country and British Guiana for replying to correspondence.
2. That the last port of call outwards be Plymouth, the steamer being there about noon, after the arrivals of the Mails (thus enabling letters to be posted in Liverpool up to 9.30 p.m.)

The Association finally points out that the proposed time table does not appear to benefit any place but Trinidad, while its disadvantage to other centres, to say nothing of its extra cost are so obvious and numerous that it does not think a change justified, unless the minimum suggested be included.

The B 147 Disappointment.

At a meeting of the Barbados Agricultural Society held on October 4th last, Professor D'Albuquerque (The Acting Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies) had some interesting remarks to make respecting the B 147 Cane from which so much was expected, and so little has resulted. The yield of juice from this cane proved fair, 6,787 lbs., but the purity was very low, only $86\frac{1}{2}$, while on some estates it was only 84.32. Then the glucose ratio was very large, ranging

from 5.39 to 5.49, with the result that it would not make Muscovado Sugar at all. It is not surprising to read that in view of the over sanguine estimates which appeared in a section of the Press as to the results which were to be achieved by the recourse to seedling Canes, that the Professor's remarks were received with some degree of amusement. As we have so often pointed out we have always recognised the importance of Seedling Cane experiments, of which we may claim to be the inaugurators, but we do not think that any advantage can be gained from over estimating the results attained.

Repatriation of Coolie Immigrants.

We have received from Mr. Chamberlain the following reply to our letter of the 28th ultimo, upon the above subject. This question will be further considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee on November 14th next :—

"Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, on the subject of the payment by the planters of Trinidad of such portion of the cost of the repatriation of coolies, as is not payable by the immigrants themselves.

"2.—I am to point out that such payments from the planters will only be demanded in respect of coolies introduced in the season 1902-3 and following seasons, and not from 1898 as stated in your letter.

"3.—With regard to your suggestion that the right of the coolie to an assisted return passage should lapse if not exercised within two years of the completion of his period of industrial residence, I am to observe that such a limitation of the immigrants' rights could not be introduced without the consent of the Indian Government.

"4.—Mr. Chamberlain proposes shortly to approach the Indian Government on the subject in connection with a similar proposal emanating from the Government of Jamaica, but in the meantime he would be glad if the West India Committee would consider whether the effect of the change you propose might not be that nearly all the coolies would elect to return on the completion of ten years' residence, instead of, as at present, remaining, some for many years and some for ever; so that the result would be to substitute for a prospective and contingent liability an immediate charge of almost equal amount.

"I am &c.,

"(Signed) H. BERTRAM COX."

The Birthday Honours.

In the list of Birthday Honours issued on November 9th, appear the names of Mr. Alfred Lewis Jones, a Member of the Executive Committee of the West India Committee, who has been appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in recognition of services to the West African Colonies and Jamaica and Professor James Burchmore Harrison, M.A., F.I.C., F.C.S., Government Analyst of British Guiana, who has been appointed a Companion of the same Order. We most heartily congratulate these gentlemen upon the well deserved honours which have been conferred upon them.

The Boscobel Disaster.

Mr. Elliot G. Louis has consented to receive subscriptions towards the fund inaugurated in Barbados for the relief of sufferers from the recent landslip in the Boscobel district, an account of which appeared in our last Circular. Donations, which will be gratefully received, may be sent to Mr. Elliot G. Louis, 7, East Shrubbery, Redland, Bristol.

Trinidad Sugar Crops.

At the request of several Members we append figures showing the amount of the Trinidad Sugar Crops for 25 seasons. It will be remembered that we gave the figures for Barbados in our Circular No. 54. In subsequent Circulars we hope to give the figures for British Guiana and the other West Indian Colonies.

		Tons.			Tons.			Tons.
1876	..	53,168	1885	..	67,890	1894	..	52,000
1877	..	44,867	1886	..	55,346	1895	..	55,676
1878	..	58,399	1887	..	79,010	1896	..	59,678
1879	..	62,884	1888	..	63,769	1897	..	54,933
1880	..	52,199	1889	..	60,036	1898	..	58,109
1881	..	44,718	1890	..	61,665	1899	..	58,837
1882	..	55,957	1891	..	54,906	1900	..	46,277
1883	..	55,936	1892	..	58,839			
1884	..	64,935	1893	..	54,972			

Sweet Potatos.

With a view to popularising this vegetable in the United Kingdom, Dr. Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, has arranged to send over by each mail for the present a few barrels of Sweet Potatos. Samples of these potatos with full culinary recipes may be obtained from Messrs. James Philip & Co., 4, Fenchurch Buildings, E.C. Members of the Committee will greatly assist in the encouragement of what may become an important minor industry by bringing the sweet potatos before the notice of their friends who have not had the advantage of sampling them in a tropical country. We wish success to this enterprising move on the part of Messrs. James Philip & Co., who have already earned the thanks of our West Indian Friends as the pioneers of the Cane Sugar movement, they being the inaugurators of the system of selling sugar in small packages.

News by the Mail.

The R.M.S. "Trent" continues to maintain her reputation for punctuality having, in spite of the dense fog which prevailed, arrived at Plymouth at 4 a.m. on Wednesday, November 6th, with the satisfactory result that the mails were delivered in London by the last post on the same day. Complaints continue to be received from Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Lucia of the emigration of island labourers, an ominous and significant sign of the depression in the staple industry caused by the Foreign State Bounties.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), October 23rd. The weather had continued most favourable for the growing crops and the country generally presented a promising appearance, but there was no indication of any improvement in prices. Latest advices from America held out very little encouragement, so that even with a crop above the average an unsatisfactory reaping season had to be faced. Moreover, the labour question might prove a hard nut to crack as so many of the working classes had left the island of late in search of employment elsewhere.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.), October 24th. The delay in the negotiations for the re-assembling of the Brussels Conference was making the Planters very anxious. The situation of the island was worse than when the Royal Commission was appointed, since which time the Government had practically done nothing. Even the bounties which the Commissioners declared to be the chief obstacle to the prosperity of the West Indies had been shamefully allowed to continue. The local Chamber of Commerce had invited Captain Owen the R.M. Superintendent to attend their meeting upon his return from Trinidad to confer with them and give them all the information he could regarding the proposed new mail services. As far as Barbados was concerned it was difficult to see how the island was to be benefited by any change unless the ocean passages were

accelerated and the maintenance of the *status quo* would be best for the island. A heavy duty had been placed upon their sugar and nothing more had been heard of the proposals for the erection of a central sugar factory. The proposals of the Government to create a volunteer force had been accepted by the legislature. The motion to raise the salary of the Governor from £2,500 to £3,000 was passed by the House of Assembly by the narrow majority of 11 to 9, but was followed by acrimonious discussion in the press. The Governor had requested the Bill to be withdrawn. The practical lectures to planters given by the staff of the Imperial Government of Agriculture had been concluded, but the attendance and interest shown had been so great that it was hoped that they would be resumed on a future occasion. The weather during the fortnight had been entirely favourable; hot suns had alternated with nice showers. The rain had been heaviest over Bridgetown but all the island had had some, and those moderate rains were more helpful than the downfalls at the end of September. No improvement in the outlook could be chronicled, and the outlook was very black.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), October 23rd. With regard to the sugar market, sales had been made at \$2 which might be taken as the quotation of the day. The weather had been showery and unsettled, the factories were all in full work and reaping operations were progressing favourably.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), October 24th. The Imperial Department of Agriculture during the past fortnight sent their entomological expert, Mr. H. Maxwell Lefroy, to the Island to examine into the insect pest of the Island. He had, however, reported that Dominica was at the present time entirely free from any pest that was likely to be at all serious. They had also been visited by Mr. W. G. Freeman who was engaged in compiling a guide book to the botanic station which would be a great convenience to visitors. The Royal Mail Steam Packet's coasting steamer was timed to arrive in the middle of December. The weather for the past fortnight had continued dry, keeping back a second crop of limes and also retarding to some small extent the cacao crop.

Jamaica.—(S. Soutar, Esq.), October 22nd. The weather continued showery and everything that could be desired for the growing crops. Large shipments of Citrus fruits were now being made principally to the United States. The orange crop was not expected to be above the average, but from the continued seasonable weather the fruit was large, juicy and sweet. Bananas were being shipped in increasing quantities and the export for the season would be considerably in excess of any former year. Pines were being extensively cultivated, and for the first time would be an item of importance in these parts. Cultivation of cacao was being extended and the export gradually increasing. The crop for the year was estimated at from 30,000 to 35,000 cwts. This cultivation was eminently suitable for the energetic young man with a few hundred pounds capital desirous of becoming a Colonist, and once established, the cultivation was simple and inexpensive. An acre of well-established full bearing cacao in a suitable locality, was worth from £45 to £50. Pimento was now being gathered. The quality was good when properly cured, and the crop was estimated at 50,000 bags.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), October 22nd. A mistaken idea was prevalent that the Imperial Government proposed to grant something in the nature of a bounty in the export of rum, instead as appeared to be the case of their wishing in view of the payment of the Surtax in England that a return should be made on the basis of the actual excise expenses incurred locally. The emigration of agricultural labourers from the Island in large numbers had again commenced. Such

wholesale emigration must, if it continued, lead in a comparatively short time to a dearth of labour which would be a last straw on the sugar industry. It was not particularly flattering that labouring people were rushing in shoals from the protection of the Union Jack to the Republic of San Dominica and elsewhere. The weather continued favourable and abundance of rain had fallen all over the Island. On October 21st, a severe thunderstorm passed over and nearly two inches of rain fell.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. Emanuel du Boulay), October 25th. We regret to have to report the death of Mr. Trophim du Boulay, the brother of our esteemed Hon. Correspondent, which occurred suddenly in Paris on the 8th ult. The late Mr. du Boulay who was the Manager of the well-conducted Vieuxfort Sugar Factory in St. Lucia, was a subscriber to the West India Committee and took a deep interest in all West Indian affairs. The feature of the present fortunes of the Island was a heavy and continuous exodus of numbers of the population to the gold-fields of Cayenne and Surinam. If this depletion of the agricultural population continued, the work of the plantations and factories might suffer considerably. Meanwhile the meeting of the Conference at Brussels was eagerly looked for. Prices had fallen so low that some method must be found to steady the price of sugar. The current month had been somewhat dry and rain was wanted but the crops were promising and healthy.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) October 25th. With regard to the reassembling of the Brussels Conference the patience of the planters was rapidly getting exhausted. The prices for the staple products, sugar and arrowroot, were the lowest on record. Arrowroot making throughout the Island would become general in November.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) October 24th. The first vessel from India of the season arrived on October 17th, bringing 743 coolies. This vessel was the first steamer to arrive at Trinidad with coolies. The voyage was a very successful one and the emigrants had arrived in exceptionally good health, there had been an epidemic of mumps on board but this was of small importance. Allotments had already been made and the coolies were already on their way to the different Estates on October 24th. The weather after being rather too dry had taken a turn for the better and there had been several good showers, still, more rain was required.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," November 6th, 1901.—**BARBADOS.**—Miss Robson, Mr. James Bryson, Lieut. E. G. Skelton, Major R. E. Hill. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. D. Levat, Mrs. Weber, Mr. W. D. Bain, Mrs. Von Winckler. **JAMAICA.**—Staff Surgeon and Mrs. Cox, Miss Maud Holwell, Capt. G. L. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Glazebrook, Rev. H. Jones, Major L. E. A. Salmon. **TRINIDAD.**—Miss Mary Hume. **ANTIGUA.**—Rev. H. E. Bamforth. **DOMINICA.**—Master A. L. Pinard. **GRENADA.**—Mr. J. S. de la Nothe. **ST. KITTS.**—Mr. R. B. Roden. **ST. LUCIA.**—Hon. E. Du Boulay.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," November 13th, 1901.—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Sealy, Mr. R. Haynes, Mr. H. L. Johnson, Mr. J. W. Blackwood. **DEMERARA.**—Rev. J. Rae. **JAMAICA.**—Lady Howard of Glossop, Rev. and Mrs. R. Johnston and family, Mr. P. Langdon Thomas, two Misses Langdon Thomas, two Misses Sant, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Calder, Mr. H. Drummond, Mrs. and Miss Drummond, Miss James, Mr. H. Clark, M. J. Greenless, Sir Henry Cunningham, Mr. L. J. Horwitz, Miss H. Hitchins. **TRINIDAD.**—Rev. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Todd, Mr. D. N. Powell, Mr. Thos. Baden-Powell, Mr. Albert, Mr. R. Hardwick, Mr. Ligeron, Mr. P. Carter. **ST. LUCIA.**—Mr. F. Gray.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," October 30th, 1901:—
JAMAICA.—Mr. H. Beaumont, Miss Beaumont, Mr. W. P. Delaforce, Col. J. G. Griffiths, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Gilks, Mr. D. D. Henriques, Capt. J. R. Moffat, Mr. E. N. Marshall, Mr. W. May, Mr. J. Percy Neave, Mr. Wilfred Neave, Mr. G. Speed, Mr. H. Sullivan.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," November 9th, 1901:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. Allhusen, Hon. and Rev. Francis and Mrs. Bavin, Mr. E. Beresford, Capt. Brough, Miss Butterworth, Mr. A. and Mrs. Chanter, Mr. Chanter, jun., Mrs. Cundall, Right Rev. and Mrs. C. F. Douet, Mrs. Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Greaves, Mrs. Fenwick Hamilton, Mr. P. F. Marks, Miss Marvin, Mr. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, Mr. J. M. Robertson, Miss Roxburgh, Miss M. Street, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Tregallis, Miss Tucker, Mr. J. E. Vicars, Mr. W. A. Vicars, Mr. and Mrs. Judd, Master Judd, Master W. Judd, Mrs. M. K. P. Allword, Miss Broughton, Mrs. F. E. Cole, Miss J. E. Dobie, Miss Julia Douenel, Miss Christine England, Miss Lilly England, Miss Dorothy England, Mr. R. G. Forster, Mrs. Forster, Mr. Ferris Grant, Mr. Harvey, Mr. A. L. Keeling, Mr. Levy, Mrs. R. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Ludlow, Miss Mather, Mr. E. Petrie, Miss Ronaldson, Mr. J. B. De Souza, Miss Helen De Souza, Miss Louise De Souza, Miss Bertha De Souza, Mr. T. Apsey, Qr.-Master Sergt. Clark, Mrs. Clark, Miss Clark, Miss — Clark, Master Clark, Master — Clark, Mr. D. Feurtado, Mr. A. W. Levy, Mr. W. D. Napier.

West India Produce.

Landed terms) PIMENTO ... 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb.	LOGWOOD £4 7s. 6d. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ... 43s. to 65s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 per ton.
BEESWAX £7 15s. to £8 per cwt.	FUSTIC £4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton.
HONEY ... 14s. to 20s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ... £3 15s. to £4 per ton.
LIME JUICE 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d. per gall.	ARROWROOT ... (St. Vincent) 1½d. to 3½d. per lb.

Exports.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Pans.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nnts.	Molasses. Pans.	Tons.	Brls.
BRITISH GUIANA—									
Jan. 1st to Oct. 23rd, 1901	45,435	13,445	76,361	4,988	78,104	76,566	518		
Jan. 1st to Oct. 24th, 1900	54,572	14,459	29,537	—	88,033	128	5,830		
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.			Coffee lbs.	Asphalt. Tons.		Pans.	Tons.	Brls.
Jan. 1st to Oct. 23rd, 1901	470,567	1,605	19,100,534	15,840	148,725	11,524,306	3,481	158	566
Jan. 1st to Oct. 23rd, 1900	374,051	578	25,913,245	3,540	107,660	6,618,006	7,216	72	88

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 2nd November	81,191	40,100	39,350	75,503	61,757
France, 1st October	104,609	97,810	206,563	109,595	173,527
Germany, 1st October	126,955	41,366	14,730	84,356	86,471
Hamburg, 7th November	73,020	43,600	94,300	79,000	58,600
Austria-Hungary, 1st November	340,000*	287,798	229,123	304,759	249,160
Holland, 15th October	8,991	2,537	823	5,592	25,053
Holland, 15th October	11,448	3,125	11,750	38,307	25,109
Belgium, 15th October					
	746,214	516,336	596,699	697,112	679,682
United States, 6th November, Total Stocks	177,000	66,995	187,548	133,194	385,040
Cuba, six principal ports, 6th November, Total Stocks	51,000	2,225	12,980	32,179	3,650
Cargoes afloat, 7th November	21,145	81,113	160,175	104,984	16,550
Total.....	905,359	666,669	957,402	967,469	1,084,922

* Estimated.

The West Indian Club.

Those present at the last fortnightly Club Dinner included Mr. L. de Mercado (in the Chair), Captain Bell, Mr. Harry Berger, Mr. G. S. Ewen, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. E. de Laroque, Mr. T. Marlowe, Mr. R. B. McClure, Mr. Audley de Mercado, Mr. J. E. Mitchell, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. H. A. Poigndestre, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. J. Powell Rees, Sir David Palmer Ross, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. H. W. Wilson, Mr. W. A. Wolseley. The next dinner which will be held to-morrow, at 7.30, will be under the management of Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock. The arrangements for the visit of Lord Hawke's Cricket Team to the West Indies are progressing satisfactorily. We are glad to note that the matter is being so warmly taken up in the West Indies. We take this opportunity of correcting an impression that seems to exist with the Sports Committee, which is not a separate entity, "the West India Sports Committee," but the Sports Committee of the West Indian Club.

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), October 29th, "Seasonable weather."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), November 6th, "Fine with occasional light showers." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) November 11th, "Weather showery and unsettled."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight :—

General.

Botanical Department Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information, Trinidad, October, 1901. 17th Annual Report of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange. International Sugar Journal, No. 35, Vol. 3. Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, October. Sugar Journal, Queensland. Report upon Cane Sugar Industry of Australia, by Dr. Walter Maxwell.

Market Reports.

*Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
 Barbados Market Review (Messrs. Jones & Swan).
 Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
 Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (Messrs. Wieting & Richter).
 Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.).
 Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Mau, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfarven & Co., Park, Son & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.*

West Indian Newspapers.

<i>The Antigua Observer.</i>	<i>The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).</i>	<i>The Jamaica Times.</i>
<i>The Antigua Standard.</i>	<i>The Dominican.</i>	<i>The St. Christopher Advertiser.</i>
<i>The Barbados Advocate.</i>	<i>The Dominica Guardian.</i>	<i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i>
<i>The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i>	<i>The Federalist & Grenada People.</i>	<i>The Sentry (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Barbados Globe.</i>	<i>The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).</i>	<i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Clavion (British Honduras).</i>	<i>The Gleaner (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Mirror (Trinidad).</i>
<i>The Argosy (Demerara).</i>	<i>The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).</i>

Algernon E. Aspinall,
 Secretary.

Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Billiter Square Buildings. Subscriptions of new Members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year commencing on the following first of January.

Back numbers of the West India Committee Circulars (New Series)—with the exception of Nos. 1-11, 13 and 29-32, which are out of print—can be obtained from the Secretary, post free 6d. per copy.

West India Committee.

No. 58.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, November 26th, 1901.

The Brussels Conference.

There has as yet been no official confirmation of the statement which has appeared in the Press to the effect that the Conference would re-assemble on December 16th. Possibly some of the Countries to be represented have felt that such a date would be too near to the Christmas holidays. There is, however, no reason whatever to suppose that there has been a hitch in the negotiations which are understood to be complete. On Saturday last, we received a letter from the Marquis of Lansdowne informing us in reply to an enquiry that the invitation of the Belgian Government to take part in the proposed Meeting of the International Conference had not up to that date been received. He added that it would therefore be premature to announce at present any date as being definitely fixed for the meeting.

The *Standard* of yesterday, November 25th, contains the following :—"The *Journal de Bruxelles* states that it has been definitely decided that the Sugar Bounty Conference will meet on December 16th. Invitations will be issued on Monday to Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Spain, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, and Roumania. The United States of America will not be invited. The participation of Russia in the Conference is doubtful. Russia is opposed to the suppression of the bounties. Information received through diplomatic channels affords ground for the belief that France will consent to the suppression of the bounties. The Belgian Delegates are M. de Smet de Nayer, the Premier ; M. Cappelle, the Director-General for Commercial Affairs and Minister-Plenipotentiary ; M. Kebers, Director-General of Taxes ; and M. de Smet, Inspector-General of Taxes."

The *Times* of November 25th confirm the statements contained in the above paragraph.

Boer Prisoners for the West Indies.

The following is the text of a letter which has been addressed by the Committee to Mr. Chamberlain regarding the suggested Settlement of Boer Prisoners in certain of the West India Islands :—

November 20th, 1901.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 37389/1901 of October 31st ultimo, informing my Committee, in reply to their letter of the 24th ultimo, that the settlement of Boer Prisoners in certain of the West Indian Islands is under consideration.

Our correspondent in Antigua has since written to us fully confirming the telegram which we communicated to you in our letter of October 24th, urging the advisability of this step being taken. It appears that the public feeling in Antigua is strongly in favour of receiving Boer Prisoners for reasons with which you must already be fully conversant.

The presence of Boer Prisoners would undoubtedly lead to the circulation of money, which could not fail to alleviate in some measure the present distressed condition of the Colony.

While fully endorsing the views of the people of Antigua my Committee would respectfully inform you that a similar feeling exists in Jamaica, St. Kitts and St. Vincent, each of which Islands like Antigua would appear eminently suited for the reception of the Prisoners.

I am therefore to express the hope that you, Sir, will be pleased to recommend these views for the consideration of His Majesty's Secretary of State for War and that His Majesty's Government will recognise the wish of the Colonies to assist them in this matter.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

The Right Honble.
Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., &c., &c., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The West India Committee.

The membership of the West India Committee continues to increase in a gratifying manner. Already 40 new members have been elected during the current year, and we trust that last year's record may be exceeded. It is hoped that members, in their own and the common interest, will remember the motto "*Vis Unita Fortior*," and by bringing forward fresh candidates, support the work undertaken on their behalf by the Executive Committee who have spent much time and trouble in bringing prominently forward in this country the various problems affecting the welfare of the West Indies.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on November 14th inst., the following gentlemen were elected Members of the West India Committee: Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Leeward Islands, proposed by Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, and Mr. T. Birt Evelyn, of Barbados, proposed by Mr. Elliot G. Louis and seconded by Sir Nevile Lubbock.

During the absence of the Secretary, who has been granted a month's leave, arrangements have been made to continue the publication of the West India Committee Circular as heretofore. The Committee room will remain open from 11 to 1 and 2 to 3 o'clock daily, Saturdays excepted.

Sir Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G.

Sir Alexander Swettenham who is to succeed Sir Walter Sendall as Governor of British Guiana, attended a Meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, November 21st last. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and a discussion concerning various matters affecting the welfare of British Guiana took place. A more detailed report of this Meeting will appear in Circular 59. Sir Alexander Swettenham will leave for Demerara, as at present arranged, on December 11th next.

British Guiana Sugar Crops.

Appended are the figures showing the quantity of the British Guiana Sugar Crops exported during the past 25 years. The corresponding figures for Barbados and Trinidad will be found in Circulars 54, page 4, and 57 page 4 respectively.

Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.
1875	75,150	1883	103,676	1891	103,972
1876	95,513	1884	111,397	1892-93	112,880
1877	88,925	1885	85,385	1893-94	107,771
1878	68,860	1886	99,427	1894-95	102,502
1879	84,514	1887	119,888	1895-96	101,159
1880	86,830	1888	96,108	1896-97	107,073
1881	82,052	1889	102,744	1897-98	100,839
1882	110,313	1890	93,764	1898-99	96,648

News by the Mail.

The R.M.S. "*Orinoco*" anchored off Plymouth at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, November 21st, and the Mails were delivered in London by the first post on November 22nd. We extract the following items of information from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents:—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand). Sir H. Jackson, the New Governor, had arrived and met with an enthusiastic reception. Rumours were current of the early advent of Boer Prisoners, but no confirmation had been received. The rainfall in October was a heavy one, but November had gone on better and heralded its opening by copious downpours, which in islands differently configured would have resulted in severe damage. Fortunately there was in Antigua no natural collecting ground for the water, and beyond considerable wash and a certain amount of inconvenience consequent upon the cultivation of the heavy soils being retarded, no material loss had been sustained.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.) November 7th. October wound up with favourable showers, and the canes had made good growth. To Leeward the general verdict was that the ratoons were good, but plant canes, though good,

were thin in the hole. To Windward it was exactly the reverse, plant canes were excellent, but ratoons not so good as last year. There was plenty of time however to adjust both statements of accounts with favourable weather. If the British Government would only give the Island fair play Barbados would hold her own. If they did not, the maintenance of the population would fall upon them.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.) November 6th. The outlook continued gloomy. With sugar at \$1 90 against \$2 85 last year, few estates could make ends meet. The weather was fine with occasional showers.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) November 7th. Heavy rains had fallen for a few days, with the result that the second crop of limes was beginning to come in.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.) The crop of coffee on the trees was a fairly large one, but from the very low prices ruling, picking was being neglected by the small settlers; and if prices did not improve, only a normal crop would be reaped, though the size of the bean and quality would, on account of the very favourable seasons, be much improved on that of last year. He estimated that of the Pimento crop, 27,144 bags remained to be shipped as from October 26th, 1901.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd) November 5th. The Island had decided not to send a representative to the Barbados Agricultural Conference. The flow of labourers from the Island still continued. The sugar crop could not look better. With the exception of the flood of 1880, the writer had never seen anything like the torrents of rain which fell from Friday to Sunday night, when 13 inches and 63 parts fell, making 15 inches and 81 parts for the week. All public estates and roads were broken up, and the land seriously washed.

St. Vincent.—(D. K. Porter & Co.) November 8th. There was a great amount of misery and starvation throughout the Island, as the labourers could not find sufficient work to do. The weather had been exceedingly wet and boisterous, and had kept back the starting of the new crop of arrowroot. The health of the Island continued very good.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) November 7th. The weather had further improved. Frequent showers were falling—some of them heavy—but from some districts there were complaints that the rains were insufficient.

We regret having received no letters from Grenada, St. Lucia and Tobago.

The West Indian Club.

The following is a list of the gentlemen who attended the last fortnightly Club Dinner on November 13th last, Mr. A. N. Lubbock in the Chair, Mr. L. Agostini, Mr. Bolt, Mr. J. E. C. Chapman, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. W. Duncan, Mr. E. G. Frazer-Luckie, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. Ingraham, Mr. G. H. Jackson, Mr. T. E. Mitchell, Mr. Montague, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. A. T. Shephard, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. F. Worthington.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," November 22nd, 1901:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. E. L. Palmer. **DEMERARA.**—Mrs. H. W. Sconce, Mr. J. Perkins, Mr. W. Van Esveld. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. R. E. Lett, Madame Schoonhoed, Mr. De Jong. **TRINIDAD.**—Canon and Mrs. Doorly, Dr. R. C. Bennett. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. E. C. M. Heath.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," November 27th, 1901:—BARBADOS.—Mr. R. Dickson, Mr. J. M. Lash, Miss M. Browne, Mrs. and Miss Bovell, Mr. W. Clarke, Two Misses Clarke, Mr. J. Blackwood, Mr. E. Cochrane, Mr. A. S. Bryden, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison. **DEMERARA.**—Mrs. A. G. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Mason, Mr. J. J. Kirke, Mrs. M. Lawrence, Mr. J. Kerr, Mrs. W. S. Cameron, Mr. A. H. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright, Mr. H. Chatterton, Mr. J. S. Marshall. **JAMAICA.**—Mrs. Watson, Miss Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Smith, Dr. J. D. Maclaren and two Misses Maclaren, Sir Fielding Clarke, K.C.M.G., and Lady Clarke, Mrs. Anderson and Miss Alexander, Lady Howard, Glossop, Two Misses Sant, Mr. P. Langdon Thomas, Two Misses Langdon Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. F. Richmond Brown, Mrs. W. C. G. Arrowsmith, Mr. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Spedding, Mr. P. J. Browne, Mr. H. Pinedo, Mr. H. Clarke. **TRINIDAD.**—Mrs. Campbell and friend, Rev. H. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Sprenger, Miss D. Smart, Mrs. Brinstein, Miss Cleaver, Miss de Boissiere, Mrs. and Miss d'Abadie, Miss Devenish, Mr. B. de Lamarre, Mrs. H. Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Gavalador, Mrs. Marwood. **ANTIGUA.**—Mrs. J. T. Dew, Miss Gonsalves, Mrs. Jarvis, Mr. and Mrs. R. McDonald, Rev. and Mrs. Argles, Mr. and Mrs. P. Watts. **GRENADA.**—Mr. and Mrs. A. Hayward, Miss L. Cartin, Rev. Father H. G. Tigar, Rev. Father B. Moran, Rev. Father M. Gurrin, Very Rev. Father T. Greenough, Mr. A. Ross, Mr. A. Lewis, Mr. A. F. Kent, Miss Noel. **DOMINICA.**—Miss Agar. **ST. KITTS.**—Dr. and Mrs. Fretz. **ST. LUCIA.**—Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Mitchell, Mr. F. G. Maidment. **ST. VINCENT.**—Mr. J. R. Dasent, C.B., and Mrs. Dasent. **TOBAGO.**—Mr. and Mrs. W. Archibald, Miss Archibald.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," November 13th, 1901:—
JAMAICA.—Mr. T. Bowler, Mr. D. Campbell, Mr. Charles Clarkson, Mr. H. F. Crum Ewing, Lieut. W. F. Gilchrist, Mr. R. S. Haughton, Mr. F. W. Hampton, Mr. J. W. Hogarth, Mrs. Hogarth, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Ihlee, Mr. C. Mossop, Mr. W. P. Michelin, Mr. R. Macara, Mr. A. H. Stockley, Mr. W. P. We lton.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," November 23rd, 1901:—**JAMAICA.**—Com. Hon. and Mrs. E. C. Hall, Mr. Norman Hastings, Miss Henderson, Miss Joyce, Miss Eva Lees, Mr. and Miss Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. C. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Rowley, Mr. Rowley, Mr. A. C. and Mrs. Westmoreland, Miss Westmoreland, Mrs. Westmoreland, Mrs. Whitfield, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bluff, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bradford, Miss B. A. Chambers, Mr. Paul Lehmann, Mr. Gaston Martineau, Staff-Com. Dubois Phillips, Major Powell, Hon. H. Sewell, Mr. P. Sewell, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Shorey, Mr. M. Swinhoe, Mr. G. Barr, Mr. E. Brewer, Mr. B. D'Eathe, Mr. W. Fish, Mr. C. Goode, Mr. E. Greene, Mrs. Haughton, Mr. A. Hackland, Mr. A. Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis, Mr. G. Mortheman, Mr. E. Philpot, Mr. J. Radford, Mr. S. Sage, Mr. A. Stevenson, Mr. J. Thompson, Mr. R. Booth, Mr. Ben Buchan, Mr. C. J. Collins, Mr. W. Clouston, Mr. E. Darrell, Mr. R. Denbam, Mr. T. Donovan, Mr. T. Dawling, Mr. J. Duff, Mr. J. Evans, Mr. H. Falknet, Mr. F. Farrell, Mr. J. Fosh, Mr. W. Hogburn, Mr. E. Hurcombe, Mr. N. Johansen, Mr. G. Johnson, Mr. J. Kearns, Mr. E. Moon, Mr. A. Naqus, Mr. O. Nielson, Mr. W. Oppen, Mr. J. Pederson, Mr. R. Roberts, Mr. G. Rider, Mr. J. Seller, Mr. E. Sinclair, Mr. J. Sullivan, Mr. H. Van der Horah, Mr. T. Watt.

West India Produce.

Landed terms) PIMENTO ... 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb.	LOGWOOD £4 7s. 6d. to £4 15s. per ton.
GINGER ... 43s. to 65s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 per ton.
BEESWAX £7 15s. to £8 per cwt.	FUSTIC £4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton
HONEY ... 14s. to 20s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ... £3 15s. to £4 per ton.
LIME JUICE 1s. to 1s. 4d. per gall.	ARROWROOT ... (St. Vincent) 1¾d. to 3¼d. per lb.

Exports.

From—	Sugar. Tons.	Rum. Puns.	Cocoa. lbs.	Diamonds Single Stones.	Gold. ozs.	Co'nnts.	Molasses. Puns.			
BRITISH GUIANA—										
Jan. 1st to Nov. 6th, 1901	51,004	15,305	78,456	4,988	82,086	76,366	690			
Jan. 1st to Nov. 7th, 1900	63,485	17,019	29,537	—	92,517	128	1,950			
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.			Coffee lbs.	Asphalt. Tons.		Puns.	Tons.	Bris.	
Jan. 1st to Nov. 6th, 1901	471,107	1,605	19,309,294	20,800	153,015	12,145,766	3,481	158	566	
Jan. 1st to Nov. 6th, 1900	374,676	578	26,035,152	3,540	118,791	7,200,906	7,271	72	89	

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 16th November	77,335	45,339	41,715	76,127	69,402
France, 1st November	338,417	313,915	381,866	265,000	273,636
Germany, 1st November	641,692	487,712	403,687	441,498	466,034
Hamburg, 21st November.....	98,030	52,500	104,300	96,700	71,200
Austria-Hungary, 1st November	330,588	287,798	229,183	304,759	249,160
Holland, 1st November	39,366	16,982	11,034	18,009	36,650
Belgium, 1st November.....	38,919	10,068	25,981	56,582	44,286
United States, 20th November, Total Stocks	1,555,347	1,214,314	1,198,766	1,258,675	1,210,368
Cuba, six principal ports, 20th November, Total Stocks	163,000	74,947	192,242	108,103	342,780
Cargoes afloat, 21st November	43,000	1,522	12,175	22,900	2,900
	16,828	48,935	111,785	82,522	21,200
Total.....	1,778,175	1,339,718	1,514,968	1,472,200	1,577,248

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), November 11th, "Seasonable weather."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), November 15th, "Weather fine, and favourable for growing crop." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) November 16th, "No rain worth speaking of since last message," November 19th, "Some heavy rains have fallen since last message." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), November 19th, "Heavy showers, beneficial to cultivation."

Algernon E. Aspinall,
 Secretary.

West India Committee.

No. 39.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, December 10th, 1901.

Brussels Conference.

The Committee have received Official information from the Foreign Office that His Majesty's Government have been invited by the Belgian Government to take part in the proposed meeting of the International Conference on Sugar Bounties which is fixed for the 16th instant.

Sir Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G.

The following is a list of the gentlemen who were present on the occasion when the Executive Committee met Sir Alexander Swettenham; Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., in the Chair; Mr. H. K. Davson, Mr. S. H. Curtis, Mr. C. Gurney, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. G. Barr, Mr. M. Garnett, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. H. Hales, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. F. McConnell, Mr. E. Packard, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. J. D. Taylor, and Mr. W. A. Wolseley; Mr. E. R. Davson was also present.

Sir Alexander Swettenham, who leaves by the outgoing steamer, carries with him the good wishes of all the British Guiana proprietors here, and we are sure will receive a hearty welcome in the Colony. At the interview, mentioned in our last Circular, the Chairman referred to the financial condition of the Colony, laying stress on the fact that the depression, not only in British Guiana but in all the West Indian dependencies, was caused by the Foreign Bounties on Sugar, direct and indirect, which rendered it utterly impossible for the British Colonies to compete in the Home market. He asserted that unless these Bounties were abolished there was every probability of the West Indies being wiped out as regards their staple product and this meant effacement, except in name, of the West India Colonies. He at the same time expressed the hope that our Government would not sit quietly by and see this ruinous effect completed, but would exhibit firmness at the coming Conference.

He also alluded to the system of Coolie Immigration which had been of so much benefit to British Guiana and in the working of which there was such a good understanding with the Indian Government.

He further made reference to the general development of the Colony and assured Sir Alexander that a recent article in *The Times*, charging the Sugar Proprietors with being selfish and antagonistic, was utterly unwarrantable and he stated that the Planters were as anxious for the general prosperity of the Colony as any other section of the community, and that the effort of the West India Committee was to promote and further the success of all industries and of all classes.

After a few remarks made by various other members, Sir Alexander thanked the Chairman and Members for having given him such a cordial welcome, and for having stated their views so clearly. He expressed his sympathy with the sufferings of the West Indian Colonies through the Bounties and hoped with them that some relief would be afforded through the meeting of the Conference. As regards the other matters referred to, he stated that on entering the Government of a new Colony, he could not be expected to say anything of a definite nature, but he could assure the meeting that his best efforts would be directed to the promotion of the prosperity and welfare of the Colony generally.

Cartell.

In connection with the above remarks on the subject of Bounties, the following is from Messrs. Czarnikow, Macdougall & Co.'s *New York Circular*, dated 22nd ulto.:—"It is thought that when the present Bounties are abolished, and beet sugars can come into this market without any countervailing duty, the Cartell may endeavour to stimulate exportation, by giving shippers advantages,

which really amount to a private Bounty. Should they do so the matter is sure to receive considerable attention on this side, and the U.S. Tariff Act of 1897, which places a countervailing duty on everything that receives a Bounty, whether direct or indirect will, if possible, be brought into play." Would that our Government would defend British interests in the same way!

The Death of Ex-Governor Eyre.

We regret to record the death of Ex-Governor Eyre, which occurred on Saturday the 30th of November, at Walreddon-manor, Tavistock, Devon, at the age of 86. Edward John Eyre was the son of the Rev. Anthony Eyre, Vicar of Hornsea and Long Riston, in the East Riding of Yorkshire. At the early age of 17 years he emigrated to New South Wales where he arrived in 1833, he engaged in Sheep-farming and purchased property in South Australia, where he was appointed a Resident Magistrate and Protector of the Aborigines. He distinguished himself as an Australian Explorer and published in 1845 a work entitled "Discoveries in Central Australia."

In 1845, Mr. Eyre returned to England and was in 1846 appointed by Earl Grey, Lieut.-Governor of New Zealand. After serving his full term of office he was transferred, about 1854, to the Lieut.-Governorship of St. Vincent and thence in 1860 to Antigua as Acting-Governor for the Leeward Islands. In 1862, the Duke of Newcastle selected Governor Eyre to administer the Government of Jamaica, during the absence of Governor Darling, whom in 1864 he succeeded as Governor-in-Chief.

In October, 1865, an insurrection broke out in Jamaica which Governor Eyre promptly and vigorously suppressed.

In connection with the suppression of the disturbances, charges were made over here against the Governor, and a Commission of Inquiry was despatched to Jamaica. The Report published in June, 1866, exonerated the Governor from the heavy charges made against him. He was, however, recalled and in 1874 retired from the Public Service upon a pension as a Retired Colonial Governor.

Coolie Immigration.

The following has been received from the Colonial Office in reply to the W. I. Committee's letter on the subject :

DOWNING STREET,

26th November, 1901.

SIR,

With reference to the letter from this Department of the 20th of July, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that it appears from a despatch, which has recently been received from the Officer administering the Government of British Guiana, that an Ordinance has been passed which empowers the Immigration Agent-General to provide for the maintenance of the East Indian settlements by means of rates levied on the inhabitants, thus obviating the necessity of having recourse to the Immigration Fund when the expenses attending on the first establishment of the settlers have been defrayed. The Officer Administering the Government adds that the alienation of allotments by the coolies has not prevailed to any considerable extent.

2. Mr. Ashmore further states that the Immigration Return Passage Fund Account, which is being accumulated to provide in part for the return of immigrants imported after 1897, is kept entirely distinct from other accounts, and that its proceeds will be devoted solely to the purpose for which they are collected, but that it will not be possible, for many years to come, to decide whether this Fund, the contributions to which were fixed at the lowest rate considered to be compatible with its solvency, will be likely to show a surplus which would enable the contributions to be reduced.

I am, etc.,

(Signed), C. P. LUCAS.

The Chairman
of the West India Committee.

Bounties and Countervailing Duties.

At the 35th Annual Conference of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations, held at Wolverhampton on November 26th last, Mr. Briggs, of the North Lambeth Association, moved a resolution in favour of an equivalent countervailing duty being imposed on merchandise imported from abroad on which Bounties were allowed. The resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Barrow (North Oxford) and supported by Mr. Tomlinson, M.P., was adopted by 57 to 25.

Beet Sugar in the United Kingdom.

The Earl of Denbigh, during this year, has continued experiments in the growth of sugar beet on the Home Farm at Newnham Paddox, in the county of Warwick, and the result is reported to be as favourable as in previous seasons. It was arranged that four of the tenants should each grow half an acre of sugar beet in the same field, and under the same cultivation as a crop of mangels. In the early part of the season the weather was not favourable for roots, and the seed was a long time in starting. For the most part the plants came up very irregularly, but, notwithstanding this, the crops have turned out very satisfactorily. An analysis which has been made shows that the roots grown in England are much superior to those grown in Germany. German roots would be worth, for the manufacture of sugar, 17s. a ton, but those grown by the four tenants are worth as follows: by Mr. J. L. Harrison, 27s. a ton; by Mr. William Kenney, 26s. 9d.; Mr. J. Parker Toone, 25s.; and Mr. John Wright, 27s. The cost of growing sugar beet may be put at £1 an acre more than for mangels.

Accident to the R.M.S. "Para."

News has reached us by cable that the "Para" had put in at Barbados so damaged that she could not proceed to England. It would appear that on the voyage between Jamaica and Barbados the reserve supply of chemicals, employed in reducing the temperature as a means of preserving the fruit on board, exploded, killing Mr. Lawton, the inventor of the process, Mr. Astwood, representative of the United Fruit Company, and Mr. Lawton's engineer, and injuring the Captain and several of the crew. The after part of the vessel was wrecked. The "Esk," inter-Colonial Steamer, with the Mails reached St. Michael's, Azores, on the 4th inst., and the letters are expected in London to-day. Owing to this delay we are unable to publish extracts, as usual, from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents.

St. Lucia Sugar Crops.

Appended are the figures showing the quantity of the St. Lucia Sugar Crops exported during the past 20 years. The corresponding figures for Barbados, Trinidad and British Guiana will be found in Circulars 54, page 4; 57, page 4, and 58, page 2, respectively.

Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.
1882	7,506	1889	3,861	1896	3,618
1883	7,629	1890	4,983	1897	3,962
1884	8,470	1891	4,380	1898	4,513
1885	6,160	1892	5,747	1899	4,176
1886	4,268	1893	4,437	1900	4,400
1887	4,428	1894	4,483	1901	4,700
1888	3,898	1895	3,627		

The West Indian Club.

The following is a list of the gentlemen who attended the last fortnightly Club Dinner on November 27th last. Mr. R. Rutherford in the Chair, Sir Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., Mr. Mayson M. Beeton, Mr. C. Coddington, Mr. L. De Mercado, Mr. A. G. Evans, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. John Hinkson, Mr. A. Kenealy, Mr. E. Kynaston, Mr. J. E. Mitchell, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. W. A. P. Shephard, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. G. Smith, Mr. Webb, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson.

The next Dinner will be held early next year.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," December 11th, 1901:—
BARBADOS.—Mr. M. Alexander, Mr. A. S. Bryden, Mr. J. A. Jones. **DEMERARA.**—Sir Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G., Mr. Proudlock. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. V. E. Snook, Dr. P. V. Pingel, Mrs. McPherson, Mr. M. Noeldecher, Mrs. A. O. R. King, Mr. C. C. F. Monckton, Professor Collins, Miss Sterland, Co. Sergt.-Major G. Villiers, Sergt. Master Tailor C. Wilkinson, Mr. F. Nutting and Mr. G. Dickson, Mr. E. Courage and Mr. Wharton, Miss Courage, Mr. and Mrs. Carr, Mr. W. H. Gleadell. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. Bulmer, Dr. J. P. Tulloch and Mrs. Tulloch, Mr. J. R. Palmer, Mr. A. Bodey. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. H. Goodwin. **GRENADA.**—Mr. and Mrs. Norman, Mr. Gaw, Dr. E. Wells. **St. Kitts.**—Mrs. A. Roger, Rev. M. B. King. **St. Lucia.**—Mrs. Armstrong, Mr. Du Boulay.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," November 26th, 1901:—
JAMAICA.—Mr. G. W. Edwards, Lt. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Littlebury, Lt. J. S. Liddell, Major Stoney, Comm. Tawney, R.N., Mr. J. W. Perks, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Walker, Mr. L. C. Ballinger.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," December 7th, 1901:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. T. Andersen, Mr. and Mrs. W. Anderson, Rear Admiral Bourke, Miss Agnes Burgess, Mr. A. Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. Langdon, Rev. and Mrs. Marwick, Master and Miss Marwick, Mr. R. Pinnock, Mr. T. A. Routh, two Miss Sturbridge, Mr. and Mrs. B. Speeding, Mr. D. Touzalin, Mr. W. C. Douglas, Mr. R. G. Johnson, Mrs. P. Hore, Mr. C. Chilton, Miss Chilton, Mr. R. M. Critchton, Mr. A. C. Houchen, Mr. H. J. Lloyd, Mr. Robert Mason, Mr. V. L. S. Sanguinetti, Lieut. V. C. L. Caulfield-Stoker, Mr. A. J. Webb, Mr. Ferdinand Castella, Mr. J. L. Darracq, Mr. H. J. Dodd, Mr. Todman, Mr. D. Gouldson.

West India Produce.

Landed terms) PIMENTO ... 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb.	LOGWOOD £4 5s. to £4 12s. 6d. per ton.
GINGER ... 43s. to 65s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 per ton.
BEEWAX £7 15s. to £8 per cwt.	FUSTIC £4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton.
HONEY ... 14s. to 20s. per cwt.	" ROOTS ... £3 15s. per ton.
LIME JUICE 1s. to 1s. 3d. per gall.	ARROWROOT ... (St. Vincent) 1¾d. to 3¼d. per lb.

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 30th November	79,162	49,943	41,197	71,669	71,855
France, 1st November	338,480	323,032	381,866	265,000	273,636
Germany, 1st November	641,692	487,712	404,687	441,498	466,034
Hamburg, 4th December	118,800	73,000	107,800	100,000	98,800
Austria-Hungary, 1st November	330,588	287,798	229,183	304,759	249,160
Holland, 15th November	60,696	41,938	31,751	35,857	61,108
Belgium, 15th November	71,395	34,102	53,288	89,066	71,844
United States, 4th December, Total Stocks	1,640,813	1,297,525	1,240,772	1,307,879	1,292,437
Cuba, six principal ports, 4th December, Total Stocks	131,000	69,200	209,897	86,523	324,639
Cargoes afloat, 5th December	36,000	1,130	11,542	9,704	1,770
	18,108	39,928	83,579	139,325	57,353
Total.....	1,825,921	1,407,783	1,554,790	1,543,431	1,676,129

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), November 26th, "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) December 5th, "Showers generally."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

Annual Colonial Reports, Leeward Islands, 1900. Trinidad and Tobago, 1900. The Financial News. Handbook of Information, The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre. The Louisiana Planter. The Product Markets Review. West Indian Bulletin, Vol. II., No. 3. Annual Reports, Trinidad and Tobago.

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Pall Mall Square Buildings. Subscriptions of new Members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year commencing on the following first of January.

Back numbers of the West India Committee Circulars (New Series)—with the exception of Nos. 1-11, 13 and 29-32, which are out of print—can be obtained from the Secretary, post free 6d. per copy.

415

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West India Committee.

No. 60.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, December 24th, 1901.

The Brussels Conference.

The first meeting of the Brussels Sugar Conference was held on Monday, December 16th last at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. M. de Favereau, the Minister, delivered the opening speech, and M. le Comte de Smet de Naeyer, the Belgian Finance Minister, was nominated President of the Conference, and M. le Comte Khevenhüller Metsch, the Austrian Minister in Brussels, Vice-President. There was a full attendance of delegates, the Powers represented being Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Holland, Roumania, and Sweden. Varied reports have appeared in the Press as to the scope and progress of the deliberations, but such official communiqués as have been made throw little light upon what has taken place. In view of the announcement that the proceedings of the Conference are to be private, it would be premature to express any definite opinion as to the prospects of a satisfactory issue being arrived at. So far, however, there seems to be no reason to take a pessimistic view. In 1898, the Conference was wrecked through the refusal of France to discuss the indirect bounty. On the present occasion however, France seems to be as anxious as any other Power to arrive at an understanding. The crux of the situation will apparently be the indirect bounty in France, and what is known as the Cartel or Kartell system in Germany and Austria. The Cartel is a combination of Sugar growers, manufacturers and refiners, which by means of the monopoly in the Home market, rendered possible by the State maintenance of prohibitive custom duties, is able to make such a profit upon home sales as to enable it to export its surplus production at a loss and yet realise a balance of profit on the transaction as a whole. The Conference was adjourned on Friday, December 20th, and will reassemble on January 6th, 1902.

During the past fortnight constant meetings of the Executive Committee have been held in connection with the Conference, which have been fully attended and members may rest assured that every effort is being put forward to enhance the prospects of success. The Committee have made the Secretary of State for the Colonies fully aware of the present condition and prospects of the Sugar industry in the West Indies. Resolutions from Barbados, British Guiana and St. Kitts, and memorials from Antigua and Jamaica urging that active measures should be taken by His Majesty's Government to secure the suppression of the Bounties have been forwarded to the Colonial Office with whom the Committee has been in constant communication. A strongly worded Memorial was on December 4th forwarded to Mr. Chamberlain by manufacturers, merchants, and traders of Glasgow, pointing out that many other interests beside those of the Colonial Sugar Planters are directly bound up in the sugar trade, and that anything which affects that trade has a far reaching influence on the manufacturers' wages and general trade of the Country, and of the Glasgow district in particular. From Liverpool, a Memorial of a similar nature has been very extensively signed, praying the Government to empower her representatives at the Conference to take such steps as will secure the abolition of all bounties on sugar, and thereby re-establish free trade in our own markets and avert wholesale disaster in our West Indian Colonies. An important resolution on the subject has also been adopted by the Bristol Chamber of Commerce.

The Delegates at the Conference.

We give below a list of the countries represented at the International Conference and their Delegates.

Allemagne.

S. Exc. M. le comte de Wallwitz, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de l'Empire d'Allemagne à Bruxelles ; M. de Körner, Conseiller intime, Directeur au Département

Impérial des Affaires Étrangères ; **M. Kühn**, Conseiller intime supérieur de gouvernement, Conseiller rapporteur à l'Office Impérial du Trésor ; **M. Johannes**, Conseiller intime de légation, Conseiller rapporteur au Département Impérial des Affaires Étrangères.

Autriche et Hongrie.

S. Exc. M. le comte Khevenhüller Metsch, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire d'Autriche-Hongrie à Bruxelles. DÉLÉGUÉ DE L'AUTRICHE : **S. Exc. M. le baron Adolf Jorkasch-Koch**, Chef de section au Ministère Impérial et Royal des Finances. DÉLÉGUÉ DE LA HONGRIE : **M. Alfred de Toepke**, Sous-Secrétaire d'État au Ministère Royal hongrois des Finances.

Belgique.

M. le comte de Smet de Naeyer, Ministre des Finances et des Travaux Publics, Chef du Cabinet ; **M. Capelle**, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire, Directeur général du Commerce et des Consulats au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères ; **M. Kebers**, Directeur général des Douanes et Accises au Ministère des Finances et des Travaux Publics ; **M. De Smet**, Inspecteur général à l'Administration des Contributions directes, Douanes et Accises au Ministère des Finances et des Travaux Publics ; **M. Beauduin**, Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Administrateur-délégué de la Société anonyme " Raffinerie Tirlemontoise."

Espagne.

S. Exc. M. de Villa Urrutia, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire d'Espagne à Bruxelles.

France.

S. Exc. M. Gérard, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de la République Française à Bruxelles ; **M. Bousquet**, Conseiller d'État, Directeur général des Douanes au Ministère des Finances ; **M. Delatour**, Conseiller d'État, Directeur général de la Caisse des Dépôt et Consignations ; **M. Courtin**, Conseiller d'État, Directeur général des Contributions indirectes au Ministère des Finances. *Secrétaire de la Délégation française* : **M. Julien Lafont**, Rédacteur principal à la Direction générale des Contributions indirectes.

Grande-Bretagne.

S. Exc. M. Constantin Phipps, C.B., Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire du Royaume-Uni à Bruxelles ; **Sir Henry Primrose**, K.C.B., Président du Board of Inland Revenue ; **Sir Henry Bergne**, K.C.M.G., Chef du Département commercial au Foreign Office ; **M. A. A. Pearson**, du Colonial Office ; **M. E. C. Ozanne**, de l'India Office. *Conseillers techniques de la Délégation britannique* : **M. F. J. Pittar**, C.B., Commissaire des Douanes ; **Sir N. Lubbock**, K.C.M.G., Président du Comité des Indes Occidentales ; **M. G. Martineau**. *Secrétaire de la Délégation britannique* : **M. Beilby F. Alston**, du Foreign Office. *Secrétaire adjoint de la Délégation britannique* : **M. Eric Phipps**, Secrétaire à l'Ambassade britannique à Paris.

Italie.

S. Exc. M. le commandeur Romeo Cantagalli, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire d'Italie à Bruxelles ; **M. le commandeur Émile Maraini**, Député au Parlement italien. *Conseiller technique de la Délégation italienne* : **M. Paolo Orlando**, Ingénieur, Vice-Président de l'Association de l'industrie italienne du sucre.

Pays-Bas.

S. Exc. M. le jonkheer de Pestel, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire des Pays-Bas à Bruxelles; M. le baron J. d'Aulnis de Bourouill, Docteur en droit, Professeur à l'Université d'Utrecht; M. G. Eschauzier, Industriel à La Haye; M. A. van Rossum, Industriel à Harlem.

Roumanie.

S. Exc. M. Mavrodi, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Roumanie à Bruxelles.

Suède.

S. Exc. M. le comte Wrangel, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Suède et Norvège à Bruxelles; M. Charles Tranchell, Directeur-Administrateur de la Compagnie scanienne pour la fabrication des sucres.

Secrétariat de la Conférence.

SECRÉTAIRES: M. Janssens, Directeur à l'Administration des Contributions directes, Douanes et Accises au Ministère des Finances et des Travaux Publics; M. J. Brunet, Chef de division au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères. SECRÉTAIRES ADJOINTS: M. Van der Cruyssen, Chef de bureau à l'Administration des Contributions directes, Douanes et Accises au Ministère des Finances et des Travaux Publics; M. Perpète, Chef de bureau à l'Administration des Contributions directes, Douanes et Accises au Ministère des Finances et des Travaux Publics; M. A. Heptia, Chef de bureau au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères.

Immigration Fund Expenditure.

Hon. B. Howell Jones has kindly forwarded to us the following analysis of the British Guiana Immigration Account, showing the average cost per caput, etc. :-

SEASON, 1900-1901.

Number of Adults introduced					3,631 $\frac{1}{2}$	
In-effective Immigrants					245 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Percentage of					6.76	
Allotted under Indenture					3,386	
Passage Money					\$48.00	
					Average per Caput.	REMARKS.
EXPENDITURE IN INDIA—						
General Establishment				\$14,042.87	\$3.87	229 Souls=210 Statute Adults returned from Surinam and embarked in the ship "Erne" are not included in the 950 shown below.
Recruiting				45,573.52	12.55	
Charges connected with the Voyage				10,276.74	2.83	
				69,893.13	19.25	
Less Receipts				245.48	.07	
				69,647.65	19.18	
EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND				5,607.91	1.54	
Passage Money				174,312.00	48.00	
Extras and Expenditure in the Colony				37,653.22	10.37	
One-third Cost of Medical Service				48,689.24	13.41	
Establishment in the Colony				36,070.24	9.93	
				371,980.26	102.43	
BACK PASSAGES				92,375.35	25.43	
TOTAL AS PER RECEIVER-GENERAL'S STATEMENT				464,355.61	127.86	
Number of Adults returned					950	
Ships					2	

The Disaster on the s.s. "Para."

We have received from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company a copy report of Captain Stranger, of the R. M. S. "Para," upon the disastrous explosion which occurred upon that vessel when on her homeward journey from Jamaica on November 21st last. The ship was so knocked about that she had to be sent to St. Thomas, while the Mails were forwarded by the Company's intercolonial steamer "Esk" as far as the Azores and thence by the "Minho" of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co. to Southampton. The "Minho" arrived on December 9th. Captain Stranger's report runs as follows:—

"It is with deep regret that I have to report that on the 21st instant, at 8.48 p.m., a terrific explosion took place in the Fruit Chamber occupied by Mr. Lawton's Patent Process, killing Mr. Lawton, Mr. Aswood of the United Fruit Co. and Mr. Hamilton, one of Lawton Co.'s Engineers. The bodies were found dead outside the Chamber door. They had apparently gone below to take the temperature and were, no doubt, at the time, looking through the glass window, which was in the middle of the door. The bodies were committed to the deep at 8 a.m. next morning. The explosion also injured myself, Barman and Head Waiter, all slightly, and the Saloon Boy seriously, and a lady passenger slightly (Mrs. Stoney).

"The front of the chamber was blown out, the lower deck and saloon deck blown up, mail and parcel room, music saloon, ladies' saloon, bar pantry and skylights wrecked, beams and staunchions twisted and broken and torn adrift from ship's side in some places, and deck work in afterend started. All the refrigerating machinery below was utterly destroyed and much damage done to cargo and baggage. The ship is making a little water, at the rate of about 5 inches per hour, water can be heard rushing in Port Orlop deck, which I shall be able to get at after removing insulation."

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

It is announced that, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the fourth annual West Indian Agricultural Conference will be held at Barbados on Saturday the 4th and Monday the 6th of January next. The proceedings of the Conference will be published for general information in the next succeeding number of the *West Indian Bulletin*, the Journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. A pamphlet (No. 11), has been issued by the Department entitled—"Hints for School Gardens," copies can be seen at this Office.

The B.147.

We gladly give, *in extenso*, Professor D'Albuquerque's remarks upon the B.147 seedling cane, made upon October 4th, to the Barbados Agricultural Society, which appear to have been incorrectly reported in the first instance. He stated that the

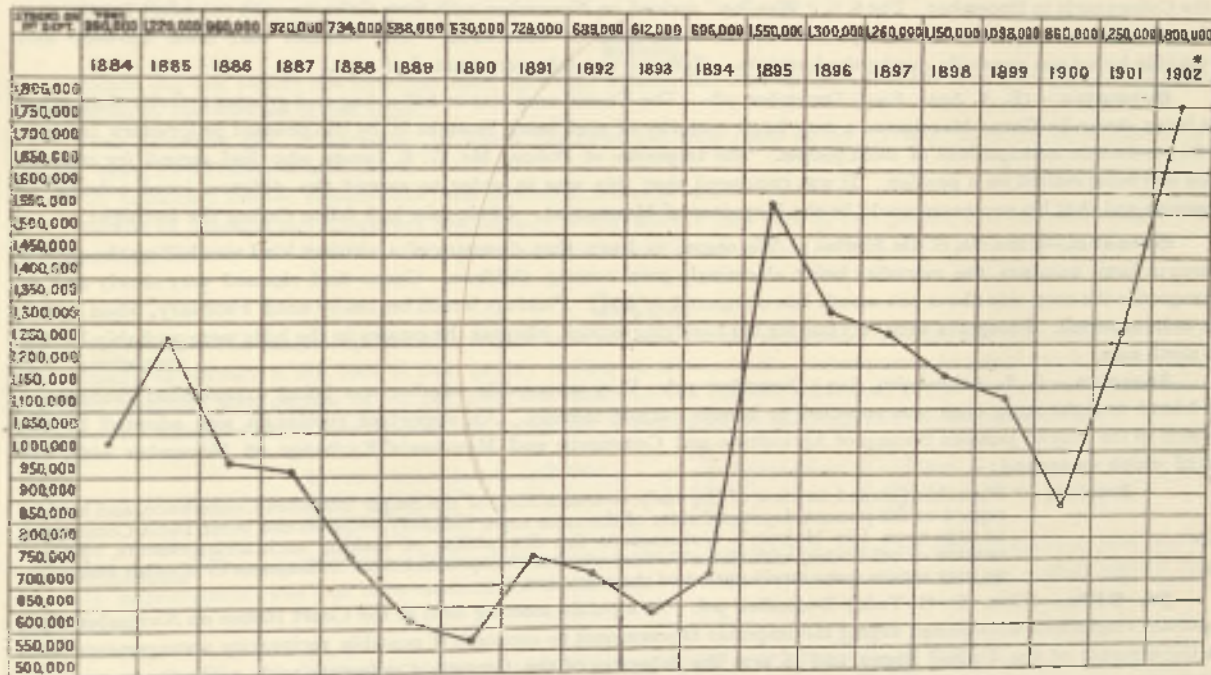
B.147 which had given such excellent results in the previous year had been disappointing this year. The yield of saccharose was fair, 6,787 lbs., but the purity was low, only 86½, whilst on some estates it was only 84.32. The glucose ratio was rather high. This meant that on plantations with ordinary wind mills, B.147 would have difficulty in making muscovado sugar up to test. It should be remembered that B.147 was a late growing cane, and that last year the weather had been exceptionally unfavourable for such a cane; but of course planters wanted a cane which would suit all conditions of weather, and, therefore, B.147 could not be recommended on the results of this year to be planted on an extensive scale. Yet it would be well to suspend judgment on this variety. It had done well in some places, and some planters had consequently elected to go on with it. Of course they should proceed cautiously, in spite of any success that had been met with in their experience of this or any other variety.

Production and Consumption of Sugar.

We reproduce below an important and interesting diagram, made out by Mr. George Martineau, which appears in the current number of the *International Sugar Journal*. It illustrates in a striking manner the variations over a number of years of Production and Consumption of Sugar. Production periodically exceeds consumption. Then follows a period during which production has been checked, and consumption has not only overtaken it but even succeeded in removing the surplus stocks, in other words during which consumption has exceeded production.

DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATING CONTEST BETWEEN PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

When the line rises, production is exceeding consumption ; where it falls, consumption is exceeding production.



* Estimate.

"The West Indies and the Empire."*

The Prince of Wales has graciously accepted with thanks a copy of Mr. H. de R. Walker's Book "The West Indies and the Empire," which has just been published. It was very generally regretted that His Royal Highness was unable to extend his recent tour to British Guiana and the West Indies, and this signification of his interest in their welfare will doubtless gratify the People of these Colonies. Pressure on our space compels us to hold over a review of Mr. Walker's interesting and instructive work.

News by the Mail.

The R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth at 5.45 p.m. on Thursday 19th, and the Mails were delivered in London by the first post on Friday 20th. We extract the following items of information from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents :—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) December 4th. During the fortnight the weather had been just what was wanted and crop prospects were assured. The Governor had been suffering from an attack of malarial fever.

* "The West Indies and the Empire," T. Fisher Unwin.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.) December 5th. For the seventh time in succession the R.M.S. "La Plata" had failed to keep her time, thereby causing much inconvenience. It was felt that there was a distinct deterioration in the regularity of the R.M. Steamers. The rainfall for November was very short and did not appear to reach six inches anywhere. December had opened well with rain all over the Island, though differing much as to amount. If this continued it might make marked difference in the ratoons which were very much dependent upon the late rains.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.) December 4th. The Acting-Governor received a deputation of the British Guiana Planters' Association, with regard to questions relating to Coolie Immigration, on November 21st. Those present were H.E. Mr. A. M. Ashmore, C.M.G., Acting-Governor, Hon. N. D. Davis, C.M.G., Acting Government Secretary, Hon. C. F. Davson, B.A., LL.B., Acting Attorney-General, Hon. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G., Receiver-General Hon. B. Howell Jones, Hon. R. G. Duncan and Mr. A. Summerson. (A limited number of copies of the proceedings can be had on application to the Secretary of the West India Committee). H. E., The Acting-Governor was to appoint a Commission to enquire into the cost of Immigration in the Colony and India and report what economies might be effected in the present system in introducing Coolie labour as soon as Mr. Alexander, the Immigration Agent-General, returned to the Colony early in December. The S.S. "Wardha" arrived on November 29th from Calcutta with 705 adult immigrants on board. She had a passage of 66 days but stopped some time at Mauritius. The weather had been showery and favourable for estates generally during the fortnight. Refining crystals were quoted at 1.91.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) December 5th. The Cacao crop was in full swing and greater activity than usual was being shown by Cacao Merchants, a very large quantity of stuff being brought in by the peasant proprietors in spite of the pessimistic anticipations of most people. The Inspector of Police, Mr. G. F. James, who had served for over 20 years was being retired on a pension. It was rumoured that this was in order to extend the defence force scheme to Dominica and that his successor would be the Inspector of Montserrat. Little rain had fallen during the fortnight.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas.) We regret to learn that dysentery of a virulent kind was killing the poorer classes in large numbers, the mortality being alarmingly great among children. Cacao had ripened very slowly and in consequence the crop was about one month late compared to last. Pickings would be heavy until February, when a lull was to be expected. Prospects were very fair for the low-lying estates, whereas the estates in the hills were probably having too much rain.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.) December 3rd. Very seasonable weather was being experienced throughout the Island and the sugar crop was expected to benefit largely thereby. An important resolution was adopted by the Council of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange on November 28th, the text of which we append:—

Resolved—"That this Council, in view of the early re-assembling of the Sugar Bounties Conference, and having regard to the present depressed state of the cane sugar industry, requests the West India Committee to urge upon His Majesty's Government the desirability of making such arrangements, by Convention or otherwise, with those Powers who have expressed their willingness to abolish Bounties, as may secure some amelioration of the situation."

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd) December 3rd. At a public meeting held at the Court House on November 28th, important resolutions were passed urging the Imperial Government to conclude if possible reciprocity arrangements with the Government of the United States, and to arm the delegates of the Brussels Conference with authority to agree in certain circumstances to the abolition of the Bounties. The crop which looked well was rapidly approaching the ripening point, and the weather generally was satisfactory.

St. Lucia.—We regret to state that this Island has been quarantined, owing to an outbreak of yellow fever which is rumoured to be somewhat serious.

St. Vincent.—(D. K. Porter & Co) December 4th. Arrowroot making though pretty general throughout the Island was disappointing so far as the yield was concerned. This appeared to be due either to the ravages of the caterpillar or of the continued rains. For sugar and cacao there had been exceptionally fine seasons.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) December 5th. Though showers had been frequent during the fortnight they had been light, and for some districts insufficient. Sugar crop prospects however continued good. The cacao crop was very late and the year closing December 31st would show a shortage on estimate of 6,000,000 pounds.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," December 10th, 1901.—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. J. Evelyn, Mrs. Forester Walker, Miss Forester Walker, Mr. F. E. Harrison, Major and Mrs. Sturkey, Lieut. Currey. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. R. H. Ball, Dr. C. Woodward, Mrs. E. Garnett, Mr. R. H. and Mrs. Good, Mr. W. H. Davies. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. Pearce and Son, Mr. J. G. and Mrs. Cox, Dr. and Mrs. Plaxton, Mr. W. Scott Herriot. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. G. Prince, Miss C. Meyer, Mr. F. Pogson, Mr. R. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. P. Carter. **DOMINICA.**—Miss Everington.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Elbe," December 25th, 1901.—BARBADOS.—Miss Warburton, Mr. W. B. Bonning. DEMERARA.—Mr. E. P. Gladwin, Mrs. R. Allan. JAMAICA.—Two Misses Dubane, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Munton, ST. LUCIA.—Miss Branch, Mr. C. Hamilton 65 Days' Tour, Mr. W. J. Roe, Mr. M. Kalb.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Royal," December 11th, 1901.—JAMAICA.—Rt. Hon. James Bryce, Mrs. James Bryce, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. H. R. Eastcott, Mr. H. W. Eastcott, Mr. A. Pullen Burry, Mr. C. F. Faremell, Mr. Stephen Simeon, Mr. A. B. D. Goldie, Mr. J. R. Williams, Mr. Thomas Apsey, Mr. D. Cullen, Mr. H. Shiel, Mr. W. M. Turner.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," December 21st., 1901.—JAMAICA.—Miss Bevan, Rev. W. R. Browne, Mrs. W. R. Browne, Miss Violet Browne, Miss Agnes Burgess, Mr. F. Collins, Rev. J. Davidson, Mr. C. P. Dixon, Canon F. J. Holland, Mr. H. D. R. Kingston, M.D., Mr. J. C. Nolan, Mr. Pamment, Mrs. Pamment, Mr. F. Baring Du Pre, Mrs. F. Baring Du Pre, Miss Edith Du Pre, Mr. W. B. Du Pre, Mr. Findley Purdon, Mr. J. Stokes, Mrs. J. Stokes, Ven. Archdeacon Swaby, Rev. S. A. Swaby, Mr. W. J. Thorpe, Miss Warren, Mr. J. F. Williamson, Mr. R. Combe, Mr. G. Desnoes.

Rum.

Since our last report the tone has been generally steady, and with the advent of the New Demerara crops interest has centred in the disposal of the same.

The shipment per "Cheniston," of about 700 puns. has been taken by the "Trade" at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d. per proof gallon, being an advance of 1½d. to 2d.

In Jamaica a limited business has been effected at a steady rate.

Stocks of Jamaica and Demerara are slightly below those of last year at this period, and the total stocks which are somewhat reduced now stand at 21,069 puns., against 19,497 in 1900, 21,443 in 1899, and 23,380 in 1898.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—The market opened with a quiet tone and the limited supplies at auction met with little demand and were chiefly withdrawn, a few lots of fine quality selling at steady rates. Subsequently business was transacted in low middling qualities at a decline of 1s. per cwt., but later this was entirely recovered, whilst fine sold at an advance of 1s. per cwt. Sales are about 2,000 bags at 64s. to 69s. for low middling to middling, and 70s. to 74s. for fine.

	1901	1900
IMPORTED, 1st Jan. to 14th Dec...	38,144 bags	55,938 bags.
DELIVERED " " " "	43,615 " "	48,497 " "
STOCK, 14th Dec. " " "	14,704 " "	27,076 " "

GRENADA.—There has been very little offering during the past month and prices for fine advanced 1s. a 2s. per cwt., but this improvement was not fully maintained at the close. Ordinary to fair quality have been dull of sale at rather easier rates.

	1901	1900
IMPORTED 1st Jan. to 14th Dec. ..	40,798 bags	40,474 bags.
DELIVERED " " " "	38,973 " "	42,866 " "
STOCK, 19th Dec... " " "	6,856 " "	6,951 " "

West India Produce.

Landed terms) PIMENTO ...	3¼d. to 3½d. per lb.	LOGWOOD... ..	£4 5s. to £4 12s. 6d. per ton.
GINGER ...	40s. to 60s. per cwt.	LOGWOOD ROOTS	£4 per ton.
BEESWAX ...	£7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt.	FUSTIC	£4 5s. to £4 15s. per ton.
HONEY ...	14s. to 20s. per cwt.	" ROOTS	£5 15s. per ton.
LIME JUICE	10d. to 1s. 3d. per gall.	ARROWROOT ...	(St. Vincent) 1½d. to 3¼d. per lb.

Exports.

From—	Sugar, Tons.	Rum, Puns.	Cocoa, lbs.	Diamonds, Single Stones.	Gold, ozs.	Co'nuts	Molasses, Puns.		
BRITISH GUIANA—									
Jan. 1st to Dec. 4th, 1901	73,127	21,001	88,348	4,988	91,094	76,578	1,112		
Jan. 1st to Dec. 5th, 1900	85,633	20,859	32,072	—	100,874	574	2,415		
JAMAICA—		Gallons.	Cwts.	Coffee, Cwts.	Banana Bunches	Co'nuts.	Oranges.		
Apr. 1st to Nov. 23rd, 1901	10,932	1,215,923	11,766	23,147	7,843,683	12,353,660	63,164,812		
Apr. 1st to Dec. 10th, 1900	11,205	1,053,955	11,006	29,327	5,886,411	8,048,005	67,548,955		
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brils.	Puns.	lbs.	Coffee, lbs.	Asphalt, Tons.	Co'nuts.	Molasses, Puns.	Tons.	Brls.
Jan. 1st to Dec. 4th, 1901	471,492	1,605	19,671,564	20,800	156,475	9,887,185	3,526	156	566
Jan. 1st to Dec. 4th, 1900	376,988	579	27,375,432	3,540	131,774	8,030,906	7,599	72	89

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

The visible supplies according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.	1897 Tons.
United Kingdom, 14th December	88,299	53,686	40,716	76,460	73,120
France, 1st December	596,563	559,216	598,265	490,000	427,666
Germany, 1st December	1,172,584	939,579	854,053	851,293	852,640
Hamburg, 18th December	145,000	97,700	112,800	77,800	121,500
Austria-Hungary, 1st December	617,180	553,999	461,419	520,486	456,752
Holland, 1st December	94,126	46,236	42,047	54,555	90,188
Belgium, 1st December	104,153	68,349	85,308	114,001	93,343
	2,817,905	2,318,765	2,203,608	2,184,595	2,115,209
United States, 18th December, Total Stocks	134,000	69,121	213,782	95,397	278,159
Cuba, six principal ports, 18th December, Total Stocks	22,000	1,379	10,269	7,073	3,150
Cargoes afloat, 19th December	10,268	35,661	49,099	104,637	56,584
Total.....	2,984,173	2,424,926	2,476,758	2,391,702	2,453,102

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), December 10th, "Seasonable weather."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co.) December 12th, "Weather dry with occasional showers"

TRINIDAD.—(New Colonial Co., Ltd.) December 20th, "Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

General.

Barbados Agricultural Gazette and Planters' Journal, Vol. 7, No. 9, November. *Cane Farming*, Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana. *The Financial News*. *The Imperial Department of Agriculture*. *General Treatment of Insect Pests*, Second Edition. *Annual Report on the Botanic Station, Antigua, and Hints for School Gardens*. *West Indian Bulletin*, Vol. 2, No. 3. *International Sugar Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 35, December. *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*. *Louisiana Planter*. *Our Western Empire*, No. 6, Vol. 1. *Produce Markets Review*. *The West Indies and the Empire*, H. de R. Walker: T. F. Unwin, 11, Paternoster Buildings, E.C.

Market Reports.

Barbados Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Michael Cavan & Co.).
Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
Barbados Market Review (Messrs. Jones & Swan).
Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Rooker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (Messrs. Wieting & Richter).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.).
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. Geo. R. Alston & Co.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & Co., Park, Son & Co., Wilson Smithell & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.

West Indian Newspapers.

<i>The Antigua Observer.</i>	<i>The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).</i>	<i>The Jamaica Times.</i>
<i>The Antigua Standard.</i>	<i>The Dominican.</i>	<i>The St. Christopher Advertiser.</i>
<i>The Barbados Advocate.</i>	<i>The Dominica Guardian.</i>	<i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i>
<i>The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i>	<i>The Federalist & Grenada People.</i>	<i>The Sentry (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Barbados Globe.</i>	<i>The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).</i>	<i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i>
<i>The Clarion (British Honduras).</i>	<i>The Gleaner (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Mirror (Trinidad).</i>
<i>The Argosy (Demerara).</i>	<i>The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).</i>	<i>The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).</i>
<i>The Barbice Gazette (British Guiana).</i>		

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Pall Mall Square Buildings. Subscriptions of new Members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year commencing on the following first of January.

Back numbers of the West India Committee Circulars (New Series)—with the exception of Nos. 1-11, 13 and 29-32, which are out of print—can be obtained from the Secretary, post free 6d. per copy.

Report of the Executive Committee,

OF THE

West India Committee,

FOR THE YEAR 1901.

Your Executive Committee have pleasure in presenting their Annual Report and their statement of receipts and expenditure for the year 1901.

Obituary.—With deep regret they have to record the deaths of Colin Macandrew Gillespie, Esq., Hon. J. Gardiner Austin, Trophin DuBoulay, Esq., H. W. Estridge, Esq., Hon. Leon Giuseppi and George Levy, Esq., which have occurred since the last general meeting. They wish especially to mark their sense of the services rendered by Mr. Colin Macandrew Gillespie, as their Hon. Treasurer, to whose untiring efforts the success which has attended the re-organisation of the Committee has been so largely due, by the Hon. J. Gardiner Austin as a Member of the Barbados Committee, nominated by the Chamber of Commerce and by Mr. George Levy, the Secretary of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, as their Hon. Correspondent for Jamaica.

Membership.—Your Committee are glad to be able to report a gratifying increase of Membership, 40 New Members having been elected during the year as compared with 42 in 1900, while resignations amounted to six only, as compared with 12 during 1900.

The Executive Committee.—The year has been one of increased activity for the Executive Committee. Twenty-eight Meetings were held, the average attendance at which was fourteen, in addition to frequent meetings of sub-committees for special purposes. The Rules of the West India Committee were revised on February 21st, 1901, and copies of the revised rules were subsequently forwarded to Members.

Publications.—During the past year the West India Committee Circular has been issued fortnightly instead of monthly. It is hoped that Members will show their appreciation of this innovation which has added considerably to the expenses of the Committee, by introducing fresh candidates for election and otherwise assisting to maintain the Committee on its present sound footing.

Hon. Correspondents.—Your Committee desire to convey their warmest thanks to their various local Committees, and especially to the undermentioned Hon. Correspondents who have kept the Committee fully informed as to the prospects and wants of the Colonies which they represent :—

HON. C. A. SHAND	.. ..	ANTIGUA.	R. CRAIG, ESQ.	.. ..	JAMAICA.
HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE	.. ..	BARBADOS.	HON. E. G. TODD..	.. ..	ST. KITTS.
A. SUMMERSON, ESQ.	.. ..	BRITISH GUIANA.	HON. E. DU BOULAY	.. ..	ST. LUCIA.
E. A. AGAR, ESQ.	.. ..	} DOMINICA.	ALEX. PORTER, ESQ.	.. ..	ST. VINCENT.
HON. H. A. NICHOLLS, M.D.		} TRINIDAD.	HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK	} TOBAGO.
C.M.G.	.. ..			EDGAR TRIPP, ESQ.	.. ..
HON. D. S. DE FREITAS	.. ..	GRENADA.	W. J. S. TUCKER, ESQ..	.. ..	
J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ.	.. ..	JAMAICA.			

Your Committee during the year have kept in close touch with the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool, and the West India Section of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce.

The Bounty Question.—The various steps which led to the reassembling of the Brussels Sugar Bounty Conference on December 16th, and the satisfactory conclusion on March 5th ult., of a Convention for the abolition of all direct and indirect bounties from September 1st, 1903, and the practical suppression of the Cartel systems of Austria and Germany, by the reduction of the écart or difference between the Customs and excise duties on the Continent to 6 fcs. from the same date, have been fully reported in the fortnightly circulars of the Committee. Since the Convention was signed your Committee have been urging the necessity of relief being afforded to the sugar industry to enable it to tide over the period until the Convention, if ratified, becomes operative, and they are glad to record that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Statement, April 14th inst., stated that he thought it would be necessary during the present Session to ask Parliament for some assistance for the sugar-growing Colonies, pending the time when sugar bounties are abolished by the Convention.

The Parliamentary Committee.—By the death on May 31st of Colonel Victor Milward, M.P. for South-West Warwickshire, and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the Anti-Bounty League, the West Indies lost a staunch friend and supporter. Both the West India Committee and the Anti-Bounty League were represented at the funeral on June 8th. On June 15th, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P. was elected Chairman of the Parliamentary Sugar Bounties Committee, with Mr. James Reid as Honorary Secretary.

Praedial Larceny.—The continued evil of praedial larceny, or theft of the growing crops, has further received the attention of your Committee. On November 27th a circular letter was addressed to the Colonies on the subject, suggesting that the Colonial Office should be requested to cause an enquiry to be instituted with a view to checking this widespread evil. Favourable replies having been received, the matter was referred to the Colonial Office, who are now taking steps to give effect to the suggestions of the Committee.

The Rum Surtax.—A decided advance has been made in the Question of the Rum Surtax. Mr. Chamberlain addressed a despatch to the Governors of the various West Indian Colonies suggesting that the case of Colonial distillers might be met by the payment to them from Colonial funds of an export allowance, calculated on the same principle as the similar allowance made to British distillers. If the proposal is adopted, it is recommended that an Imperial excise official should in the first instance visit the Colonies concerned, for the purpose of determining the nature and extent of the burden imposed upon distillers by existing restrictions, and the amount at which a compensatory allowance upon export might equitably be fixed and also in order to advise the Colonial Governments how far it is necessary or desirable that the existing system should be re-cast. The cost of such a mission would, it is understood, fall upon the Imperial Treasury, and in the event of the finances of any Colony being proved not to be in a condition to enable the allowance to be paid from Colonial funds, His Majesty's Government would be prepared to consider whether a grant should be made in aid of that object from Imperial funds.

Codrington College, Barbados.—The question of the maintenance of Codrington College, Barbados, the threatened closing of which, was, it will be remembered, averted through the efforts of the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby and your Committee in 1898, is again engaging attention, and they are now in communication with Bishop Montgomerie, the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, as to its immediate prospects.

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Boer Prisoners in the West Indies.—In consequence of representations received, we addressed on November 20th, a request that detention camps for Boer Prisoners might be formed in several of the Islands. This request was, in the main, acceded to, and settlements have been arranged for in Antigua and Barbados.

Mail Delays.—The constant and irritating delays in the delivery of the West Indian Mails in London, caused by the discontinuance, under a former administration, by the Postmaster-General of special trains for their conveyance, led your Committee to address strong representations to the Post Office. On May 20th, a joint Deputation of the West India Committee and the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, waited upon the Marquis of Londonderry, H.M. Postmaster-General, and pointed out the serious inconvenience which these delays were causing, and urged that in certain circumstances a special train should be put on. On September 3rd we were able to announce that the recommendation of the Committee had been adopted.

The New Governors of Barbados and British Guiana.—On January 16th, 1901, Sir Frederick Hodgson, K.C.M.G., attended a meeting of your Executive Committee, prior to assuming the Governorship of Barbados, and various matters affecting the welfare of the Island were discussed.

On November 21st a similar meeting was held to receive Sir Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G., who succeeded Sir Walter Sendall, G.C.M.G.

The Sugar Duties.—Members were kept fully informed as to the action taken by your Committee in regard to the sugar duties, of which it was hoped that a rebate might be given in favour of Colonial Sugar. On July 1st, 1901, a Conference was held with certain representative wholesale grocers to consider the retail price of sugars in connection with the Budget, which imposed a duty of 4s. 2d. on refined sugar, and on raw sugar a duty of 4s. 2d., diminishing in certain proportions according to polarisation upon sugar, as accurately forecasted by your Committee.

The Cane Sugar Movement.—This movement which commenced in 1890 with the object of differentiating "cane sugar" from "beet sugar," has continued to receive the attention of your Committee, who are glad to note that it is being warmly taken up by Professor Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S. in Trinidad.

The West India Committee Room.—The increased interest taken in the work of the West India Committee is evinced by the number of callers of whom as many as 25 have visited the Committee Room in a single day to make enquiries regarding matters affecting British Guiana and the West Indies.

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C., *April 16th, 1902.*

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N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C., *April 16th, 1902.*

The West India Committee.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE for the Year 1901.

To be submitted to the Annual General Meeting, on April 24th, 1902.

1901.		£	s.	d.
By Balance in hand, January 1st...	...	84	0	4
„ Subscriptions received	...	811	10	4
„ Interest on Deposit	...	13	17	8
„ Transferred from Deposit to Current Account	...	200	0	0
„ Sale of Sundry Pamphlets	...	0	12	3
<hr/>				
To Salaries ...	...	486	15	2
„ Payments to the Anti-Bounty League	...	250	0	0
„ Printing ...	...	198	15	7
„ Rent of Committee-Room	...	86	0	0
„ Postages and Telegrams	...	68	11	6
„ Gratuity to the late Secretary...	...	20	0	0
„ Rent of Telephone	...	10	2	6
„ Office Expenses...	...	80	12	3
„ Reporting General Meeting	...	4	4	0
„ Warren & Craik (Wreath for the Funeral of the late Colonel Milward) ...	...	2	9	9
		<hr/>		
		1,107	10	9
<hr/>				
Balance in hand	...	2	9	10
		<hr/>		
		£1,110	0	7
		<hr/>		

On Deposit with Messrs. Prescott, Dimsdale & Co., December 31st, 1901—£450.

SPENCER H. CURTIS,
CYRIL GURNEY,
R. RUTHERFORD,
W. A. WOLSELEY, }
Treasurers.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

RULES

OR

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,

Adopted by the Executive Committee, February 21st, 1901.

- CONSTITUENT BODY.** 1. The West India Committee is an Association of Planters, Merchants and other Gentlemen interested in the British West Indies and British Guiana.
- MEMBERSHIP.** 2. The West India Committee consists of the Members at present on the list. Future Members shall be elected by the Executive Committee as hereinafter constituted. Candidates for election must be proposed by one and seconded by another Member of the West India Committee and the names of Candidates and their proposers and seconders forwarded to the Secretary.
- OBJECTS.** 3. The Objects of the West India Committee are to promote the general welfare of the British West Indies and British Guiana, and by united action to further the interests of those Colonies.
- SUBSCRIPTIONS.** 4. The minimum Subscription to the West India Committee shall be £1 1s. per annum, which shall entitle a Member to attend and vote at all General Meetings and to receive the fortnightly circular and other publications for the year. The qualification to serve on the Executive Committee shall be a Subscription of not less than £5 5s. per annum. Subscriptions shall become due on January 1st, except from new Members, whose Subscriptions for the current year shall become payable on election. Subscriptions from new Members elected during the last three months of any year shall be held as on account of the year commencing on the following 1st of January.
- GENERAL MEETINGS.** 5. General Meetings of the West India Committee, to be duly convened by the Secretary, shall be held yearly in April, and at such other times as the Executive Committee may determine. Special General Meetings shall be held upon the requisition of any 12 Members of the West India Committee or any 6 Members of the Executive Committee, such Meetings being summoned by the Secretary within seven days after receiving such requisition by notice stating the object of the Meeting. At all General Meetings of the West India Committee 12 Members shall form a quorum.
- THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** 6. The general administration of the affairs of the West India Committee shall be vested in the Executive Committee, to consist of the Chairman, the Deputy-Chairman, the Trustees and not less than 15 and not more than 30 elected Members, to be elected by the West India Committee from duly qualified Members of their own body at the yearly General Meeting in April. But the Executive Committee shall be at liberty to appoint, at their discretion, any Member of the West India Committee a Member of the Executive Committee. One-third of the Members shall retire annually by rotation, but be eligible for re-election. At all Meetings of the Executive Committee 8 Members shall form a quorum.
- THE OFFICIALS.** 7. The Chairman and the Deputy-Chairman shall be elected annually by the Executive Committee, and their office shall be honorary. The Trustees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, and shall hold office subject to the provisions of a Declaration of Trust. The Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.
- THE PROPERTY OF THE COMMITTEE.** 8. All moneys, security for money, and debts due to the West India Committee, together with the property in all movable goods, chattels, and other effects of the West India Committee shall vest in the Trustees.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, E.C.

B
West India Committee,

Telegrams—
"CARIB, LONDON."

Telephone—
4356 AVENUE.

Billiter Square Buildings,

LONDON, E.C.

January 25th, 1901.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to inform you that a Special General Meeting of the West India Committee will be held at the above address, on Wednesday, Jan. 30th next, at Three p.m., to pass a resolution of condolence with His Majesty the King and Royal Family upon the death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

I am to express a hope that you will endeavour to be present upon this occasion.

Your obedient Servant,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.