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West India

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

Tuesday, January 7th, 1902.

A Serious Menace to the West Indies.

In our last Circular we made some reference to the Cartel System in Germany and Austria. We explained that 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 customs duties, is enabled 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. In other words the sugar interest, by the action of Government is able to give itself Bounties. It will be of interest to our readers to know that these Bounties have now been most carefully calculated by Mons. Sachs of Belgium, and Mons. Georges Dureau of Paris, whose calculations are confirmed by Mr. Martineau. According to Mons. Sachs the amount of the German Cartel Bounty is M. 102,621,000, or £5,131,000 Stg., whilst the external bounty in Germany is M. 27,603,000, or £1,380,000. In Austria the Cartel Bounty amounts to Fs. 67,000,000, or about £2,680,000, whilst the external bounty is Fs. 18,000,000, or about £720,000.

With such subsidies as these, it is no wonder that the price of Beet-root Sugar has been reduced to 6s. 6d. per cwt., and that those best informed have every expectation of seeing it down to 6s. per cwt. next crop, unless something is done. It is quite impossible for any of the West Indian Colonies to produce sugar at anything approaching this price, and if they wish to see the Sugar Industry saved, it is time they were making such representations as may enable our Government to realise fully the present state of affairs.

The Brussels Conference.

The re-assembling of the Conference originally fixed for January 6th, has been postponed to January 20th next. This is doubtless due to the New Year's Holidays, which have prevented delegates from being able to discuss with their Governments the various questions which arose prior to the adjournment on December 20th last.

In acknowledgment of their recent Memorial on the Subject of the Sugar Bounties, the Liverpool Merchants have received a letter from the Colonial Office, in which it is stated that "Mr. Chamberlain is well aware of the injury which has been caused to the West Indian Colonies by the bounty system, and he trusts that the outcome of the Brussels Conference, which is now sitting, may be beneficial to those Colonies and to the Sugar industry, on which some, at any rate, of them mainly depend. At the present moment the signatories of the Memorial will not expect a further expression of his views."

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

We regret that by an oversight the s.s. *Minho*, of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, was referred to in last Circular as belonging to another Company.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.

Sir Alfred Jones at a complimentary banquet given in his honour by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, on Friday, December 27th last, replying to the toast of his health, stated that there was soon going to be an enormous trade with the West Indies, and that, though he had had an anxious time since the inauguration of the Direct Service, he had made the venture pay. He also indicated that he hoped before long to inaugurate a direct line of steamers between Liverpool and Jamaica, to

supplement the Bristol line. We learn that the contemplated Liverpool line will not interfere with the service between Avonmouth and Jamaica. It appears that Bristol is now receiving as many bananas as can be dealt with from that centre, and that in any development of the banana trade from Jamaica, another port of distribution will have to be provided.

We regret to see in the well got up pamphlet on Jamaica issued by the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service the ridiculous statement that "Continental subsidised beet sugar sounded the knell of the cane sugar industry in Jamaica so long as the Colony's fortunes remained bound up with those of a Free Trade Country." Surely the Company cannot believe that a Free Trade Country is bound to tolerate Foreign Protection in its markets! It is to be regretted that the Imperial Direct West India Mail Company should lend themselves to the circulation of the untenable views of the enemies of the West India Sugar Industry.

A Forthcoming Lecture.

Mr. John Lowles, late Member of Parliament for Haggerston, will deliver a lecture on "The West Indies, their past, present and future," at the Shoreditch Tabernacle, on Monday, January 13th next. The lecture will be illustrated by 100 limelight views lent by the West India Committee.

Sugar Beet in Barbados.

In October 1900, at the request of Mr. F. M. Alleyne, Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller obtained from Mr. Sigmund Stein some German and French Beet-root seed and send it to Barbados. The roots grown from this seed were recently sent to Mr. Stein for analysis, together with the following particulars:—"The seed arrived in Barbados at a most unfortunate time for weather, it came at the beginning of the drought. The Manager of the Estate waited for rain, this came in heavily, and had a bad effect on all vegetables, *e.g.*, squashes, cucumbers, cabbages, beans, peas, etc. The Beet-root came up fitfully and though sweet to eat made nothing of a show in the field, nor would the cattle eat it. The Beet was planted on June 26th, 1901, it began to grow seven days later, and the roots sent home are of four months and 21 days growth."

Mr. Sigmund Stein sends the following certificate of analysis and remarks:—

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF SUGAR BEET ROOTS.

GROWN BY MR. F. M. ALLEYNE AT MOUNT STANDFAST PLANTATION, BARBADOS.

| | | Seed from Vilmorin (French Seed). | | Compared with F. O. LICHT, MAGDEBURG, analysed 9th Oct. 1901. | |
|---|-----|--|-----|---|--------------------------|
| Average weight of roots with leaves, in grammes ... | ... | — | ++ | +++ | 1,110 |
| Average weight of roots without leaves, in grammes | ++ | 436 | ... | ... | 631 |
| Degrees Brix (<i>dry matter</i>) | +++ | 19.90 | ... | ... | 17.20 |
| Specific gravity | +++ | 1.083 | ... | ... | 1.0709 |
| Quantity of Sugar in 100 parts of the juice | +++ | 17.40 | ... | ... | 14.18 |
| Quantity of Non-Sugar in 100 parts of the juice | +++ | 2.50 | +++ | ... | 3.02 |
| Quotient of purity ... | +++ | 87.44 | ... | ... | 82.44 |
| Quantity of Sugar in 100 parts of the roots | ++ | 16.00 | +++ | ... | |
| Shape of roots | +++ | | +++ | ... | small well-shaped roots. |

Remarks:—Small roots, with satisfactory Analysis. Saccharine contents and purity—quotient exceeds those of German grown roots. It is a very interesting experiment, more so as these roots have been grown in adverse circumstances.

LIVERPOOL, 31st December, 1901.

SIGMUND STEIN.

“The West Indies and the Empire.”*

The appearance of this volume at the present juncture when the International Conference has re-assembled at Brussels is most opportune. Mr. Walker's book embodies the contents of a paper delivered at the Colonial Institute in June last, but many new subjects have been introduced, and more than three-quarters of the book is now published for the first time. The opening chapter, “The Sugar Industry and some general considerations” shows that the writer has grasped in a remarkable way the problems affecting that industry. He is an advocate of Countervailing Duties and appreciates the fact that it is not so much a rise in price that the West Indian Producer wants, but that his industry shall be put on a stable basis, and confidence in it restored. Mr. Walker shows us how the crisis of 1897 was mitigated by the reduction of Cuba's output of sugar, owing to the Spanish-American War and the imposition of countervailing duties and the United States. But already Cuba's crop is nearly 1,000,000 tons, the figures at which it stood before the war, and we find no allusion to the Cartel systems of Germany and Austria, which are likely to prove worse than the State bounties, as is shown by the first paragraph of the present circular. Mr. Walker does not claim that the imposition of countervailing duties will by itself save West Indian sugar. It will guarantee to the Colonies an area of equitable competition; it will then rest with them to increase the productivity of their canes by experiments carried on in hearty collaboration with the Imperial Department of Agriculture,—and to replace their machinery where it is antiquated by the newest and most economical appliances. Subsequent chapters deal with “The development of other resources,” “The Negro and the East Indian,” “Taxation and Administration,” and “Travel in the West Indies.” The latter contains useful hints as to dress itineraries, etc. for intending travellers, to whom its perusal will save much anxiety and expense. Mr. Walker's book is admirably indexed, a fact which materially enhances the pleasure of a perusal of its pages, which will commend themselves no less to those already acquainted with the situation in the West Indies than to the man in the street, who for a problematical gain in the cost of his breakfast, is allowing some of our finest Colonies to go to rack and ruin.

News by the West Indian Mail.

The R.M.S. “La Plata” left Barbados on December 22nd last, 14 hours late, and did not reach Plymouth till 46 hours after her appointed time. The weather was heavy throughout the voyage, and on January 1st, she was compelled to stop while repairs were made to her machinery. On January 2nd she encountered thick weather, and it was not till January 3rd that she anchored off Plymouth. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) December 18th, 1901. Mr. Francis Watts had returned to the Colony, and had been present at a well attended Meeting of the Agricultural Society. Unfortunately he could make no definite statement with regard to the Central Factory scheme, the consideration of which was still *sub judice*. The Governor, Sir Henry Jackson, had entirely recovered from his attack of Malaria, but the health of the Island generally was not satisfactory. Nice showers had fallen and crop (1902) prospects were excellent.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.) December 19th, 1901. Up to date of writing it had been the most favourable December on record. There had been no heavy rains, but showers had been copious and abundant. Canes lately planted were springing regularly and vigorously and gave promise of being thoroughly established at an early date. The old canes were growing well and the ratoons appeared to be making up for lost time. Preparations were being made on Fortescue estate for the reception of a certain number of Boer prisoners. The transport to convey the Leinster Regiment to South Africa was expected on December 24th. Owing to an outbreak of fever in St. Lucia she was not to call at that Island. The sailor from St. Lucia who was removed to Pelican Island suffering from yellow fever was convalescent, and no fresh cases had occurred. We regret deeply to learn of the serious illness of Mr. Cameron, one of the local West India Committee.

* “The West Indies and the Empire.” T. Fisher Unwin, Paternoster Row—7s. 6d. net.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.) December 18th, 1901. On December 17th the salary of the Governor was reconsidered and passed for the full amount, £4,000. The cable to Trinidad was again interrupted and was expected to remain so for ten or fourteen days. The weather had been showery during the fortnight.

Dominica. (E. A. Agar, Esq.) December 19th, 1901. The general opinion locally was strongly in favour of the settlement of Boer prisoners in the Island. The R.M. Coasting Steamer "Yare" had arrived.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas) December 19th, 1901. The weather had been extraordinarily unfavourable for drying Cacao. For the fortnight the rainfall had in most districts exceeded 10 inches. Over £100 had been collected towards entertaining Lord Hawke's cricket team. (Septimus Wells, Esq.). The Island was almost free of the recent dysentery scourge. Dr. Low had visited the Island and read an interesting paper on the prevention of Malaria before a large audience on December 5th. Trade was brightening up with the approach of Christmas, but seemed unlikely to reach the standard of former days.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd) December 17th, 1901. Much satisfaction was felt at the reassembling of the Brussels Conference. Estates were already commencing to reap for the season 1902.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. Emanuel Du Boulay) December 20th, 1901. The recent outbreak of fever appeared to be due to excavations at the Morne for building and other purposes. It occurred among the white troops stationed there, but as soon as the men were moved the fever ceased.

St. Vincent.—(D. K. Porter & Co.) December 20th, 1901. The weather for some days had been all that could be desired; bright sunshine and cool winds. The Arrowroot Estates were all in full swing, although the yield showed no improvement.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) December 19th, 1901. Nothing had been settled as to the manner in which the Planters' share of the Repatriation of Coolies was to be met. The second coolie ship had just arrived with 575 adults—a fine lot in good health. Only three deaths occurred on a 96 days' voyage. A movement was on foot to establish a good theatre in Port of Spain. The weather had been very showery during the fortnight and in some districts the rain had been heavy. It was most favourable for both Cacao and Sugar and good crops were expected for the coming season.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," January, 4th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. and Mrs. Hambridge, Mr. A. F. White, Mrs. St. Leger, E. A. Locker, and B. Jordan, R.N. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. Mahamoud, Mr. A. Clements, Mr. B. Ribbantrop, Mr. L. J. Mass, Mr. and Mrs. J. Flett, Mr. J. C. Menzies, H. Vassery, D.B.S. **JAMAICA.**—Mrs. Gustofson, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Norton, Mr. H. A. Bell, Mr. A. P. Brown, Mr. W. E. James. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. N. Decori, Freymuth, Dr. F. Hasard. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. A. S. Kitching.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," January 8th 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Miss Arnold, Miss Layne, Mrs. and Miss Tringham, Dr. Willer, Capt. and Mrs. Gillespie. **DEMERARA.**—Col. and Mrs. McInnis, Mrs. and Miss Howell Jones, Mr. J. Gibson, Mrs. P. Young, Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Elstob, Miss Bull. **JAMAICA.**—Two Misses Keith, Major Braitwaite, Mr. Nathan, Mr. H. R. Brandon. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. Abel, Mr. G. White, Miss M. Robinson, Mr. J. E. James. **GRENADA.**—Col. and Mrs. Franklin. **ST. KITTS.**—Miss J. D. Adamson. **ST. VINCENT.**—Mr. C. H. Knowles. The following gentlemen comprise the Cricket Team visiting the West Indies:—Messrs. F. L. Fane (Captain), R. A. Bennett, E. W. Dillon, A. D. Whatman, F. H. Hollins, E. C. Lee, B. J. T. Bosanquet, T. K. Dashwood, R. N. Blaker, E. R. Wilson, L. Arburthnot, and E. M. Dowson.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Antonio," December 25th, 1901:—**JAMAICA.**—Miss A. Delmege, Colonel Ludlow, Mrs. Ludlow, Mr. H. E. McGill, Mr. L. Mercanton, Mrs. Mercanton, Mr. J. Rodriguez, Lieut. Trelwell, Mrs. Twist, Mr. J. E. Vicars, Mr. W. A. Vicars.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," January 4th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. T. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Anderson, Mr. J. Backhouse, Rev. W. Boyd, Mr. Carvalho, Mr. G. F. Cockayne, Miss Jessie Davis, Mr. Joseph Dee, Mr. Delgado, Mr. R. V. Douglas, Mr. Ellis Edwards, Misses Ellis Edwards, Rev. G. W. Handford, Miss Mary Handford, Mr. D. Horn, Mr. J. Horn, Mr. J. Kemp, Mr. C. W. Lambert, Miss Alice Lance, Mrs. Aubrey Lewis, Capt. J. C. Mackenzie, Mr. G. Macara, Mr. M. McDiarmid, Mr. and Mrs. C. Morris, Miss Morris, Mr. C. Morris, Jun., Mr. J. C. Nolan, Miss Emeline North, Commander Ogle, Mr. A. J. Ramage, Dr. Robson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hugh Rycroft, Miss E. P. Sale, Mr. E. C. Ker Seymer, Mr. and Mrs. E. Molyneux Seel, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sharpe, Miss H. V. De Souza, Mr. G. E. Thompson, Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. Keith Verley, Rev. J. Wallace, M.A., Mrs. J. Wallace, Mr. P. A. Williams, Mr. John Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Clarke, Mr. W. Furlinger, Mr. and Mrs. W. Geer, Miss Dorothy Geer, Mr. F. Geer, Mr. W. M. C. Tregunno, Mrs. Watson-Will, Miss Violet Watson-Will.

Rum.

The Market for Rum is steady but quiet at unchanged rates.

Cocoa.

The Market for Cocoa is still quiet, with only small sales passing at unchanged prices.

West India Produce.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Landed terms) PIMENTO ... | 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb. | LOGWOOD ... | ... £4 5s. to £4 10s. per ton. |
| GINGER ... | 40s. to 60s. per cwt. | LOGWOOD ROOTS | £4 per ton. |
| BEESWAX ... | £7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt. | FUSTIC ... | ... £4 per ton. |
| HONEY ... | 14s. to 20s. per cwt. | " ROOTS ... | £3 10s. per ton. |
| LIME JUICE | 10d. to 1s. 3d. per gall. | ARROWROOT ... | (St. Vincent) 1½d. to 3¼d. per lb. |

Exports.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| <i>From—</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | Sugar. Tons. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Single Stones. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nnts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
| Jan. 1st to Dec. 18th, 1901 | 83,103 | 22,434 | 91,708 | 4,988 | 93,602 | 76,578 | 1,112 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Dec. 19th, 1900 | 88,139 | 25,444 | 32,072 | — | 105,962 | 574 | 4,263 | | |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brls. | | | Coffee | Asphalt. Tons. | | Puns | Tons. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to Dec. 18th, 1901 | 471,952 | 1,606 | 20,424,834 | 20,800 | 157,971 | 10,645,886 | 3,657 | 156 | 566 |
| Jan. 1st to Dec. 18th, 1900 | 378,235 | 579 | 28,433,682 | 3,540 | 136,516 | 8,279,856 | 7,609 | 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:—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1901/2 | 1900/1 | 1899 0 | 1898/9 | 1897/8 |
| | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. |
| United Kingdom, 28th December | 114,894 | 65,549 | 57,815 | 76,930 | 90,029 |
| 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, 2nd January | 163,780 | 109,600 | 78,800 | 93,900 | 130,500 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st December | 617,180 | 533,999 | 461,419 | 520,486 | 456,752 |
| Holland, 15th December | 116,635 | 95,106 | 72,169 | 76,646 | 115,240 |
| Belgium, 1st December | 104,153 | 68,349 | 85,308 | 114,001 | 93,343 |
| | 2,885,789 | 2,391,398 | 2,207,829 | 2,223,256 | 2,166,170 |
| United States, 2nd January, Total Stocks | 131,000 | 69,202 | 208,472 | 116,093 | 231,859 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 2nd January, Total Stocks | 30,000 | 7,249 | 9,395 | 4,512 | 9,250 |
| Cargoes afloat, 2nd January | 14,428 | 25,936 | 39,653 | 118,868 | 85,640 |
| Total..... | 3,061,217 | 2,493,785 | 2,465,349 | 2,462,729 | 2,492,919 |

Seedling Canes.

We have received from the Imperial Department of Agriculture two pamphlets summarising the results of seedling and other cane experiments at the experimental stations in Barbados and the Leeward Islands respectively. The results are now presented in a simple and concise form, which will prove of increased value to the planting community in whose interests the investigations are carried on. It is hoped that every planter will possess himself of a copy of these useful brochures, and carefully study the data which they contain, only starting the cultivation of new canes when he has fully satisfied himself that they are exactly suited to the circumstances of his district. A limited number of copies of these most useful publications can be obtained from the Secretary of the West India Committee.

Subscriptions for 1902.

Members are reminded that subscriptions to the West India Committee for the year 1902 became due on January 1st.

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), December 24th, "Weather all that can be desired."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), December 24th, "Over two inches rain generally," December 30th, "Heavy rains generally," January 3rd, "Heavy rains interfering with grinding." (Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co.) December 30th, "Rains rather too heavy," January 3rd, "Too much rain for present requirements. More sunshine wanted." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), December 31st, "Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message." January 4th, 1902, "Wet weather continues."

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. 4, No. 37. *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre.* *Louisiana Planter.* *Notes on British Guiana and its Gold Industry*, by H. J. Perhins. *Produce Markets Review.* *Seeling and other Canes in the Leeward Islands, 1900-1901.* *Imperial Department of Agriculture.* *Maps. Part of the Colony of British Guiana, with portions of the Essequibo, Potaro, Konawaruk and Demerara Rivers.* *Geological Maps of parts of the Waini, Barama and Barima Rivers. Parts of the Magaruni and Puruni Rivers*, by J. B. Harrison, M.A., F.G.S. (Hon. B. Howell Jones).

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. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (Messrs. Wieling & 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 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 Berbice Gazette (British Guiana).

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.

Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Pall Mall Square Buildings.

Back numbers of the West India Committee Circulars (New Series)—with the exception of Nos. 1-11, 13 and 20-22, which are out of print—can be obtained from the Secretary, post free 6d. per copy.

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West India Committee.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, January 21st, 1902.

The King's Speech.

In our last Circular we pointed out to our friends in the Colonies that if they wished to see the Sugar Industry saved it was time that they were making such representations as might enable the Government to realise fully the present state of affairs. The West India Committee has meanwhile been doing its best in the same direction. It being understood that the instructions to the Delegates to the Brussels Conference were to be decided upon at a meeting of the Cabinet on January 13th, a long letter was prepared dealing solely with the prospects of the Sugar Industry in the West Indies and the consequences to be apprehended from its failure (with especial reference to the expenditure which would be thereby entailed on the Imperial Exchequer) and sent to Mr. Chamberlain and the principal members of the Cabinet by the Anti-Bounty League, signed by Lord Stanmore as President. We have reason to believe that this letter was discussed at the meeting of the Cabinet, and the reference to the Sugar Bounty Question in the King's speech at the opening of Parliament would appear to indicate that it has not been without effect. His Majesty made in his speech the following reference to the matter :

"On the invitation of the King of the Belgians, an International Conference on Sugar Bounties has recently re-assembled at Brussels. I trust that its decision may lead to the abandonment of a system by which the sugar-producing Colonies, and the home manufacturers of sugar, have been unfairly weighted in the prosecution of this most important industry."

This sympathetic allusion of His Majesty to the unfair effect of the Bounty System in our Sugar Colonies may be considered an indication that the Government have decided to save the West Indies from the ruin which would inevitably follow the collapse of the Sugar Industry, and it would appear to confirm the statement of the *Daily Express* on January 14th, that at the Cabinet Meeting on the previous day occurred a discussion, which might prove to be the most important in the history of the West Indies. But while we believe that at the Meeting of the Cabinet the policy to be adopted by the British Delegates at the Conference was decided upon, it would be premature to announce what their attitude will be, though we have reason to believe that whatever the decision of the Conference may be, the Government has decided to take measures to prevent the ruin of the West Indies. The delegates returned to Brussels on January 18th, and as the Conference resumed its sittings yesterday, the minds of those who are so anxiously awaiting the results of its deliberations should very soon be set at rest, and some definite announcement one way or the other be available. We are informed that Sir Alexander Swettenham, the Governor of British Guiana, has by Cable called the attention of Mr. Chamberlain to the critical condition of the sugar industry in that Colony. When last mail left the price of refining crystals was down to \$1.80 per 100 lbs. and unless immediate steps are taken to place British Colonial sugar on an equal footing with its Foreign Bounty Fed Competitors, the outlook will be grave indeed.

Boer Prisoners for Antigua.

Arrangements are now being made in Antigua for the reception of 1,200 Boer prisoners. It will be remembered that at the end of last year we requested Mr. Chamberlain to take into his favourable consideration the advantages offered by the Island in this connection, and we now learn that the prisoners will be located at Scott's Hill, a site to the East of St. John's beyond the Victoria Park. The question of the settlement of Boer leaders at Barbados is still under consideration, and from private advices we have reason to believe that if the war in South Africa continues, some prisoners may also be sent to Dominica.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, Ltd.

The issue is announced of £250,000 Four-and-a-Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Company (Limited) by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. The issue is offered at par, and is redeemable at a premium of 5 per cent. through an annual sinking fund in 1922, or at any time after 1st March, 1903. The trustees are Sir Edward Lawrence and Messrs. C. McArthur, M.P., and J. S. Harwood Banner. The share capital of the Company is £500,000 in £10 ordinary shares. The Company has been formed with the primary object of developing trade between the West Indies and Great Britain. The Company acquired seven vessels specified on the 31st December, and the consideration is to be £500,000 (including £25,000 for goodwill), which is to be satisfied as to £250,000 in cash, and as to the balance, namely, £250,000, by the allotment of 25,000 shares fully paid. The vendors also make over to the Company contracts dated 19th April, 1900, between the Crown Agents and Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., for a subsidy from the British and Jamaica Governments of £40,000 per annum, to maintain a fortnightly service of fruit, passenger, and mail carrying steamers for 10 years, from the 16th January, 1901, between Jamaica and the United Kingdom.

The Committee and its Objects.

There appeared in the "Times" of January 10th last, an article on "West India Sugar-Cane Experiments," which contained aspersions not only against the West India Committee, but against the West Indian Planters as a body, and we hope that the following letters from the Secretary and Sir Francis Fleming, the late Governor of the Leeward Islands, himself a Member of the West India Committee, which appeared in subsequent issues on January 11th and 13th, may have served to correct the false impression which the article complained of was calculated to create:—

Sir,—The article in your issue of to-day's date upon the subject of West Indian sugar-cane experiments contains certain allusions to the West India Committee and the West Indian planters which must not be allowed to pass unchallenged.

Your contributor states:—

1. "Whether, therefore, the Brussels Conference will tend to bring about the immediate abolition of the sugar bounties, which our colonial planters maintain to be their financial ruin, or whether the London West India Committee is destined to regard the bounty question with the imposition of a countervailing duty as the *raison d'être* of its existence for many more years, it is essential, in the interest of the planters and of the islands generally, that our colonial sugar trade should take the fullest advantage of the most recent scientific investigations."

2. "The West Indian planters may be said to have accomplished practically nothing in this way" (careful selection, cross fertilization, and the discovery of more perfect mechanical processes for expressing the juice). "In their methods of cultivation, in the kinds of cane grown, and in the processes of extracting the products they have remained conservative for generations; and it has not been an easy task to rouse them up sufficiently to enable them to realise that the serious depression in the trade is largely due to their own lethargy and failure to keep abreast of the times."

With reference to these statements will you allow me to make the following remarks?—

1. The West India Committee was established in the 18th century, 100 years before the foreign bounty system came into existence. If your contributor had taken the pains to make inquiries he would have found that the objects of the Committee are not merely to secure the abolition or neutralization of the foreign bounties, which with the Kartell system of Austria and Germany are very generally admitted to be proving the financial ruin of the planters, but "to promote the general welfare of the British West Indies, and by united action to further the interests of those colonies," and that it includes among its members representatives of all the industries of British Guiana and the West Indies (in Trinidad it has more members interested in cacao than in sugar), the principal banking institutions, the leading shipping companies, and the two cable companies.

2. The West India Committee, as representing the planters, has always been a fervent advocate of improvements in cultivation and process of manufacture of sugar. In support of this statement I may adduce the following extract from Circular No. 2 (old series) of the West India Committee, dated June, 1886, which may surprise your contributor:—

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

In conclusion, I may add that a perusal of their fortnightly circulars will abundantly prove that the West India Committee has been doing all in its power to bring to a successful issue the question of central factories and improved machinery, the erection of which has been (as was pointed out by Mr. Chamberlain in the House of Commons on June 15, 1899) so far prevented by the unwillingness of capitalists to invest their money in such an enterprise as long as the uncertainty caused by the bounty system continues.

Trusting that you will allow this explanation of the true attitude of my Committee towards progress in the West Indies to appear in your columns,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

The Editor the "*Times*."
West India Committee, Billiter Square Buildings,
London, E.C., Jan. 10.

SIR FRANCIS FLEMING'S LETTER TO THE "*TIMES*."

Sir,—I have read the letter from Mr. Aspinall, secretary to the West India Committee, which appeared in your issue of the 11th inst. Mr. Aspinall points out that what was stated in your article of the 10th inst., to which he refers, relative to the West Indian planters is incorrect in so far as the West India Committee, as representing them, is concerned.

But I desire to go further than Mr. Aspinall; and as late Governor of the Leeward Islands I can state, from personal observation and from personal intercourse with the planters, that what was stated in your issue of the 10th inst. is by no means the fact.

During the six years that I administered the Government of the Leeward Islands—from 1895 to July, 1901—I found the planters of Antigua and St. Kitts and Nevis, the principal sugar-growing islands within that Government, most anxious to take advantage of such opportunities as were afforded them to improve the cultivation and the manufacture of their sugars, this more especially so since the establishment of the Imperial Agricultural Department of the West Indies some three or four years ago.

It is true that modernized machinery has not been introduced into the Leeward Islands to any extent; but this is not because of any lethargy or indifference on the part of the present body of planters, but because they have not the capital wherewith to procure it.

This is why I have so strongly advocated the establishment of central sugar factories in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis. The establishment of such factories would enable the planters to manufacture sugar which would be marketable in the mother country and would prevent enormous waste of saccharine matter, between 40 and 50 per cent., which now results from imperfect crushing by the small mills and old-fashioned machinery, which, unfortunately is still in general use.

There may be some few planters, possessing small properties, who are satisfied to continue as they have been; who care not for new machinery, nor to try experiments with different descriptions of canes. But I venture to say that these are few and far between, and that the great majority of planters in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis are only too anxious to take advantage of everything they can, not only for the cultivation of, but for the manufacture of, their sugars.

I, of course, only speak for the sugar planters of the Leeward Islands; but I believe that Dr. Morris, who so ably presides over the West Indian Imperial Agricultural Department, would support my assertions, not only in regard to the planters of the Leeward Islands, but also as regards those of our other sugar-producing colonies in the Far West. Indeed, if I mistake not, the planters in the richer colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad have not failed to import the best of machinery for the manufacture of their sugar.

The planters may have their faults. It may be said that their predecessors in the times of their affluence and prosperity should have expended more money in improving their sugars rather than in the luxuries they then indulged in. But sugars made in those days paid them well, and it is scarcely surprising that they felt satisfied with the condition in which they then found themselves.

The planters of the present day may be suspicious of proposals avowedly made for their welfare; they may lose heart at the non-fulfilment of what they regarded as reasonable expectations; but no one who passes through the sugar estates in Antigua or St. Kitts-Nevis and observes the different kinds of experimental canes that have been planted, or has had an opportunity of conversing with the planters, as I have had, can justly accuse them of those faults which by your article of the 10th inst. are laid to their charge.

The West Indian planters have during recent years undergone many trials and suffered many losses. Their present position is not their fault so much as their misfortune; and, far from deserving censure, they deserve, on the other hand, sympathy and encouragement.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,
FRANCIS FLEMING.

Oriental Club, Jan. 13.

The West Indian Club.

The Earl of Stamford will preside at the next Club Dinner, which will take place to-morrow at the Howard Hotel, at 7.30. At the half-yearly Annual General Meeting on January 20th, the Chairman was able to report very satisfactory progress made by the Club during the past year. Lord Hawke's Cricket Team, the arrangements for the visit of which to the West Indies were conducted by the Sports Committee of the Club, have, we learn, arrived safely at Barbados.

News by the West Indian Mail.

The R.M.S. "Trent" anchored off Plymouth on Wednesday, January 15th, at 6.20 p.m. The mails were despatched by the 8.30 p.m. train, and the first delivery of letters was made in London at 8 a.m. Thursday, January 16th.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) January 1st, 1902. The state of the sugar market was a source of grave anxiety to all in the Island, as with a crop above the average to reap the result upon the year's work could not be anything but disastrous if present prices continued.

Grenada.—(A. Summerson, Esq.) December 31st, 1901. There had been no meetings of the legislature or of the Planters' Association during the fortnight. The weather after being showery set in wet and heavy rains—too much for cultivation generally—had fallen. Refining crystals were down to \$1.80 at which figure some sales had taken place. Sir Alexander Swettenham arrived on Xmas Day and was duly sworn in as Governor of the Colony on the following day.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) The R.M.S. Coastal Steamer "Yare" had begun her regular itinerary. She went in alternate weeks round the North and South of the Island to a point about the centre of the coast, returning by the same course. The fares and freights were moderate, and the boat and general arrangements were giving general satisfaction.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.) January 23d, 1902. The rainfall for 1901 at Dunscombe (high lands) was no less than 124.98 ins. and at Porters (low lands) 98.02 ins. December continued to the last with most favourable showers under the influence of which the old crop had continued steadily to improve, and the canes lately planted to spring vigorously. The canes "supplied" were frequently only 100 per acre, which was a very small percentage. The prospects of the crop therefore were very good; but the hopes of the Island as to price rested with the British Government. The health of the Island was good.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd) December 31st, 1901. Crop prospects and the weather continued favourable both for the old and the young crop.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) January 3rd, 1902. Although much more rain than was customary had fallen recently, it was very beneficial to the growing crops, and the temperature was beautifully cool.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," January, 15th, 1902: BARBADOS.—Mr. C. Minnich, Mrs. Cowie, Mr. H. Flint. DEMERARA.—Mr. M. de Cairos. JAMAICA.—Captain Beadon, Mr. and Mrs.

W. O. Onyon, Mr. D. W. Powell, Mrs. Meeres, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Wilcoxon, Mr. C. L. Wingrove, Sir Henry Cunningham, Mr. S. Wood, Mr. Kingsford. TRINIDAD.—Mrs. R. B. Short and Ch. DOMINICA.—Mr. and Mrs. Hannes, Mr. Emil Graner. GRENADA.—Mr. and Mrs. A. Alexander, Mr. Arthur Ross, Mr. F. Kent Langdon, Mr. F. Kent.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," January 22nd, 1902: BARBADOS.—Dr. Stanley Greaves, Mr. Bostock, Major R. W. Deane and Mrs. Deane, Miss Blencowe, Rev. and Mrs. Gardner, Rev. H. S. Fitzroy, Miss Harford, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Henderson. DEMERARA.—Mr. J. C. Menzies, Mr. and Mrs. Kerr, Mr. J. A. Potbury, Mr. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sells, Mr. A. J. McConnell, Mr. W. A. Wolseley. JAMAICA.—Two Messrs. Houghton, Mr. and Mrs. Essling, Capt. and Mrs. Bonitto, Mr. F. G. Powell, Mr. H. H. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. Alexander, Mr. C. Vlies, Mr. G. Millhisen, Mr. and Miss Goodwin, Dr. Karlsine. TRINIDAD.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Cull, Dr. R. C. Bennett, Dr. and Mrs. C. Reid, Mr. and Miss Epps. ANTIGUA.—Mr. H. JULLION. DOMINICA.—Mr. J. Edward, Miss Pemberton, Miss Stedman. ST. KITTS.—General Pemberton, Mr. Justice Danavall. ST. LUCIA.—Major Hodder.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S., "Port Morant," January 7th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. W. H. Roberts, Miss G. Boyd.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," January 18th, 1902: JAMAICA.—Mr. R. G. S. Bell, Miss Braham, Miss Cox, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. G. Ellis, Mr. Clifton Findlay, Miss M. Fitzherbert, Miss Jackson, Miss H. M. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Marsden, Mr. C. P. Penny, Mr. and Mrs. R. Robinson, Miss W. A. Robinson, Miss M. H. Robinson, Major and Mrs. F. C. G. Skey, Mr. John Speak, Mr. and S. C. Spencer Smith, Mr. J. J. Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Walker, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. R. McLean, Mr. W. M. Turner.

Rum.

The demand for proof kinds continues steady, but the tone is quiet. The sales for the month amount to 1,200 puns. Demerara and Berbice at 1s. 0½d. for common to 1/3 per proof gallon for fine quality, being previous to rather easier prices. In Jamaica there is little or nothing doing, stocks in first hands being almost exhausted.

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

| | | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. | 1898. |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| LANDED | In Dec. | 544,445 | 831,156 | 879,378 | 446,390 |
| | 12 months | 6,664,390 | 6,239,181 | 5,627,359 | 5,486,417 |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. | In Dec. | 592,762 | 525,587 | 608,543 | 546,259 |
| | 12 months | 4,386,189 | 4,460,801 | 4,356,060 | 3,969,030 |
| EXPORT | In Dec. | 99,042 | 59,338 | 88,312 | 78,849 |
| | 12 months | 927,123 | 909,917 | 940,355 | 913,360 |
| STOCK (Gall.) | 31 Dec. | 7,145,000 | 6,926,000 | 7,331,000 | 7,942,000 |

STOCKS IN LONDON.

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| JAMAICA. PUNS.. .. . | 7,933 | 8,259 | 10,640 | 12,513 |
| OTHER W. I. ISLANDS .. | 1,208 | 485 | 526 | 694 |
| DEMERARA | 4,523 | 5,338 | 3,140 | 5,244 |
| FOREIGN | 1,963 | 1,787 | 2,352 | 753 |
| BRITISH EAST INDIA .. | 1,940 | 1,242 | 1,548 | 315 |
| VATTED | 3,855 | 3,409 | 3,527 | 3,640 |
| TOTAL | 21,422 | 20,520 | 21,733 | 23,159 |

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—The first Public Sales of the New Year were held on the 7th inst., when there was a good demand and about half the quantity offered was disposed of, prices ruling steady for ordinary qualities and 1s. per cwt. dearer for good to fine; subsequently there has been no change in the position, and at the close the tone of the market is fully steady. Sales amount to some 1,600 bags at 66s. to 68s. for low middling to middling and 68s. 6d. to 74s. 6d. for good middling to fine.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| IMPORTED, 1st Jan. to 11th Jan... | 848 bags against | 1,008 bags. |
| DELIVERED | 1,408 | 1,267 |
| STOCK, 11th Jan. | 12,450 | 25,768 |

GRENADA.—The market opened with a dull tone and out of 2,332 bags offered at the opening sales only about 800 were sold, prices being about 1s. lower. Importers have since shown more desire to sell, and a considerable business has been effected at a further reduction of 1s. to 2s. per cwt., quotations at the close being 56s. to 58s. 6d. for ordinary to good fair and 59s. to 64s. for middling to fine.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| IMPORTED 1st Jan. to 11th Jan. .. | 4,689 bags against | 499 bags. |
| DELIVERED | 790 | 1,247 |
| STOCK, 11th Jan... .. | 10,554 | 7,788 |

West India Produce.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Landed terms) PIMENTO ... 3d. to 3½d. per lb. GINGER ... 38s. to 58s. per cwt. BEESWAX £7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt. HONEY ... 14s. to 20s. per cwt. LIME JUICE 10d. to 1s. 3d. per gall.</p> | <p>LOGWOOD... .. £4 5s. to £4 10s. per ton. LOGWOOD ROOTS £4 per ton. FUSTIC £4 per ton. " ROOTS £3 10s. per ton. ARROWROOT ... (St. Vincent) 1½d. to 3½d. per lb.</p> |
|--|---|

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Tons. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Single Stones. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Funs. | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------|-------|--|
| BRITISH GUIANA— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Dec. 30th, 1901 | 92,997 | 25,309 | 95,308 | 4,988 | 101,014 | 76,602 | 1,528 | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1900 | 95,228 | 26,294 | 33,037 | — | 113,341 | 31,874 | 3,119 | | | |
| TRINIDAD— | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Bags & Brls. | | | Coffee | Asphalt. Tons. | | Puns | Tons. | Brls. | |
| Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1901 | 471,932 | 1,606 | 21,454,184 | 20,880 | 160,185 | 11,278,576 | 3,724 | 158 | 566 | |
| Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1900 | 379,214 | 579 | 29,901,632 | 7,220 | 142,155 | 8,650,256 | 7,609 | 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:—

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 11th January | 142,218 | 73,484 | 64,625 | 76,877 | 108,427 |
| France, 1st January | 760,000* | 715,853 | 679,521 | 600,000 | 550,000 |
| Germany, 1st January | 1,416,676 | 1,096,123 | 1,009,077 | 1,010,625 | 1,072,025 |
| Hamburg, 16th January | 152,200 | 95,600 | 58,000 | 75,700 | 118,200 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st January | 745,513 | 629,596 | 609,643 | 619,267 | 527,581 |
| Holland, 1st January | 142,697 | 110,888 | 77,455 | 84,813 | 125,162 |
| Belgium, 1st January | 154,279 | 103,864 | 120,366 | 132,971 | 129,456 |
| | 3,513,583 | 2,825,408 | 2,618,687 | 2,600,253 | 2,630,851 |
| United States, 15th January, Total Stocks | 123,000 | 88,151 | 183,221 | 99,333 | 213,176 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 15th January, Total Stocks | 51,000 | 21,343 | 11,271 | 7,955 | 26,640 |
| Cargoes afloat, 16th January | 14,428 | 10,465 | 33,695 | 114,363 | 81,354 |
| Total..... | 3,702,011 | 2,945,367 | 2,846,874 | 2,821,904 | 2,952,021 |

* Estimated.

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), January 8th, "Some rain would be acceptable."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), January 7th, "Finer weather since last message, generally acceptable." January 14th, "Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), January 9th, "Weather fine with occasional light showers."

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

Subscriptions for 1902.

Members will greatly oblige if they will remit to the Secretary the amount of their subscriptions for the current year, due on January 1st, at their earliest convenience.

Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Gillet Square Buildings.

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West India Committee.

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BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, February 5th, 1902.

The Sugar Conference.

On Friday, January 31st, the Sugar Bounties Conference was once more adjourned to enable some of the Delegates to refer to their Governments for further instructions. It is now generally considered that the position is a hopeful one, and that a Convention, which will lead to the abolition of the Bounties and Cartel Bounties, is likely to result from the labours of the Conference. The chief point raised during the past fortnight has been the difference between the excise and customs duties, which in Germany and Austria have given rise to the Cartel Bounties. This question has, it appears, been put to the Delegates very plainly, and has been combined with the subject of direct and indirect bounties. It seems that Great Britain has proposed that the difference between the customs and excise duties should be fixed at five francs per 100 kilos. The Conference will resume its deliberations on Tuesday, February 11th next.

The following resolutions were adopted unanimously at the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee of the West India Committee Thursday, Jan. 23rd last, Mr. Henry K. Davson presiding in the absence of Sir Nevile Lubbock at Brussels :—

“That the West India Committee desire to record their satisfaction at the encouraging reference in the Speech of His Most Gracious Majesty, the King, on the opening of Parliament to our sugar-producing Colonies, wherein it is recognised that they have been unfairly weighted in the prosecution of their most important industry by the system of foreign sugar bounties, and hope is expressed that the International Conference may lead to the abandonment of the system.”

“That the West India Committee trust that the people of this country will support the just appeals now being made by our Colonial communities to the Home Government for such prompt and efficacious measures as shall forthwith restore to those communities their Imperial right of unrestricted commercial intercourse with the Mother Country, and safeguard the people of this Country in the full enjoyment of every natural advantage inherent in their tropical possessions, now threatened with annihilation by a league of foreign protectionists supported for that avowed object by Foreign Governments.”

“That the foregoing resolutions be sent to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.”

Jamaica and the West India Committee.

Through the initiative of the Archbishop of the West Indies—whose interest in all matters affecting the welfare of the West Indies is so well known—a movement is on foot in Jamaica for the appointment of a Commercial Agent in London. His Grace addressed a long letter on the subject to Mr. Olivier, the Colonial Secretary, and his views met with the warm approval of the Governor, by whom they were referred to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has replied that it would be obviously impossible in the case of a Colony like Jamaica to have an Agent in England, occupying a position in any way similar to that of the Agent-General of self-governing colonies, and any agent who might be appointed should be maintained by the Commercial Community, and be entirely

unconnected with the Government, though there would be no objection to the Government making, if necessary, a small grant to some such body as the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange. To this Association the matter was then referred, and we understand that as the outcome the West India Committee will shortly be communicated with on the subject. We need hardly say that the West India Committee will give its most careful consideration to any proposals which may be made from the other side. The number of Jamaica Members on the Committee is at present not large, but with increased financial support much might be done by the Committee in the direction indicated by the Archbishop. The organisation is ready and it remains for the people of Jamaica to avail themselves of it. We are always glad to furnish enquirers to the best of our power with such information as they may require concerning Jamaica, and to distribute leaflets and pamphlets such as those published by the Institute of Jamaica if they are provided to us, and we already make it our object to watch for, and immediately correct any erroneous statement concerning the Island and its products which may appear in the Press.

The late Sir Conrad Reeves.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Sir Conrad Reeves, the Chief Justice of Barbados, which occurred in the Island, on January 8th last. Sir Conrad Reeves, who was a man universally respected, had stood by the Colony in very trying times, and the Governor's official notice and the memoirs in the local papers sufficiently attest the high estimation in which he was held, not only in Barbados but throughout the West Indies. The public funeral, which took place at the Westbury Cemetery, Barbados, on January 10th, was attended by His Excellency the Governor, the Officials of the Colony, and a large concourse of the public.

Lord Pirbright on the Bounties.

Among the most energetic supporters in the Press and in Parliament has been Lord Pirbright who as Baron de Worms presided over the International Sugar Bounty Conference in London in 1887. In recognition of his valuable services to the cause, the following resolution was passed unanimously at a meeting of the Executive Committee on January 23rd last :—

“The West India Committee having read with much interest and gratification the excellent letters addressed by the Right Hon. Lord Pirbright to the *Times*, desire to express their thanks to his Lordship for his continued advocacy of their interests and the hope that he will continue his support in their endeavours to secure the abolition of bounties which threaten the annihilation of the paramount industry of British Guiana and the British West Indies.”

Lord Pirbright has placed on the paper of the Peers' House notice that on a day to be subsequently fixed he will call attention to the system of direct and indirect bounties given by foreign Powers on beet sugar, by which the sugar-producing Colonies and the home manufacturers of sugar are so unfairly weighted in the prosecution of this most important industry.

Boer Prisoners for the West Indies.

We are informed officially that it is not at present proposed to send any Boer prisoners to Jamaica. In Antigua, however, arrangements for their reception are proceeding apace. The site of the camp on Scott's Hill is being laid out under the superintendence of two officers of the Royal Engineers. In Barbados, Fortescue is the estate selected for the Boer Prisoners' camp; water has already been laid on, and it is calculated that all the buildings will be ready by the end of February. A large amount of money is being spent weekly by the Government, and when the Camp is in working order, the sale of fish, potatoes and other products cannot fail to profit the people in the neighbourhood.

Codrington College and West Africa.

We are asked to state that a meeting to promote interest in the West Indian Church Mission to West Africa will be held in the Reception Room of the West Indian Club, Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, Strand, (by kind permission of the Club Committee,) at 3.30 p.m., on Wednesday, February 19th. The Earl of Stamford will preside, and will give a short history of the Mission, which originated from Codrington College, Barbados, the threatened closing of which, it will be remembered, was averted through the efforts of the West India Committee. Bishop Ingham, late of Sierra Leone, will speak of the actual working of this Mission on the Rio Pongo, while it is hoped that Colonel Sir F. Cardew, late Governor of Sierra Leone, Sir Nevile Lubbock, and Sir Alfred Jones, will also attend. The unique effort on the part of coloured West Indians, carefully trained at Codrington College and elsewhere in theology, medicine, and various handicrafts, to convey the advantages which they enjoy to their countrymen in West Africa, has now been sustained for nearly fifty years, and merits further recognition and support. The Countess of Stamford will send out invitations, on or about February 9th, to members of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club, resident in or near London, who, it is hoped will attend and bring friends.

West Indian Affairs.

When the Homeward Mail left the absorbing topic in the West Indies was naturally the Bounty Question, and the prospects of the Sugar Bounty Conference. Though the crops were everywhere very satisfactory, the outlook was looked upon as very grave in view of the disastrously low prices of sugar. The R.M.S. "Orinoco" reached Plymouth at 9.45 p.m. on January 29th, and the Mails were delivered in London first post on January 30th.

A memorial signed by over 5,000 Cape Farmers of Trinidad has been sent to Mr. Chamberlain, praying for the imposition of countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar. The memorialists point out that the sugar industry is of the greatest importance to the Colony, as it furnishes the daily bread, not only of thousands labouring on the sugar estates, but of the thousands who are engaged in farming canes for the factories.

Before the Mail left an influential deputation waited upon the Governor of the Leeward Islands, and consequent upon their representations, which were to the effect that English merchants interested in property in the Island had expressed their determination to cease advances at the end of the year's working. His Excellency promised to forward a telegram to Mr. Chamberlain embodying their wishes, which were :—

- (1) The imposition of duties in favour of British Colonial Sugar.
- (2) The imposition in Great Britain of duties to countervail the Bounties and Kartells.
- (3) The Abolition of the Bounties.

On January 15th, an influential meeting of Planters and Merchants was held at the Commercial Hall, Barbados, when the following resolution was passed unanimously :—

"That this meeting of Planters and Merchants respectfully urges His Excellency, the Governor, to telegraph to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the immediate abolition of Kartells and Bounties is absolutely vital to the preservation of the Sugar Industry of Barbados, on which the employment of a vast population entirely depends, and for the continuance of which it is already most difficult to obtain advances."

Arrangements were being made, when the mail left British Guiana, for a deputation to wait on the Governor on the subject of the present condition of the Sugar Industry and the depressed state of the Colony generally, the gravity of the situation being very generally realised throughout the Colony.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) January 15th. The weather continued favourable for the growing crops. An exciting incident had occurred in the stranding of the Flagship of the British North America Squadron, but though severely damaged she had been got off.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.) January 16th. The R.M.S. "Elbe," which left Southampton on December 25th did not reach Carlisle Bay till Tuesday, January 7th, causing by her delay much inconvenience and annoyance. The Fourth West Indian Agricultural Conference, which met on January 4th to 6th, at the Assembly Hall of the Mutual Life Assurance Society, was a great success, and many interesting papers, which will shortly be published in the West Indian Bulletin, were read. A Cottagers' Agricultural Show was held at Blowers Estate on January 13th, and produced most excellent exhibits. It was the second of the kind under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and was a marked advance on the first held last year at Hopewell. The people evidently took the greatest interest, and attended in large numbers. Rain had been very scarce in January, very few plantations having marked as much as an inch to date. Canes as a natural consequence were ripening up, and sugar making might soon be looked for. The spring of young canes throughout the Island was magnificent. Quarantine in St. Lucia was not to be raised by Barbados till January 25th. Mr. Cameron, of the Local Committee, returned to England by the Mail, and his speedy recovery was hoped for.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.) January 15th. The Government had decided to appoint a Commission consisting of the Government Secretary, the Immigration Agent-General, the Receiver-General, Hon. B. Howell Jones, and the Hon. R. G. Duncan, to enquire into the cost of Immigration and matters generally connected therewith. The Planters' Association had nominated Mr. A. Summerson to represent them on the Commission. The rains during the fortnight had been much too heavy, and young cultivation was feeling the effects of the excessive moisture. A spell of dry weather would be welcome. Refining crystals had gone lower and lower, and on January 14th only one buyer would offer \$1.55.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) Jan. 14th. The weather during the fortnight had been fine on the whole. Much regret was felt locally that the West Indian Squadron would this year send no ships to Roseau.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.) Jan. 15th. The Coffee crop was only half reaped, and the heavy rains had retarded the curing. But it was expected that the crop would be double that of last year. The Sugar crop ought to be a good one, but *cui bono*, as at the time of writing 89° was only fetching £5 15s. per ton in America, the best market available.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd) Jan. 14th. The weather continued favourable for the young growing crop, which was becoming well established, while it was not interrupting the start of general reaping. The canes had opened up rich and full of juice.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay) January 17th. The Island was still under quarantine, though it had been raised by the Leeward Islands, and Barbados was to follow suit on January 25th. In Castries and the Harbour there had been no case of fever, and both remained quite free from sickness. The dubious fever which attacked the troops had quite died out. The prospects of the crops were fair as regarded quantity, but disastrous as to price.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), January 17th. The weather was much dryer and more suited to reaping operations, the yield of arrowroot showing an improvement. The rainfall for the year 1901, at Kingstown Park, amounted to 105.60 inches.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick), January 16. At a recent meeting of the Standing Committee on Immigration, three matters of importance were dealt with—

(1.) Payment of the Employers' share of the cost of repatriation. It was decided that 12s. per Cap: should be paid on allotment, in addition to the ordinary indenture fee, and 10s. in four annual instalments of 4s. 10½d. or \$7.44 per Cap: in all.

(2.) There was laid before the Committee a dispatch from the Secretary of State containing a long letter from Mr. Stewart, the Agent in Calcutta, dealing with the complaints made as to the class of immigrants shipped recently. The Committee considered the letter unsatisfactory, and a minute on the subject was passed.

(3.) The date of the application for next season's coolies. This should be, according to the existing regulations, on or before January 31st, but, in view of the critical condition of the sugar industry, Mr. R. De Verteuil moved that the date be postponed as long as possible or until after the decision of the Brussels Conference. This motion was adopted.

There had been a good deal of rain during the past three weeks, but it had turned dry and cane reaping would become general in a very few days.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," January 29th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mrs. Thacker, Mr. H. Pereira, Capt. Milligan, Mr. Morrison, Miss Borman, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Martinez. **DEMERARA.**—Mr J. Ferguson, Mr. J. Rowe. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. H. C. Clarke, Mr. J. F. Williamson. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. F. B. Fulle, Mr. W. R. Hasluck, Miss F. Mitchell. **TOBAGO.**—Mr. F. Nutting, Mr. G. Dickson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Fitzgerald.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," February 5th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. D. C. Da Costa, Mr. S. C. Da Costa, Mrs. Clarke, Miss Templeton, Mr. C. Chawner. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. E. M. H. Corbin, Mr. C. P. H. Corbin, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. R. Lloyd. **JAMAICA.**—Hon. E. Ellis, Rev. and Mrs. Lockett, Mr. and Miss Wood, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Sellon, Mr. A. E. Heaton, Mr. S. Lings, Col. Blagrove, Mrs. and Miss Deaken, Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Bidy, Mr. T. Fidler. **TRINIDAD.**—Mrs. Hombersley, Mr. W. C. Gudgeon, Capt. R. V. K. Appling. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. O. Lewis. **GRENADA.**—Mr. G. E. St. George, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. de la Mothe.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," January 22nd, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mr. F. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Bradford, Mr. and Mrs. Bluff, Mr. B. D'Eathie, Miss L. Hyjen.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," February 1st, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. W. H. Adams, Mr. J. J. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Ziba Armitage, Miss W. M. Armitage, Mr. R. Blatchford, Miss G. Boyd, Mr. R. Bromley, Lieut.-Gen. Hon. S. Gough Calthorpe, Hon. Mrs. Gough Calthorpe, Miss Gough Calthorpe, Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Coote, Lieut. Courtice, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. R. Crichton, Mr. T. L. Dodds, Miss A. E. Grice, Mrs. Grove, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Hammond, Miss Violet Hammond, Mr. W. H. Harton, Mrs. S. Hopgood Hart, Mr. and Mrs. A. Harvey, Mr. H. M. Hughes, Rev. A. James, Mr. D. E. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Kingsmill, Dr. and Mrs. H. J. Ley, Mr. A. Lilwall, Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Martin, Capt. John McNab, Mr. E. McKenna, Mr. Morris, Mr. Mullett, Mr. and Mrs. John Ogle, Mr. Pitcairn, Miss Ethel Pratt, Miss May Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Read, Mrs. H. Richardson, Miss Robins, Mr. Roxburgh, Jun., Mr. J. W. Kayton Scholfield, Mr. A. C. Scrutton, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Solomon, Mr. Herbert Spicer, Mr. Maurice Spicer, Mrs. Todd, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Truelove, Miss Edith Vaughan, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Mrs. Stewart Wortley, Mr. Francis Yates, Miss Yates, Mr. B. Clarke, Mr. Angus McNab.

West India Produce.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Landed terms) PIMENTO ... | 2½d. to 3d. per lb. | LOGWOOD ... | ... £4 2s. 6d to £4 17s. 6d per ton. |
| GINGER ... | 38s. to 58s. per cwt. | LOGWOOD ROOTS | £3 17s. 6d. per ton. |
| BEESWAX ... | £7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt. | FUSTIC ... | ... £4 to £4 2s. 6d per ton. |
| HONEY ... | 14s. to 20s. per cwt. | " ROOTS ... | £3 12s. 6d. per ton. |
| LIME JUICE | 10d. to 1s. 3d. per gall. | ARROWROOT ... | (St. Vincent) 1¼d. to 3¼d. per lb. |

Exports.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|
| <i>From—</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | Sugar. | Rum. | Cocoa. | Diamonds | Gold. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. | | |
| | Tons. | Puns. | lbs. | Single Stones. | ozs. | | Puns. | | |
| Jan. 1st to Jan. 15th, 1902 | 4,691 | 3,596 | 3,892 | — | 5,863 | 28 | 1 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Jan. 16th, 1901 | 9,751 | 2,582 | 361 | — | 5,446 | 26,400 | — | | |
| JAMAICA— | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Coffee. | Banana Bunches. | Co'nuts. | Oranges. | | |
| | | | | Cwts. | | | | | |
| Apr. 1st to Jan. 4th, 1902 | 11,179 | 1,224,649 | 15,947 | 46,649 | 8,836,114 | 14,038,739 | 74,422,987 | | |
| Apr. 1st to Jan. 2nd, 1901 | 12,938 | 1,129,399 | 16,790 | 57,843 | 7,020,178 | 10,884,310 | 86,116,005 | | |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brls. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee | Asphalt. | Co'nuts. | Molasses | Tons. | Brls. |
| | | | | lbs. | Tons. | | Puns. | | |
| Jan. 1st to Jan. 15th, 1902 | 209 | — | 1,110,950 | 2,000 | 2,850 | 97,000 | 165 | — | — |
| Jan. 1st to Jan. 15th, 1901 | 21 | — | 473,450 | — | 5,383 | 17,000 | 233 | 18 | 26 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| United Kingdom, 25th January | 146,449 | 65,861 | 60,455 | 69,816 | 107,361 |
| France, 1st January | 742,315 | 715,853 | 679,521 | 600,000 | 550,000 |
| Germany, 1st January | 1,414,676 | 1,006,123 | 1,009,077 | 1,010,625 | 1,072,025 |
| Hamburg, 30th January | 146,900 | 71,900 | 35,100 | 58,700 | 120,200 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st January | 745,513 | 629,596 | 609,643 | 619,267 | 527,581 |
| Holland, 15th January | 145,309 | 112,785 | 82,960 | 82,648 | 122,183 |
| Belgium, 15th January | 162,877 | 113,789 | 121,979 | 128,358 | 128,982 |
| | <u>3,504,039</u> | <u>2,805,907</u> | <u>2,598,735</u> | <u>2,569,414</u> | <u>2,628,332</u> |
| United States, 29th January, Total Stocks | 103,000 | 98,935 | 162,916 | 107,827 | 202,662 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 29th January, Total Stocks | 102,000 | 37,285 | 25,000 | 18,406 | 42,500 |
| Cargoes afloat, 30th January | 14,428 | 10,465 | 25,302 | 98,133 | 78,910 |
| Total | <u>3,723,467</u> | <u>2,952,592</u> | <u>2,811,953</u> | <u>2,793,790</u> | <u>2,952,404</u> |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), January 22nd, "Very dry, rain wanted."

BRITISH GUIANA—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), January 24th, "Weather fine, with occasional light showers." (Messrs. Sandbach, Timme & Co.), January 24th, "Weather all that can be desired."

TRINIDAD—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) January 23rd, "Weather fine for harvesting." (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), January 30th, "Weather broken, reaping about three-fourths of usual produce."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

General.

Barbados Agricultural Gazette, Vol. 8, No. 1. *British Guiana Blue Book*, 1900-01. *The Financial News*. *Grenada Ordinances 1901*. *The International Sugar Journal*, No. 38, Vol. 4, February. *The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*. *The Produce Markets Review*. *West Indian Bulletin*, containing report of proceedings at the West Indian Agricultural Conference, 1902.

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 Prices Current (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.).
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. G. 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, Macfaeayen & 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 Dominican 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 Berbice Gazette (British Guiana.)</i> | | |

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

Special Notice.

Members will greatly oblige if they will remit to the Secretary the amount of their subscriptions for the current year, due on January 1st, at their earliest convenience. Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Billiter Square Buildings. 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:
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BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, February 18th, 1902.

The Brussels Conference.

The Brussels Conference, the re-assembling of which was postponed from February 11th to February 17th, has been further adjourned to Saturday, February 22nd. From what appears in the European press, it seems probable that the Austrian Delegates will refuse to accept the proposal to reduce the difference between the Excise and Customs duties known as the "Écart" to 5 francs per 100 kilos. It is not at all clear up to the present what the attitude of Germany is likely to be, though she seems more favourable to the abolition of the bounties than Austria. All the other Governments are probably in agreement. Everything now depends upon the attitude assumed by the British Delegates when the Conference re-assembles.

During the past fortnight a correspondence has been going on in the *Times* between Mr. Harold Cox on the one hand and Sir Nevile Lubbock, Mr. Beeton, and latterly Mons. Yves Guyot, on the other. Mr. Harold Cox on behalf of the Cobden Club now admits that duties imposed to countervail bounties would be in accordance with Free Trade, but that the object of the Cobden Club is not to promote Free Trade, but what they conceive to be the interests of this country, and, believing as they do that the bounties are of benefit to us, they have thrown Free Trade overboard and oppose the action of the Government in trying to get rid of them. A leading article appeared in the *Times*, on January 10th last, in which disapproval of the remarkable attitude on the part of the Cobden Club was very clearly expressed.

West Indian Affairs.

The Bounty question was still the absorbing topic in the West Indies when the Mail left, and a very hopeful feeling was caused by the various telegraphic reports received as to the reported attitude of the British Government towards the Bounties and Kartels at the Brussels Conference. Owing to very heavy weather between Barbados and Jamaica, the R.M.S. "Elbe" left Barbados 12 hours late, and as 500 miles from this side very heavy seas were encountered, she did not reach Plymouth till 2.5 a.m., on Friday the 14th inst., 29 hours late. It will be remembered that on her outward journey she was extremely late, and there can be no doubt as to the existence of a growing feeling of dissatisfaction at these constant delays.

A public meeting was held at Port of Spain, under the auspices of the Agricultural Society and Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad, on January 21st, when the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting the abolition of Bounties on sugar, or the imposition by the Imperial Government of Countervailing Duties is absolutely vital to the existence of the sugar industry of this Colony, and to the maintenance of its commercial prosperity."

"That the Chamber of Commerce and Agricultural Society of Trinidad humbly and loyally venture to lay at the foot of the Throne their respectful endorsement and grateful appreciation of the expression of hope contained in His Majesty's recent speech from the

Throne to His Parliament, that the decisions of the Brussels Sugar Conference may result in the abandonment of the Bounty systems by which His Majesty's sugar-producing Colonies have been unfairly weighted.

"That his Excellency the Governor be requested to cable this resolution to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

From the letters of our Honorary Correspondents we extract the following items of interest:—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) January 29th. Crop would be commenced early in February on most estates. The military authorities had sent artisans from Barbados to erect barracks for the Boer prisoners, and the local carpenters were very indignant in consequence.

Barbados.—(F. M. Alleyne, Esq.) January 30. It was essential for the salvation of the Island that legislation for the abolition of the bounties and cartels should come into force at once, as the crop, which had begun to be reaped, had been planted and manufactured at a cost far exceeding the 4s. per 100 lbs., which was then being offered for sugar. If this state of things continued even for one year it was inevitable that estate after estate would fall into Chancery, and would then drop out of cultivation, there being nothing to pay the labourers with. When that state of affairs arrived, the Government would have trouble. The weather for January had been very dry, not more than 1.50 having fallen in most places. The canes were therefore ripening fast and sugar making had begun on many estates, the juice sinking 10 to 11 degrees Beaume, which was unusually sweet for a start, so there was promise of a good yield.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.) January 29th. The American market was somewhat steadier, \$1.80 to \$1.85 being obtainable for crystals. The weather during the fortnight has been too dry, and showers in moderation would be acceptable. The Legislature met on the 28th, the business transacted being entirely concerned with educational affairs.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) January 30th. On January 22nd, Memorial Services were held for the late Queen Victoria. A new issue of stamps for the Leeward Islands was expected to be made, the designs of which were to be illustrative of the scenery of each Island. The weather for the past fortnight had been showery, and the prospect of the Easter crop of Cacao not encouraging from information already to hand.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas) January 30th. The weather continued unfavourable to the curing of cacao though it suited the cacao trees on the low lying lands admirably. Pickings had been abundant, but the lull anticipated would take place in a week or two, as the trees were maturing few large pods for the next two pickings. At a meeting of the Legislative Council on the 20th, a resolution was adopted condemning the expenditure of money by the Government without the previous authorisation of the Legislative Council. Every unofficial member voted for it. At least two thousand acres of land would be at once cultivated with cane if a reasonable stability in the sugar market could be looked for with assurance.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd) January 28th. The deepest interest and anxiety prevailed in the Island as to the result of the Brussels Conference, and as to the Action which the Government would take in the event of the Conference proving abortive. The weather had been more favourable to the crop being reaped and the young crop for 1903 which was becoming well established.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay) January 31st. Quarantine against the Island was raised everywhere, the Island being quite free from sickness. The weather was favourable for the reaping which had already commenced.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) January 31st. Everything in the Island was at the lowest ebb in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant. The weather was everything that could be desired, and the health of the Island excellent.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) January 30th. A full report of the proceedings of the Public Meeting on the Sugar Bounty Question to which reference is made above was to be found in the *Mirror* and *Port of Spain Gazette*, of January 22nd. The weather has been showery during the fortnight to the benefit of both Cacao and Sugar crops, but not wet enough to prevent the cane crop being proceeded with.

America and the Russian Bounties.

The Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States on the state of the Finances for the fiscal year, ended June 30th, 1901, deals with the question of the Russian Sugar Bounties in connection with the Tariff Act of July 24th, 1897, which imposed countervailing duties on

Bounty-fed Sugar. At the time of the issue of the order on December 12th, 1898, for the collection of additional duties on Sugar from the Argentine Republic, Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Russia, no protest was lodged by the latter country. Early in 1900 the Secretary of the Treasury suspended the order as regards Russia as a conventional courtesy, but held the subject open for further investigation. The Russian authorities earnestly insisted that no direct or indirect Bounty was granted. As the result, however, of the investigations of an agent of the Treasury department in Europe, Collectors of Customs were instructed to collect an additional duty on Russian Sugar, it being held that the Russian Government regulations resulted in an indirect Bounty on exported Sugar equal to the difference between the price (exclusive of excise tax) of Sugar sold in that country for home consumption and the price of Sugar sold for export. The arrival of a cargo of Russian Sugar at Baltimore gave an opportunity for an appeal to the Board of General Appraisers, and they held that "the Russian Government pays or bestows a Bounty or Grant upon the exportation of so-called 'Free Sugar,' so as to work a benefit or advantage to the Exporter." Their reason for arriving at this decision is, in view of the discussions which have been taking place at Brussels as to the nature and extent of indirect Bounties, especially interesting. A "Bounty" was defined to be "an advantage or benefit conferred upon, or compensation paid to, a person or class of persons, the burden of which is borne directly or indirectly by the public treasury." It was also held that a "grant" implies the conferring, by a sovereign power, of some valuable privilege, franchise, or other right of like character upon a corporation, person or class of persons. "It involves" said the board "the idea of a favour conferred by government, but does not necessarily embrace the act of appropriating money out of the Public Treasury."

The Laws of the West Indies and British Guiana.

The "*Journal of the Society of Comparative Legislation*"* in its recent half-yearly issue contains a concise, but complete review of all the legislation in 1900, in the West Indies and British Guiana. The laws passed in The Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, Turks' and Caicos Islands, and Trinidad, and Tobago, were reviewed by Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn; in Bermuda by the Hon. Reginald Gray, Attorney-General; in Jamaica by S. Leslie Thornton, Esq.; and in the Windward and Leeward Islands by H. L. Ormsby, Esq. In addition to the articles contributed by Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, K.C.S.I., on non-Christian Marriage; Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart., on the "History of the Law of Nature," and Sir William Rattigan, M.P., and others, is one by Mr. Shephard, of Lincoln's Inn, on The Most Favoured Nation Article. After an exhaustive and careful exposition of the divergent interpretations placed by the American and British Governments on this article, and a reference to the arguments used by the German Ambassador in a recent discussion with the United States Government, Mr. Shephard sums up by stating that "an interpretation which enables both treaty Powers to retain their liberty, notwithstanding this article, to adopt measures necessary to protect their own subjects, gives as much effect as it seems possible to give to this weighty engagement . . . such reserved powers enable, if necessary, either treaty Power to accord different treatment as between the other treaty Power and third Powers." On the whole we think Mr. Shephard inclines to the American views.

Praedial Larceny.

We learn that this important question is still engaging the attention of the Colonial Office, and that the suggestion of the West India Committee that a Commissioner should be sent out to the Colonies to report on the matter, is receiving the favourable consideration of the Colonial Office.

* The Journal of the Society of Comparative Legislation. (John Murray, Albemarle Street, London), 5s. net.

The British Guiana Diamond Syndicate (Limited).

The report for the period ended December 31st, 1901, states that diamonds have been received and sold to the amount of £7,733, and the profit balance amounts to £2,357, but the Directors do not recommend the payment of a Dividend for the present, believing that by carrying forward the sum in question the Syndicate's position will be strengthened for future development.

New Members.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee on February 6th instant, the following gentlemen, proposed by Mr. T. W. Wilkinson and seconded by Mr. Foster M. Alleyne, were elected Members of the West India Committee. Hon. F. J. CLARKE, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Barbados; E. F. O. SWAN, Esq., Barbados; J. T. GRAYFOOT, Esq., Barbados. We again venture to express the hope that Members will endeavour to maintain the Committee on its present sound basis, by bringing forward Candidates for election.

The West Indian Club.

The arrangements for the next Club Dinner, which will be held at the Club Room, Howard Hotel, at 7.30 to-morrow, have been kindly undertaken by Sir E. Noel Walker. The Report of the Club for 1901 and List of Members will shortly be issued.

Sugar Production in Europe.

We give below the returns of the Sugar Production of Europe for the season 1900-1901, and the Estimates for the season 1901-1902 as issued by the International Union for Sugar Statistics, a combination of manufacturers of Sugar in all the European Countries.

| COUNTRY. | Production of Sugar Beets. | | Production of Sugar. | |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | 1901-2. Tons. | 1900-1. Tons. | 1901-2. Tons. | 1900-1. Tons. |
| GERMANY | 15,639,410 | 13,252,291 | 2,220,850 | 1,974,785 |
| AUSTRIA | 8,944,700 | 7,408,000 | 1,306,900 | 1,083,300 |
| FRANCE | 9,278,400 | 8,717,489 | 1,080,300 | 1,100,171 |
| RUSSIA | 8,304,545 | 6,406,024 | 1,079,550 | 893,520 |
| BELGIUM | 2,509,000 | 2,463,000 | 325,000 | 320,000 |
| HOLLAND | 1,483,000 | 1,225,000 | 200,100 | 178,100 |
| SWEDEN | 876,000 | 865,800 | 121,392 | 115,547 |
| DENMARK | 44,300 | 398,258 | 57,500 | 50,760 |
| OTHER | — | — | 221,000 | — |

Beet Sowings.

In consequence of the uncertainty of the outcome of the Brussels Conference, the conclusion of the Beet Contracts has been stopped momentarily, but though no exact figures can be given as yet, a restriction of Sowings as compared with last year is generally expected.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. call special attention to the altered hours of departure of the Special Train from Waterloo Station for West Indian Steamers, which is now **11.35 a.m.**

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Elbe," February 14th, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Mr. G. E. Orme, Mr. P. L. Munnery, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Smith, Miss White. DEMERARA.—Mr. R. O. De Veer, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Miss Black. TRINIDAD.—Mr. F. Rouberol. ST. LUCIA.—Capt. A. F. Pereira.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," February 19th, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Rev. C. and Mrs. Kir-Gill, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Hay, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bailey, Mr. P. D. George, Mr. A. H. Easty. DEMERARA. Mr. E. F. S. Tylecote, Mr. H. E. Acklom, Mrs. Van Eden, Mrs. A. E. Johnson, Mr. F. A. Edmonds, Mr. G. O. Potter, Mrs. Waby, Mr. J. Hercules. JAMAICA.—Mr. A. Crossman, Miss Dunlop, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lamb, and Miss E. Ormond, Mr. and Mrs. J. Booth and Mrs. Powell, Mr. J. D'Aeth, Miss Cross, Col. Sir Keith-Fraser, Mr. G. Keith, Mr. O. Child, Mr. H. Roper. TRINIDAD.—Mr. W. M. Gordon, Mrs. Gordon, Miss Nugent, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Storey, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Godwin, Miss Godwin, Mr. T. Jackson, Chief Justice Walker and Mrs. Walker, Miss Mitchell. GRENADA.—Dr. T. C. Orford.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," February 7th, 1902.—

JAMAICA.—Mr. R. T. Arnold, Mr. Baker, Mr. Bitjemann, Miss Brammer, Miss Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. Bulkeley, Mr. Maurice E. Bandmann, Miss Broughton, Mr. and Mrs. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Coyne, Miss Chamberlain, Mrs. Case, Mr. Joseph Dee, Mr. C. P. Dixon, Mr. Davis, Mr. A. M. Faulkner, Miss Forsythe, Miss Forrester, Mrs. Harris, Canon F. J. Holland, Mr. Arthur Herbert, Miss Hill, Dr. Kingston, Mr. Leitch, Mr. Metcalfe, Mr. E. Petric, Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Perceval, Miss Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Rowley, Rev. Prebendary Rowley, Comm. Robertston, Miss Read, Miss Rothwell, Miss Scott, Mr. Shiells, Miss Vie, Miss Verner, Mr. Chandler, Mr. C. Jackman, Mr. Kiddar, Mr. L. Mercanton, Mr. Truscol.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," February 15th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., J.P.,

Mr. and Mrs. Adams, Mr. Edwin Allen, Mr. J. Atkins, Mr. J. E. Atkins, Mr. H. S. Atkins, The Rt. Hon. Lord Auckland and Lady Auckland, Rev. and Mrs. R. C. Bacon, Master F. R. Bacon, Major Barchard, Mr. J. T. Brown, Viscount Campden, Mr. W. Couran, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Hood-Daniel, Miss M. Hood-Daniel, Hon. F. Eden, Hon. F. Eden, Alderman F. S. Fallows, J.P., and Mrs. Fallows, Miss Fallows, Mr. Percy Fox, Miss Gamble, Mr. Walter Grahame, Mr. E. Haigh, Mr. Haines, Mr. G. Halifax, Mrs. S. H. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Heginbottom, Capt. S. H. Hingley, Mrs. Hingley, Mr. J. W. Hodges, J.P., Sir Thomas Hughes, Dr. Kenny, Mr. W. E. Lee, Lieut.-Col. A. C. Macdonnell and Mrs. A. C. Macdonnell, Mr. J. Logan Mack, Mr. H. Maddick, Rev. — May, Miss McBride, Col. Morrison, J.P., Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Ogilvie, Mr. Allan Patterson, Mr. L. Pumphrey, Mr. J. M. Saunders, Mr. C. P. Scott, Mr. A. H. Stockley, Mr. and Mrs. Thursfield, Miss Thursfield, Mr. Vincent Townsend, Mr. Leslie Williams, Mr. A. J. Briggs, Mr. B. Chester, Mr. E. S. Lopez, Mr. John Noble.

Rum.

The tone of this market has been distinctly quiet, the trade being disinclined to operate, except at a concession in values, which, however, most of the Importers refuse to submit to. About 2,000 Puns. Demerara have changed hands at 11½d. to 1s. 2½d. proof, the close making a decline of ½d. to 1d. per proof gallon. In Jamaica there is no change to note, the volume of business being very small. Total Stocks are now on a par with last year, and show as follows:—23,402 puns. against 23,447 in 1901, and 22,539 in 1899. We append the Board of Trade Returns.

| | | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| LANDED | In Jan. | 1,057,146 | 1,089,708 | 602,175 | 523,420 |
| HOME CONSUMPTION | " | 403,689 | 418,175 | 540,226 | 372,297 |
| EXPORT | " | 76,822 | 47,690 | 84,504 | 66,033 |
| STOCK (Gall.) | 31 Jan. | 7,621,000 | 7,532,000 | 7,282,000 | 7,963,000 |

STOCKS IN LONDON.

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| JAMAICA. PUNS. | 6,954 | 7,667 | 9,321 | 11,872 |
| OTHER W. I. ISLANDS | 948 | 418 | 465 | 659 |
| DEMERARA | 7,551 | 8,019 | 4,537 | 5,897 |
| FOREIGN | 2,160 | 1,978 | 2,174 | 633 |
| BRITISH EAST INDIA | 1,569 | 1,523 | 1,432 | 234 |
| VATTED | 3,993 | 3,310 | 3,594 | 3,497 |
| TOTAL | 23,175 | 22,915 | 21,563 | 22,792 |

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—During the last month 9,787 bags have been offered at the public sales of which about 5,000 bags were disposed of.

The market opened with a firm tone and prices ruled fully steady, but subsequently with increasing supplies the demand diminished, and at the close the values of low middling and middling qualities have declined from 1s. to 3s. per cwt., whilst fine qualities are rather easier. Latest quotations are 60s. to 66s. 6d. for low middling to middling 67s. to 68s. 6d. for good middling and 69s. to 85s. for fine to superior.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| IMPORTED 1st Jan. to 8th Feb. | 5,596 bags against | 4,420 bags. |
| DELIVERED | 5,645 | 8,191 |
| STOCK, 8th Feb. | 12,961 | 22,256 |

GRENADA.—A dull tone has characterised this market during this month, and prices here suffered a further reduction of 2s. to 3s. per cwt.

At the public sales 5,081 bags were offered of which about 3,000 were sold, quotations at the last sales being 54s. to 56s. for ordinary to good fair and 57s. to 61s. for middling to fine.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| IMPORTED, 1st Jan. to 8th Feb. | 9,813 bags against | 9,241 bags. |
| DELIVERED | 5,454 | 6,332 |
| STOCK, 8th Feb. | 11,014 | 11,445 |

Sir Alfred Jones and Jamaica.

Sir Alfred Jones, head of the firm of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., and a Member of the Executive Committee of the West India Committee, left Avonmouth on Saturday, on board the "Port Antonio" for Jamaica, for the purpose of further developing the West Indian trade with this country. The object of Sir Alfred Jones's visit is to develop the timber and mineral industries of the West Indies. He is accompanied by Sir Thomas Hughes, of the Liverpool firm of timber merchants, Messrs. T. Hughes & Sons, and expects to remain in Jamaica about a month.

West India Produce.

| | |
|--|---|
| Landed terms) PIMENTO ... 2½d. to 3d. per lb. | LOGWOOD £4 2s. 6d to £4 7s. 6d per ton. |
| GINGER ... 36s. to 58s. per cwt. | LOGWOOD ROOTS £3 15s. per ton. |
| BEESWAX ... £7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt. | FUSTIC £3 15s. to £4 2s. 6d per ton. |
| HONEY ... 14s. to 24s. per cwt. | " ROOTS ... £3 12s. 6d. to £3 15s. per ton. |
| LIME JUICE 10d. to 1s. 2d. per gall. | ARROWROOT ... (St. Vincent) 1¼d. to 3¼d. per lb. |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Tons. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| BRITISH GUIANA — | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Jan. 29th, 1902 | 14,173 | 3,891 | 8,692 | — | 7,365 | 28 | 1 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Jan. 30th, 1901 | 14,028 | 4,933 | 361 | — | 6,907 | 55,000 | 231 | | |
| JAMAICA | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Coffee. lbs. | Banana Bunches. | Co'nuts. | Oranges. | | |
| Apr. 1st to Jan. 18th, 1902 | 11,684 | 1,235,433 | 16,806 | 53,394 | 9,079,534 | 14,367,139 | 75,255,137 | | |
| Apr. 1st to Feb. 2nd, 1901 | 12,938 | 1,129,399 | 16,790 | 57,843 | 7,020,178 | 10,840,310 | 86,116,005 | | |
| TRINIDAD — | Bags & Brls. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | Co'nuts. | Molasses Puns. | Tres. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to Jan. 29th, 1902 | 260 | — | 2,818,770 | 2,640 | 5,110 | 179,500 | 191 | 7 | — |
| Jan. 1st to Jan. 29th, 1901 | 1,021 | — | 1,993,080 | 8,960 | 15,263 | 398,650 | 237 | 18 | 27 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 8th February | 162,351 | 70,393 | 59,799 | 63,986 | 95,703 |
| France, 1st January | 742,315 | 700,978 | 679,521 | 600,000 | 550,000 |
| Germany, 1st February | 1,382,251 | 1,048,493 | 989,546 | 969,014 | 1,064,167 |
| Hamburg, 13th February | 132,880 | 60,050 | 49,600 | 53,400 | 116,400 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st February | 687,237 | 618,240 | 620,585 | 600,010 | 520,729 |
| Holland, 1st February | 137,097 | 107,866 | 92,870 | 76,855 | 114,994 |
| Belgium, 1st February | 159,781 | 108,588 | 116,984 | 122,265 | 122,056 |
| United States, 12th February, Total Stocks..... | 3,403,912 | 2,714,608 | 2,608,905 | 2,485,530 | 2,584,049 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 12th February, Total Stocks | 85,000 | 128,143 | 156,329 | 99,698 | 209,590 |
| Cargoes afloat, 13th February | 174,000 | 72,617 | 48,667 | 30,698 | 65,500 |
| | 17,068 | 15,765 | 25,182 | 131,553 | 87,558 |
| Total..... | 3,679,980 | 2,931,133 | 2,839,083 | 2,747,479 | 2,946,697 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), February 4th, "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), February 11th, "Heavy rain is falling." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), February 11th, "Over two inches rain generally." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), February 15th, "Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), February 5th, "Weather fine for harvesting." February 12th, "Idem."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

The Financial News. *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society (January, 1902).* *The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre.* *The Louisiana Planter.* *The Produce Markets Review.* *St. Lucia Handbook, Directory and Almanac for 1902.* *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information, J. H. Hait, F.L.S., Botanical Department, Trinidad.* "Our Western Empire," Vol. I., No. 8, January, 1902.

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, March 4th, 1902.

The Sugar Conference.

It would be premature to announce that the fate of the Bounties and Cartels is finally sealed, but before these lines appear in print some definite pronouncement on the subject will probably have been made. Meanwhile we can say that there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the reported international agreement which is said to have been arrived at and which we were able to telegraph to the West Indies on Friday last.

The main points in the terms of agreement, as reported in the Press Telegrams, are as follows:—

- (1). The abolition of all direct and indirect bounties from September 1st, 1903.
- (2). The reduction of the écart or difference between the customs and excise duties on the Continent to 5 frs., from September 1st, 1903. The effect being to render the continuance of the Cartel systems of Austria and Germany practically impossible.
- (3.) The imposition of countervailing duties upon the sugar coming from those Countries granting bounties after the Convention is signed.

The *Times* Correspondent at Brussels further indicates that the agreement will include measures "to check over-production until September, 1903, when the Convention comes into force." Such measures, if effective, would undoubtedly relieve the pressure during the next eighteen months, and tend to avert the disasters which the continuation of prices at the present level must otherwise inflict on the West Indian Sugar industry. We are further informed that, until the Convention comes into force, our Government is free to adopt such measures as may be deemed advisable to safeguard the industry in the interim.

A New Cocoa Drying Machine.

We have received from the Blaxton Engineering Co., a description of a Cocoa drying apparatus patented by Mr. Sutton. The machine is heated by low-pressure steam for cocoa, which is contained in steam coils, covering the full width of the under surface of the trays, arranged to slide in and out of a drying chamber, 9 feet 2 inches long, 3 feet 6 inches wide, and 2 feet 5 inches high, which is supported on three cast-iron stands. The trays are arranged eight-deep on either side of the dryer, so that two men can work them with ease. Over the central space is placed an air duct, having a steam

jet fitted in it. The eight steam coils are placed immediately below each pair of trays, and extend in a horizontal position from end to end of the drying chamber. The coils are all connected at one end to a vertical steam supply pipe and discharge the condensed water at the other end into another vertical discharge pipe; these pipes can be connected direct to the small 3-h.p. boiler that supplies it with steam, which can be fired in the ordinary way, wood or coal, or more economically with a liquid fuel oil burner. The steam is admitted simultaneously to all the coils and retained in them all at the same pressure, and being connected direct with the boiler, a constant circulation of steam is kept up in them. The temperature is maintained by regulating the pressure of steam in the boiler; or this can be done by means of a reducing valve and steam trap when the dryer has to be supplied with steam from a boiler working at a much higher pressure than that required in the dryer. The temperature of steam increases as the pressure rises.

The machine is ready for work five minutes after steam has been turned on to the coils and steam blast. From 25 to 30 lbs. of fresh fermented or washed cocoa are spread on each tray, it takes an hour to half dry this sufficiently to put it down on the floor to ferment. The steam blast draws in a sharp current of air at both ends through the holes, which becomes heated as it strikes against the return bends of the coils, it continues its course in a horizontal direction between the trays and coils, and carries away the moisture which is given off the beans, by the heat rising up from the steam coils, to the central air duct, and expelled to the open air before it has had time to rise up through the tray above it. Thus each tray is a separate dryer in itself, and as long as the required pressure of steam is kept up in the boiler, which is an easy matter with oil fuel, or any good fuel, the temperature can be maintained to a degree. The beans are said to be perfectly dried by these machines in three days and to be equal to the best sun dried. The process of sun drying takes from six to ten days in Ceylon.

The Trinidad Public Library.

An appeal has been issued by the Committee of the New Public Library of Port of Spain, Trinidad, to meet the expense of completing the new building, rebinding of books, providing new books, etc. They are anxious that the new Library should be opened with the most modern appliances and be quite up to date, both as regards books, and the economical manner of registration, etc. There is no form of help that can be given to the people that can compare with the good done by a Public Library, both as regards the character and the permanency of its blessing. A library has been in existence for the last fifty years, and although not equipped as libraries are to-day, it has done noble service. Many are the sons of Trinidad who are indebted to it for brighter intelligences and useful information. The sum required to complete and open the new Library is \$10,000.00, and subscriptions towards this object may be forwarded to the Hon. David B. Horsford, Trinidad Public Library, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis Sugar Crops.

In previous Circulars we have given the figures over a number of years of the Sugar Crops of Barbados (Circular 54), Trinidad (Circular 57), British Guiana (Circular 58), and St. Lucia (Circular 59). We now append the figures of the Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis Crops as far as available, which will doubtless be found useful for purpose of reference.

[3]

Antigua.

| Year. | | Hhds. | Year. | Hhds. | Year. | Tons. |
|-------|----|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1830 | ++ | 15,646 | 1854 | ++ | 1878 | — |
| 1831 | ++ | 12,612 | 1855 | ++ | 1879 | 13,241 |
| 1832 | ++ | 11,092 | 1856 | ++ | 1880 | 14,538 |
| 1833 | ++ | 10,911 | 1857 | ++ | 1881 | 9,715 |
| 1834 | ++ | 20,921 | 1858 | ++ | 1882 | 12,769 |
| 1835 | ++ | 14,803 | 1859 | ++ | 1883 | 10,518 |
| 1836 | ++ | 11,741 | 1860 | ++ | 1884 | 13,721 |
| 1837 | ++ | 5,431 | 1861 | ++ | 1885 | 11,848 |
| 1838 | ++ | 13,534 | 1862 | ++ | 1886 | 12,271 |
| 1839 | ++ | 15,935 | 1863 | ++ | 1887 | 14,052 |
| 1840 | ++ | 16,008 | 1864 | ++ | 1888 | 14,925 |
| 1841 | ++ | 12,114 | 1865 | ++ | 1889 | 14,413 |
| 1842 | ++ | 11,700 | 1866 | ++ | 1890 | 16,120 |
| 1843 | ++ | 13,285 | 1867 | ++ | 1891 | 12,091 |
| 1844 | ++ | 16,702 | 1868 | ++ | 1892 | 15,302 |
| 1845 | ++ | 12,659 | 1869 | ++ | 1893 | 14,562 |
| 1846 | ++ | 7,051 | 1870 | ++ | 1894 | 12,342 |
| 1847 | ++ | 15,817 | 1871 | ++ | 1895 | 6,685 |
| 1848 | ++ | 11,313 | 1872 | ++ | 1896 | 13,714 |
| 1849 | ++ | 13,329 | 1873 | ++ | 1897 | 6,969 |
| 1850 | ++ | 8,666 | 1874 | ++ | 1898 | 10,082 |
| 1851 | ++ | 14,686 | 1875 | ++ | 1899 | 10,041 |
| 1852 | ++ | 11,288 | 1876 | ++ | 1900 | 7,603 |
| 1853 | ++ | 14,456 | 1877 | ++ | 1901 | 9,279 |

St. Kitts Nevis.

| Year. | | Hhds. | Year. | Hhds. | Year. | Tons. |
|-------|----|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1865 | ++ | 14,708 | 1878 | ++ | 1890 | 17,110 |
| 1866 | ++ | 14,207 | 1879 | .. | 1891 | 12,921½ |
| 1867 | ++ | 10,501 | | | 1892 | 17,453 |
| 1868 | ++ | 14,803 | | | 1893 | 16,704 |
| 1869 | ++ | 12,194 | 1880 | ++ | 1894 | 16,901 |
| 1870 | .. | 15,642 | 1881 | ++ | 1895 | 13,153 |
| 1871 | ++ | 18,552 | 1882 | ++ | 1896 | 14,822 |
| 1872 | ++ | 9,180 | 1883 | ++ | 1897 | 13,209 |
| 1873 | ++ | 14,171 | 1884 | ++ | 1898 | 12,009 |
| 1874 | ++ | 10,616 | 1885 | .. | 1899 | 11,940 |
| 1875 | ++ | 14,143 | 1886 | .. | 1900 | 7,449 |
| 1876 | ++ | 13,279 | 1887 | ++ | 1901 | 12,300 |
| 1877 | ++ | 9,508 | 1888 | .. | | |
| | | | 1889 | .. | | |

New Members.

MR. F. J. GREAVES, of Barbados, proposed by Mr. Forster M. Alleyne and seconded Mr. T. W. Wilkinson, was elected a Member of the West India Committee on February 20th. 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. An Election of Members is held fortnightly.

Royal Exchange Colonial Exhibition.

The Committee of the Exhibition of Colonial produce, which is to be opened at the Royal Exchange on March 10th next, have placed at the disposal of the West India Committee 150 square feet of space. Should any Members wish to avail themselves of this opportunity of exhibiting they are requested to communicate immediately to the Secretary. It must be clearly understood that exhibitors will be required to bear their share of any expenses which may be incurred.

West Indian Affairs.

The R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth at 5.40 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26th, and the Mails were delivered in London on Wednesday afternoon, February 26th.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) February 12th. The suspense felt as to the Brussels Conference was very great as the very existence of the Community depended upon the attitude of the British representatives. The weather had set in dry as was to be expected at that season and crop operations would thereby be facilitated. The labourers were giving trouble as they declined in some places to cut the canes at the rates offered.

Barbados.—(F. M. Alleyne, Esq.) February 13th. A general petition from the whole island, including every class, from the highest to the lowest, on the bounty question was being signed. There was no doubt whatever, that, though perhaps the majority of estates might be able with difficulty and with ulterior resources to tide over the year, many would go under, and the year 1903 find the whole island with a blank wall unless the condition of affairs was altered. The estates of those which had nothing must go out of cultivation and the very few who had anything would not throw good money after bad. It was no good growing sugar at a certain loss. The necessary consequence was that there would be no money forthcoming for the labourers, whom the Government would have to look after, nor for the officials, the clergy, or education as far as could be seen.

When people in Barbados contrasted the price at which the Puerto Rico people were getting for their sugar, the calmness with which the Danish West Indies were allowing themselves to be bought up by America, the pressure being brought upon Cuba to enter the union, it was not surprising if the average Barbadian said—"If England will not give us justice, and a fair market for our sugar, it shows she does not want us—very well, why does she not give us to the United States?" That was a feeling that was growing day by day, and increasing rapidly.

The huts for the Boer Leaders on Fortescue Estate were almost completed and their occupants were expected shortly. The weather since the beginning of the year had been very dry and hardly any rain had fallen. Although only February, the weather was like that of the middle of crop time, hot suns, no rain and high winds. The canes naturally were ripening fast. Little beyond the hedgerows had been cut, and they were, as usual, rather dry. The juice was sweet however, and in several places good results had been obtained. None of the current crop's sugar appeared to have been sold, but the price of Molasses was appalling—8 cents per gallon.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.) February 12th. An attempt had been made by a few irresponsible parties to show that the Planters as a whole were inimical to cane farming in the Colony, but this was not really the case. The weather during the fortnight had been fairly dry. There was a downpour of rain on the 6th and 7th, but since then it had been fair, with high winds, on the whole favourable for cultivation. About 800 tons of crystals had changed hands at prices from \$1.75 to \$1.81.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) Feb 11th. The Legislative Council had been opened by the administrator, who gave a most excellent and encouraging address. There was no doubt that the Island was making steady progress. It appears that not only has the public debt been decreased since the introduction of Crown Colony rule, but that there was a balance in hand of £6,000, notwithstanding the large sums which had been spent on Public Works. The weather had been fine and dry during the fortnight.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.) February 11th. Sugar reaping was in full swing, and the reaping would be a good one. The Coffee crop was a good one, but growers were holding back on account of the low prices. About 12,000 bags of pimento were still left in the Island unshipped.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd) February 11th. All the estates were hard at work to take advantage of the splendid weather.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) February 14th. The weather had been all that could be wished for, and the yield of Arrowroot had much improved.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) February 13th. The weather was fine and dry, and harvesting was general throughout the Colony.

The Prince of Wales and the West Indies.

On Wednesday, March 5th next, the Prince of Wales will inaugurate the work of digging out the new Avonmouth Docks at Bristol. The interests of that ancient City were once closely bound up with the West Indies, and we are glad to note that the Prince of Wales will inspect the Elder Dempster Steamer "Port Royal," which is due at Avonmouth just before the arrival of the Royal Party. The Prince of Wales' visits to the West Indies are by no means forgotten, and his inspection of the "Port Royal" with her cargo of bananas, and other West Indian Products will further evince the interest he has always taken in our oldest Colonial possessions.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. call special attention to the altered hours of departure of the Special Train from Waterloo Station for West Indian Steamers, which is now **11.35 a.m.**

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," February 26th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. C. E. Yearwood, Mr. C. C. Bell, Mr. L. C. Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Roach, Mr. P. C. Berthon, Miss Sterland, Mr. A. C. Gouda, Mr. G. Quin, Mr. W. R. Boddy, Mr. A. E. Fearley, Mr. J. B. Elsworth. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. Wm. Douglas, Mr. N. Cox. **JAMAICA.**—Miss Kitchener, Miss Jones, Dr. Mac Claren, Mr. W. J. Roe. **TRINIDAD.**—Dr. C. F. Lassalle, Mr. T. A. Biden, Mr. F. Pogson, Mr. L. J. Taural, Mr. R. de St. Romaine, Mr. R. O. Marton, Miss Donaldson, Mrs. R. A. Davies, Mrs. A. Luria. **ST. LUCIA.**—Major Seaton, Captain Mather, Lieut. Hamilton.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," March 5th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. T. Holiday, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. M. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. G. Fleet. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. C. McNeil, Mr. L. E. Henery. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. H. E. Pittam, Mr. A. Crossman, Miss Dunlop, Miss Bird, Mrs. Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. Winter-Cotham, Mr. H. Teitz, Mr. and Miss Head, Mr. and Mrs. Hazeidine, Lady Howard of Glossop, Mr. and Miss Beckett. **TRINIDAD.**—Mrs. O'Connor, Mr. Agostini, Mr. and Mrs. Pow, Mr. G. Carry, Mr. and Mrs. Hargreaves, Lady and Miss Knollys, Mr. Justice Walker and wife. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. F. Harrison.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," February 19th, 1902:—Mr. Backhouse, Miss Bevan, Mr. and Miss Chilton, Mr. Davies, Mr. A. G. C. Findlay, Lieut. Hunt, Mrs. Marsden, Mr. L. Mercanton, Mr. T. W. Routh, Miss Warren, Miss Mott-Trille.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," March 1st, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mrs. J. B. Brash, Mr. E. F. Callister, Mr. A. W. L. Clerk, Mr. and Mrs. James Foulton, Mr. Giveen, Mr. T. J. Gordon, Miss Mary Green, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lewis, Mr. Lewis, Jun., Mr. J. P. Lewis, Mr. and Miss Little, Capt. Lloyd, Mr. A. H. T. Mac Lavery, Mr. Wm. Nickson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Steele, Miss V. M. Warden, Mr. and Mrs. Waterworth, Mr. B. Bromley, Mrs. Buckland, Serg. Crank, Mr. Walter Fletcher, Capt. Rehm.

West India Produce.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Landed terms) PIMENTO ... | 2½d. to 2¾d. per lb. | LOGWOOD ... | £4 5s. to £4 7s. 6d. per ton. |
| GINGER ... | 36s. to 58s. per cwt. | LOGWOOD ROOTS ... | £3 17s. 6d. to £4 2s. 6d. per ton. |
| BEESWAX ... | £7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt. | FUSTIC ... | £4 to £4 5s. per ton. |
| HONEY ... | 14s. to 24s. per cwt. | " ROOTS ... | £3 15s. to £3 17s. 6d. per ton. |
| LIME JUICE ... | 10d. to 1s. 2d. per gall. | ARROWROOT ... | (St. Vincent) 1¼d. to 3½d. per lb. |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Tons. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds. Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| BRITISH GUIANA — | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Feb. 11th, 1902 | 22,663 | 6,879 | 12,432 | — | 9,301 | 528 | 11 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Feb. 12th, 1901 | 14,211 | 5,285 | 361 | — | 9,785 | 55,000 | 255 | | |
| JAMAICA — | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Coffee. Cwts. | Banana Bunches. | Co'nuts. | Oranges. | | |
| Apr. 1st to Feb. 1st, 1902 | 11,879 | 1,251,209 | 19,106 | 66,453 | 9,373,749 | 14,990,789 | 77,096,037 | | |
| Apr. 1st to Feb. 2nd, 1901 | 12,938 | 1,129,399 | 16,790 | 57,843 | 7,020,178 | 10,804,310 | 86,116,005 | | |
| TRINIDAD — | Bags & Brls. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | Co'nuts. | Molasses Puns. | Tons. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to Feb. 12th, 1902 | 447 | 64 | 4,777,510 | 9,360 | 11,296 | 865,700 | 642 | 34 | 25 |
| Jan. 1st to Feb. 12th, 1901 | 23,073 | — | 3,098,420 | 9,120 | 21,724 | 1,304,190 | 238 | 13 | 27 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| United Kingdom, 22nd February | 197,501 | 76,921 | 58,221 | 57,107 | 87,838 |
| France, 1st February | 709,588 | 652,867 | 634,514 | 590,000 | 545,000 |
| Germany, 1st February | 1,382,250 | 1,048,493 | 989,546 | 969,014 | 1,064,167 |
| Hamburg, 27th February | 117,900 | 51,650 | 49,400 | 58,300 | 116,500 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st February | 687,237 | 618,240 | 620,585 | 600,010 | 520,729 |
| Holland, 15th February | 133,932 | 101,450 | 86,462 | 70,372 | 107,424 |
| Belgium, 1st February | 159,781 | 108,588 | 116,984 | 122,265 | 122,056 |
| | 3,387,289 | 2,658,209 | 2,555,712 | 2,467,068 | 2,563,714 |
| United States, 26th February, Total Stocks | 84,000 | 146,248 | 149,501 | 136,824 | 223,172 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 26th February, Total Stocks | 242,000 | 115,120 | 77,000 | 44,822 | 82,500 |
| Cargoes afloat, 27th February | 17,068 | 15,765 | 22,844 | 107,659 | 76,278 |
| Total..... | 3,730,357 | 2,935,342 | 2,805,057 | 2,756,373 | 2,945,664 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) February 18th, "Very dry, rain wanted."
BRITISH GUIANA—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) February 18th, "Weather favourable for cultivation." March 3rd, "Weather dry, some rain would be acceptable." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) February 21st, "Weather seasonable." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) February 24th, "Weather dry, with occasional showers." February 28th, "Weather dry; some showers would be acceptable." **TRINIDAD**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) February 19th, "Weather fine for harvesting." February 25th, "Idem." March 1st, "Idem." (Messrs. Gregor, Turnbull and Co.) February 27th, "Very good weather for crop."

Publications Received.

General.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

The Financial News. Grenada Handbook, 1902. The International Sugar Journal, No. 39, Vol. IV., March. The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre. The Louisiana Planter. The Produce Markets Review. West Indian Bulletin, Vol. II., No. 4.

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 Prices Current (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.).
 Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. G. 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 Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.*

West Indian Newspapers.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <i>The Antigua Observer.</i> | <i>The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).</i> | <i>The St. Christopher Advertiser.</i> |
| <i>The Antigua Standard.</i> | <i>The Dominican.</i> | <i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i> |
| <i>The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i> | <i>The Dominica Guardian.</i> | <i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i> |
| <i>The Barbados Globe.</i> | <i>The Federalist & Grenada People.</i> | <i>The Sentry (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 Berbice Gazette (British Guiana).</i> | <i>The Jamaica Times.</i> | |

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

Special Notice.

Members will greatly oblige if they will remit to the Secretary the amount of their subscriptions for the current year, due on January 1st, at their earliest convenience. Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Billiter Square Buildings. 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 :
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4th Edition.
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" 4356 " AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Tuesday, March 18th, 1902.

The Crisis in the West Indies.

The announcement which we were able to cable to our friends in the West Indies on March 5th inst., that the International Convention for the abolition of the Foreign Sugar Bounty Systems had received the signature of the Powers will have caused much satisfaction. But the end is not yet ; the Convention (even if ratified which it need not be before February, 1903). will not take effect till September 1st, 1903, and whereas four years ago the West Indies might have been able to survive the intervening period of grace, now, prices have been forced down to such a level by the Cartel systems that unless something is done to relieve the situation, many estates must go out of cultivation. Already, Merchants in Barbados and the Leeward Islands have announced that in view of the serious outlook, advances to planters will be discontinued, and the practical extinction of the Sugar Industry in many of the Islands will be the inevitable result.

The attention of the West India Committee has been concentrated during the past fortnight upon urging upon the Government the immediate necessity of the adoption of fiscal measures, to place West Indian Sugar on a footing of equality with its bounty-fed competitors. Several Special Meetings of the Executive Committee have been held, and on March 5th, a deputation consisting of Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., R. Rutherford, Esq., E. A. De Pass, Esq., E. L. Marshall, Esq., T. DuBuisson, Esq., W. Goodwin, Esq., and A. E. Aspinall, Esq., Secretary, waited by request upon Sir Montague Ommaney and Mr. C. P. Lucas, C.B., to lay before them the above facts. It is believed that the Government now realise that some temporary measure of relief must be adopted if the sugar industry is to be saved, but we are unable at the time of writing to give any indication of what form such assistance will take.

The Text of the Brussels Convention.

The following is the official translation of the Sugar Bounties Convention signed on March 5th, 1902, at Brussels by the Delegates of Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

HIS Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, in the name of the German Empire ; His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., &c., and Apostolic King of Hungary ; His Majesty the King of the Belgians ; His Majesty the King of Spain ; and, in his name, Her Majesty the Queen-Regent of the Kingdom ; the President of the French Republic ; His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India ; His Majesty the King of Italy ; Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands ; His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway ;

Desiring, on the one hand, to equalise the conditions of the competition between beet and cane sugar from various countries, and, on the other hand, to promote the consumption of sugar ;

And considering that this twofold result cannot be attained otherwise than by the abolition of bounties, and by the limitation of the surtax ;

Have resolved to conclude a Convention to this effect, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries the following :

His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, in the name of the German Empire ; M. le Comte de Wallwitz, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the King of the Belgians ; M. de Koerner, Director at the Imperial Foreign Office ; M. Kühn, Superior Privy Councillor, " Conseiller rapporteur " at the Imperial Treasury ;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., &c., and Apostolic King of Hungary : For Austria-Hungary : the Count Khevenhüller Meisch, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the King of the Belgians ;

For Austria : the Baron Jorkasch-Koch, Departmental Chief at the Imperial and Royal Ministry of Finance ;
For Hungary : M. de Toepke, Under Secretary of State at the Royal Hungarian Ministry of Finance ;

His Majesty the King of the Belgians: the Count de Smet de Naeyer, Minister of Finance and of Public Works, Prime Minister; M. Capelle, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Director-General of the Commercial and Consular Department at the Foreign Office; M. Kebers, Director General of Customs and Excise at the Ministry of Finance and Public Works; M. de Smet, Inspector-General of Direct Taxes, Customs, and Excise at the Ministry of Finance and Public Works; M. Beauvuin, Member of the Chamber of Representatives, manufacturer;

His Majesty the King of Spain, and, in his name, Her Majesty the Queen-Regent of the Kingdom; M. de Villa Urrutia, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the King of the Belgians;

The President of the French Republic: M. Gérard, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the King of the Belgians; M. Bousquet, formerly Councillor of State, Honorary Director-General of Customs; M. Delatour, Councillor of State, Director-General of the "Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations"; M. Courtin, Councillor of State, Director-General of Indirect Taxes at the Ministry of Finance;

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India; Mr. Constantine Phipps, C.B., his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the King of the Belgians; Sir Henry Primrose, K.C.B., C.S.I.; Sir Henry Bergne, K.C.M.G.; Mr. A. A. Pearson; Mr. E. C. Ozanne;

His Majesty the King of Italy: M. le Commandeur Romeo Cantagalli, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the King of the Belgians; M. le Commandeur Emile Maraini, Member of the Italian Parliament, manufacturer;

Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands: M. le Jonkheer de Pestel, Her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the King of the Belgians; M. le Baron J. d'Aulnis de Bourouill, Doctor of Law, Professor at the University of Utrecht; M. G. Eschauzier, manufacturer at the Hague; M. A. van Rossum, manufacturer at Haarlem;

His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway: for Sweden: the Count Wrangel, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the King of the Belgians; M. Charles Tranchell, manufacturer;

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to suppress, from the date of the coming force of the present Convention, the direct and indirect bounties by which the production or export of sugar might benefit, and not to establish bounties of such a kind during the whole duration of the Convention. For the application of this provision, sugar products, such as preserves, chocolates, biscuits, condensed milk, and all other analogous products containing in a notable proportion, sugar artificially incorporated, are assimilated to sugar.

The preceding paragraph applies to all advantages resulting directly or indirectly for the different categories of producers from the fiscal legislation of the States, including:—

- (a.) The direct bounties granted to exports;
- (b.) The direct bounties granted to production;
- (c.) Total or partial exemptions from taxation granted for a part of the manufactured output;
- (d.) Advantages derived from excess of yield;
- (e.) Advantages derived from the exaggeration of the drawback;
- (f.) Advantages derived from any surtax in excess of the rate fixed by Article III.

ARTICLE II.

The High Contracting Parties engage to place in bond, under the permanent supervision, both by day and by night, of the Revenue Officers, sugar factories and sugar refineries, as well as factories for the extraction of sugar from molasses.

For this purpose, factories shall be so arranged as to give every guarantee against any surreptitious carrying away of sugar, and the said officers shall have power to enter all parts of the factories.

Controlling books shall be kept in connection with one or more of the processes of manufacture, and finished sugars shall be placed in special storehouses giving all proper guarantees of security.

ARTICLE III.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to limit the surtax to a maximum of 6 fr. per 100 kilog. for refined sugar and assimilable sugars, and to a maximum of 5 fr. 50 c. for other sugars. The surtax is the difference between the rate of duty or taxation to which foreign sugars are subject and that imposed on the home product.*

The provisions of this Article do not apply to the rates of import duty in the case of countries that do not produce sugar, nor do they apply to the by-products of sugar manufacturing and refining.

ARTICLE IV.

The High Contracting Parties agree to impose a special duty on the importation into their respective territories of sugars from countries that grant bounties either on production or export.

This duty shall not be less than the amount of the bounties, direct or indirect, granted in the country of origin. The High Contracting Parties reserve to themselves, as far as each of them is concerned, the option to prohibit the importation of bountied sugars.

In order to calculate the amount of the advantage eventually derived from the surtax specified in paragraph (f) of Article I, the figure fixed by Article III. is deducted from the amount of this surtax; the half of the difference is considered to represent the bounty, and the Permanent Commission instituted by Article VII. will have the right, on the demand of a Contracting Party, to revise the figure thus fixed.

ARTICLE V.

The High Contracting Parties mutually undertake to admit at the lowest rate of import duty sugars of any of the contracting countries or of any Colonies or Possessions belonging to them that do not grant bounties and to which the obligations imposed by Article VIII. apply.

Cane and beet sugars shall not be subjected to different rates of duty.

* This would appear to be a mistranslation of "Sucre National," and should really read "the National Product."—A. E. A.

ARTICLE VI.

Spain, Italy, and Sweden are exempt from the obligations imposed by Articles I., II., and III., so long as they do not export sugar.

These States engage to adapt their legislation in the matter of sugar to the provisions of the Convention within a year—or earlier if possible—from the time when the Permanent Commission notifies that the above-mentioned condition has ceased to exist.

ARTICLE VII.

The High Contracting Parties agree to establish a Permanent Commission charged with watching the execution of the provisions of the present Convention.

This Commission shall be composed of Delegates of the different Contracting Powers; a permanent Bureau will be connected with it. The Commission will elect its President; it will sit at Brussels, and will assemble at the summons of the President.

The duties of the Delegates will be:—

(a.) To ascertain whether in the Contracting States any direct or indirect bounty is granted on the production or export of sugars.

(b.) To ascertain whether the States referred to in Article VI. continue to conform to the special condition laid down in that Article.

(c.) To ascertain whether any bounties exist in the non-signatory States, and to estimate the amount for the purposes of Article IV.

(d.) To pronounce an opinion on contested points.

(e.) To consider requests for admission to the Union made by States not having taken part in the present Convention.

The Permanent Bureau shall collect, translate, arrange, and publish information of all kinds respecting legislation on and statistics of sugar, not only in contracting countries, but in all other countries as well.

In order to insure the execution of the preceding provisions, the High Contracting Parties shall transmit, through the diplomatic channel to the Belgian Government, which shall forward them to the Commission, the Laws, Orders, and Regulations on the taxation of sugar which are or may be in force in their respective countries, as well as statistical information relative to the object of the present Convention.

Each of the High Contracting Parties may be represented on the Commission by a Delegate, or by a Delegate and Assistant Delegates.

Austria and Hungary shall be considered separately as Contracting Parties.

The first meeting of the Commission shall be held in Brussels, under the auspices of the Belgian Government, at least three months before the coming into force of the present Convention.

The Commission shall have only the duty of examination and report. It shall draw up a report on all questions submitted to it, and forward the same to the Belgian Government, which shall communicate it to the Powers interested, and, at the request of any one of the High Contracting Parties, shall convoke a Conference, which shall take such decisions or measures as circumstances demand.

The examinations and valuations referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) will, however, be binding on the Contracting Powers; they will be determined by a majority vote—each Contracting Party having one vote—and they will take effect in two months' time at the latest. Should one of the Contracting Parties consider it necessary to appeal against a decision of the Commission, the said Party must, within eight days of the receipt of the said decision, require a fresh meeting of the Commission, which will hold a special meeting and will pronounce its final decision within one month of the date of the appeal. The new decision shall take effect, at latest, within two months of its promulgation. The same course will be followed with regard to the consideration of demands for admission provided for in paragraph (e).

The expenses incurred on account of the establishment and working of the Permanent Bureau and of the Commission—excepting the salaries or expenses of the Delegates, who will be paid by their respective countries—shall be borne by all the Contracting States, and shall be divided among them in a manner to be determined by the Commission.

ARTICLE VIII.

The High Contracting Parties undertake for themselves and for their Colonies or possessions, an exception being made in the case of the self-governing Colonies of Great Britain and the British East Indies, to take the necessary measures to prevent bounty-fed sugars which have passed in transit through a contracting country from enjoying the advantages of the Convention on the market to which it is being forwarded. The Permanent Commission will make the necessary proposals with regard to this provision.

ARTICLE IX.

States which are not Parties to the present Convention will be admitted to adhere to it at their request, and after approval by the Permanent Commission.

The request shall be addressed through the diplomatic channel to the Belgian Government, who will undertake, should occasion arise, to notify the adhesion to all the other Governments. It will entail agreement to all the charges and admission to all the advantages stipulated by the present Convention, and will produce its effects from the 1st September, following the dispatch of the notification by the Belgian Government to the other Contracting States.

ARTICLE X.

The present Convention will come into force on the 1st September, 1903.

It will remain in force for five years from that date, and in the case of any of the High Contracting Parties not having notified twelve months before the expiration of the said period of five years its intention of ceasing to abide by it, it will continue to remain in force for a year, and so on from year to year.

In the event of one of the Contracting Parties denouncing the Convention, such denunciation will only have effect on the party in question; the other Parties will retain, until the 31st October of the year in which the denunciation is made, the right of notifying their intention of withdrawing on the 1st September of the succeeding year. If one of these latter Powers desires to withdraw, the Belgian Government will summon a Conference at Brussels within three months to decide upon the course to be taken.

ARTICLE XI.

The provisions of the present Convention will apply to the oversea provinces, Colonies, and foreign possessions of the High Contracting Parties. The British and Dutch Colonies and Possessions are excepted, save as regards the provisions forming the subject of Articles V. and VIII.

The position of the British and Dutch Colonies and Possessions is, moreover, regulated by the Declarations inserted in the Final Protocol.

ARTICLE XII.

The fulfilment of the mutual engagements contained in the present Convention is subordinated as far as it is necessary to the completion of the formalities and requirements established by the Constitutional laws of each of the Contracting Parties.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be deposited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Brussels on the 1st February, 1903, or earlier if possible.

It is agreed that the present Convention shall only become binding if it is ratified at least by those of the Contracting Powers who are not included in the exceptional provision of Article VI. Should one or several of these Powers not have deposited their ratifications by the date mentioned, the Belgian Government shall immediately take steps to obtain a decision on the part of the other Signatory Powers as to whether the present Convention shall come into force among themselves.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention.

Done at Brussels, in single copy, March 5th, 1902.

(Signatures of the Plenipotentiaries follow.)

Final Protocol.

In proceeding to the signature of the Sugar Convention concluded this day between the Governments of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have agreed as follows;—

As regards Article III.

Considering that the object of the surtax is the efficacious protection of the market of each producing country, the High Contracting Parties reserve to themselves the right each one as concerns itself, to propose an increase of the surtax, should considerable quantities of sugar from one of the Contracting States find their way into their territories. This increase would only apply to sugars coming from that State.

Such a proposal must be addressed to the Permanent Commission, which will decide, as quickly as possible, by a majority vote, whether there is good ground for the proposed measure; as to the period for which it shall be enforced; and as to the extent of the increase; the latter shall not exceed 1 fr. per 100 kilogrammes.

The assent of the Commission shall only be given when the invasion of the market in question is the consequence of an actual economic inferiority, and not the result of a factitious increase in price brought about by an agreement between producers.

As regards Article XI.

(A.) 1. The Government of Great Britain declares that no bounty, direct or indirect, shall be granted to sugars of the Crown Colonies during the duration of the Convention.

2. It also declares, as an exceptional measure, and reserving in principle entire liberty of action as regards the fiscal relations between the United Kingdom and its Colonies and Possessions, that during the duration of the Convention no preference will be granted in the United Kingdom to Colonial sugars as against sugars from any of the Contracting States.

3. It finally declares that the Convention shall, by its intermediary, be submitted to the self-governing Colonies and to the East Indies, so that they may have an opportunity of giving their adhesion to it.

It is understood that the Government of His Britannic Majesty has the power to adhere to the Convention on behalf of the Crown Colonies.

(B.) The Government of the Netherlands declares that during the duration of the Convention no bounty, direct or indirect, shall be granted to sugars from the Dutch Colonies, and that such sugars shall not be admitted into the Netherlands at a lower Tariff than that applied to sugars from any of the Contracting States.

The present Final Protocol, which will be ratified at the same time as the Convention concluded this day, will be regarded as forming an integral part of the Convention, and will have the same force, value, and duration.

In faith whereof the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have drawn up the present Protocol.

Done at Brussels, the 5th March, 1902.

(Signatures of the Plenipotentiaries follow.)

Mr. Gerald Balfour on the Convention.

At the Annual Dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce, at the Hotel Métropole, on March 9th, Mr. Gerald Balfour, M.P., responding to the toast of "His Majesty's Ministers," proposed by Sir Edward Grey, M.P., claimed that the conclusion of the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention was an important triumph for British Diplomacy. He went on to say that it was something more than that, it was a victory for those principles of free trade of which this country had been for the last

fifty years the principal, he was afraid he ought almost to say the sole, champion and exponent. Bounties were the worst form of protection, because their protective effect extended not merely to the market of the bounty-giving country, but to neutral markets as well. Against a system of that kind the unsubsidized producer struggled in vain, because, whatever effort he might put forth, he was always liable to a further turn of the screw, to an increase in the bounty which was already strangling his industry. What had been the result? The result might be read in eloquent language in the report for which his friend Sir Edward Grey was in large part responsible. Those who read that report might see to what condition our West Indian Colonies had already been reduced by the action of the bounty system. They had been brought to the verge of ruin, and if aid were not promptly forthcoming aid would come too late; the sugar industries in those colonies would have been destroyed and their prosperity ruined. He thought the general opinion now was that any advantages which could accrue to the consumer of sugar in this country from the artificial cheapness of the article would be dearly bought at the price of the ruin of our own fellow-subjects. At last the difficulties in the way of abolition had been surmounted, in large measure by the firm and resolute attitude which our delegates at Brussels had adopted under directions from the Government at home. (Cheers.) By September 1st, 1903, sugar bounties in all the great sugar producing countries of Europe, in Germany, France, Austria, Belgium, and Holland, would be things of the past, and we should have at last got rid of what we must describe as a fiscal nightmare. Referring to the cartel system, the speaker said that under that system the bounty was not paid directly by the State, but through the financial manipulation of sugar trusts and rings acting under the cover of a high protective duty. That was a new form of bounty. A few years ago it was practically unknown, but it had assumed very important proportions within recent years, so that at the present time the bounty upon sugar was probably more due to this cartel system than to what were ordinarily known as the direct or indirect bounties given by the State. He had reason to believe that that system was about to be tried in connection with other interests than the sugar interest. He thought it was a system dangerous to the interests of this country. He hoped it would be carefully watched, and as the great sugar producing countries of Europe by the terms of that Convention had pronounced what must be regarded as a condemnation of the system as applied to sugar, he trusted that if it was attempted in connection with other articles they would endeavour to check it by the same means—namely, by reducing the protective duty within such limits as to make financial manipulation of the kind that he had referred to unprofitable. (Cheers.)

Grateful Jamaica.

On the 7th instant we received the following cablegram from the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange.

"Grateful thanks your valuable services abolition Bounties convey same Anti-Bounty League.—Merchants Exchange."

This message was read at the Meeting of the Anti-Bounty League, held on March 10th, Lord Stanmore presiding.

Jamaica Agency for London.

The question of the appointment of a commercial agent to represent Jamaica in this country has been referred, as we announced in a previous circular, by the Merchants' Exchange of Jamaica to the West India Committee. At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held on March 6th inst., Sir Neville Lubbock presiding, the following Sub-Committee was appointed to look into and report upon the matter:—Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., Alex. Crum Ewing, Esq., H. H. Dobree, Esq., W. Gillespie, Esq., John Kerr, Esq., E. A. De Pass, Esq., and J. Rippon, Esq. A meeting of the Sub-Committee has already been held, and a report will shortly be laid before the Executive Committee.

The Royal Exchange Colonial Exhibition.

Our friends will agree that it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of bringing prominently before the public of this country the various products of the British West Indies. As announced in our last circular, the Committee of the Royal Exchange Colonial Exhibition, which was opened by the Lord Mayor on March 10th, courteously placed at the disposal of the West India Committee, 150 square feet of space. The whole of this space was at once taken up by Members, and a characteristic and representative exhibit of West Indian Produce is the result. The exhibit which is arranged by Messrs. James Philip & Co., of 4, Fenchurch Buildings, E.C., is flanked by sugar canes and comprises samples of nearly every product of the West Indies, including Cane Sugar, Cacao, Arrowroot, Bananas, (shown by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co.), Jamaica Cigars, Limes, Spices, Sweet Potatoes (The Imperial Department of Agriculture), Asphalte (The New Trinidad Lake Asphalte Co.). Maps of the West Indies, Jamaica Lace Bark D'oyleys and various curios (The Direct West India Cable Co.). The West India Committee exhibit a show case of Indian head-dresses from British Guiana, and birds from Trinidad with numerous photographs of West Indian scenery, and one of the reception of T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales on Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co.'s R.M.S. "Port Royal" at Avonmouth on March 5th. The exhibition will remain open (admission free) for a period of six weeks.

Codrington College.

It will be remembered that early in 1899 it was announced that this old-established University must close its doors, the income from the sugar estates on which it was mainly dependent being no longer sufficient—owing to the effect of the bounty system—to provide for its upkeep. The matter was warmly taken up by the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, and a sum of £1,886 11s. 8d. was, as the result of a special appeal, handed to the Trustees of the College, who announced that the Society was in consequence relieved from the consideration of the question of suspending the work of the College.

From certain references which were made recently in the House of Assembly, Barbados, it would appear that the financial position of the College is once more not so promising as it should be, and in view of this, the Sub-Committee of the West India Committee which was appointed on January 19th, 1899 has resumed its sittings, and a preliminary letter of enquiry as to the truth of the above rumour has been addressed to the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Trustees of the College. The Sub-Committee is composed as follows: Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, R. Rutherford, Esq., W. P. B. Sheppard, Esq., with A. E. Aspinall, Esq., Secretary. On March 6th, Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., who always takes so keen an interest in West Indian affairs, was elected a Member of the Sub-Committee.

Beet-Growing in the British Isles.

In his seventh annual report on the sugar-beet growing experiments in the British Isles, Mr. Sigmund Stein says better results have been achieved year after year, and the farmers who have been engaged on these experiments have now nothing to learn from their Continental *confrères*. The past year's results have been the best so far, despite unfavourable weather. Altogether there were 89 experiments, 57 in England, 28 in Ireland, and 4 in Scotland, with results as follows:—

| | | | | Average Analysis of British-grown roots, year 1901. | | Average Analysis of German Grown roots, year 1901. |
|--|----|----|----|---|----|--|
| Average weight of roots with leaves (in grammes) | | | | 1441 | .. | 1112 |
| Average weight of roots without leaves (grammes) | .. | .. | .. | 851 | .. | 621 |
| Degrees Brix (dry matter) | .. | .. | .. | 19.38 | .. | 17.66 |
| Specific gravity | .. | .. | .. | 1.080 | .. | 1.073 |
| Quantity of Sugar in 100 parts juice .. | .. | .. | .. | 17.02 | .. | 14.76 |
| Quantity of non-sugar in 100 parts juice | .. | .. | .. | 2.36 | .. | 2.90 |
| Quantity of purity | .. | .. | .. | 87.82 | .. | 83.53 |

After these very successful experiments, Mr. Stein says he does not think there is any doubt about our climate being suitable or about the ability of our farmers for growing beet-roots. There is no need to be frightened of not getting sufficient labour in this country for carrying on beet-root growing.

As regards the tonnage per acre, the British-grown roots this year, in tons of roots without leaves, per acre average:—

| | | | | | | | | | | | | Tons per acre. | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|------|
| In 1901 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19.0 |
| In 1900 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19.1 |
| In 1899 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16.9 |
| In 1898 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16.3 |
| In 1897 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16.7 |

With regard to the amount of juice, the roots contained on an average:—

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|
| Juice | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 93.8 per cent. |
| Pulp | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6.2 per cent. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 100 per cent. |

Mr. Stein holds that his experiments go to prove conclusively that sugar beet-roots can be grown successfully in these islands, and quite as well as on the Continent of Europe, with as much profit to the British farmer as to the Continental agriculturist. He agrees with the Earl of Denbigh as to the profits to be made on beet-growing, and adds that from the correspondence in his possession from many leading British agriculturists, beet-roots can be grown in this country to any amount if sugar beet-root factories are established and fair play is given to the British farmer, with the same advantages as the foreign sugar producers and manufacturers. British farmers, manufacturers, and capitalists would, he holds, soon find the way, and would carry on this profitable industry if factories were established.

West Indian Affairs—The Crisis.

The R.M.S. "Trent" anchored off Plymouth at 10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11th, and the Mails were delivered by first post on Wednesday morning.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) February 26th. Without unfair competition, and with the aid of Central Factories, the Island had yet a future before it. Crop operations were being pushed forward, and the yield so far appeared to be satisfactory. The dry weather favoured reaping, but showers were wanted to establish the young plants.

Barbados.—(Foster M. Alleyne, Esq.) February 27th. The following letter was issued to the Planters and the Merchants of Bridgetown, on February 20th.

BRIDGETOWN, 20th February, 1902.

DEAR SIR,

As it is generally admitted that the Sugar Industry of this Island is threatened with extinction, which, from the present condition seems highly probable, we find, as advancers to Plantations, our interest to a considerable extent will be imperilled, and unless a marked improvement in the outlook takes place, we have reluctantly come to the conclusion that it will be impossible for us to continue to make advances under "The Agricultural Aids Act, 1887," or otherwise, after the present crop is reaped. You will doubtless appreciate our action in giving you this early notice.

We are, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

L. BERT and C. W. HAYNES, Atty.
J. R. BANCROFT & Co.
R. & G. CHALLONER.
COLLYMORE & WRIGHT.
W. L. JOHNSON & Co., Ltd.

JAS. A. LYNCH & Co.
SAML. MANNING.
S. P. MUSSON, SON & Co.
H. E. THORNE & SON, Ltd.
WILKINSON & GAVILLER.

Thus, after June 30th, on the bulk of estates, or practically the whole, there would be nothing to pay the labourers, who would be reduced to starvation, and the process of estates going out of cultivation would begin. The Government were face to face with the situation. If they stood by and allowed the industry of the Island, which alone could provide employment, to be destroyed, they must take the burthen upon themselves. The weather during the month of February had been very dry, succeeding a dry January. Hardly an inch of rain had fallen anywhere. Consequently, the canes had ripened rapidly, the suns being hot and the wind dry. Sugar making was general. The canes were very sweet and the quality of the sugar good, but in the Leeward Parishes they were very dry, and the yield was not more than 1½ hds. per acre. In the Windward Parishes most estates were making 2 hds., and might be expected to improve later on. The young canes were holding well and showed no signs of suffering. The price of sugar might be quoted at \$1.20, but little had been sold at that price. Molasses 8 c.

The huts at Fortescue for the Boer Prisoners were almost completed. The Prisoners certainly would not be able to complain of these quarters. Each lodgment had a gallery on both sides, so that they would be able to sit out of the sun at all hours of the day. There was also a recreation room and plenty of open space for sports, etc. The system of wire entanglements was exactly the same as that round the blockhouses in South Africa.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.) February 26th. The combined Court was opened on the 25th and adjourned for a week. The "Main" Coolie ship arrived on the 13th with 580½ adults. The Government were holding an enquiry as to the cause of a mutiny which took place on board. She was the last ship of the season. Business generally was dull and there was little to report. The weather was favourable on the whole. Light showers continued to fall occasionally, but in some places more moisture would be beneficial.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) Feb 25th. The fourth Agricultural Show, held on the 13th inst., showed a decided advance both in quantity and quality of exhibits on previous ones. There were over 1,200 exhibits. The Agricultural School set up a table of English vegetables, which proved the capability of Dominica producing any vegetable that can be produced in a temperate climate. These shows were undoubtedly doing good among the peasants. The Legislative Council met in the preceding week and elected the Hon. H. D. Lockhart and the Hon. J. C. Macintyre to be the federal delegates from the Island. The Lime crop might be said to be over, and in some districts the trees were already flowering heavily for the next crop. The weather during the fortnight had on the Leeward Coast been very dry, indicating the commencement of the dry season.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd). The Crops were being rapidly reaped and prospects were favourable though from the low prices the year promises to be a very bad one.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay) February 27th. An important Public Meeting was held in Castries on the 24th February concerning the Bounty Question (for full report see the "Voice" of February 27th, 1902). The speeches were forcible and to the point and the following resolutions were adopted by acclamation. "Whereas the price of sugar has been reduced to a point at which it can be manufactured only at a heavy loss, such a reduction being due to the fiscal policy of foreign nations and to the operation of organizations which exist only by reason of such fiscal policy." *Resolved*—"That an appeal be made to the British Government to hasten such action as has been foreshadowed in the speech of His Majesty the King at the opening of Parliament as the only means of saving the principal industry of this Colony from irretrievable ruin." "That the powerful advocacy of our nearest fellow colonists in Canada be invoked to impress on the British Government the necessity of taking prompt and vigorous action to preserve the West India Sugar Industry from destruction, that industry being the most important factor in the prospective development of commercial relations between Canada and the West Indies." The prospects of the Island remain very gloomy. On the whole the weather had been very dry, though some showers had fallen in the last few days.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) February 28th. A Combination had been formed to restrict the output of Arrowroot in the hope that that product might at least fetch a price which would cover the cost of production. A good deal of dissatisfaction among the labouring classes was showing itself prominently by the firing of canes, etc.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Towasend Fenwick) February 27th. Sugar manufacture was in full swing, and every one was impatient to hear the result of the Brussels Conference. The "Clyde," the last immigrant vessel of the season, arrived on the 17th inst. with 574 Coolies, including children, making the total introduced during the season 2,556 souls. The weather was dry and breezy, perfect for harvesting canes. Showers were, however, needed for the young canes, and particularly for the drying of the Cacao.

The West India Committee.

The Report and Statement of Receipts and Expenditure will be submitted at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on *Thursday, April 24th next*.

At the fortnightly Meeting of the Executive Committee on March 6th, 1901, the following New Members of the West India Committee were elected.

| Members. | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| DUNCAN MACKINTOSH, Esq. | E. L. Marshall, Esq. | M. Garnett, Esq. |
| Capt. G. MOLYNEUX | Col. Nourse. | E. L. Marshall, Esq. |
| MONTGOMERIE, A.D.C. | | |
| Messrs. JAMES PHILIP & Co. | R. Rutherford, Esq. | Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. |
| Messrs. PICKFORD & BLACK. | R. Rutherford, Esq. | E. L. Marshall, Esq. |

At a special Meeting on March 11th, Mr. William Gillespie, of Messrs. Gillespie, Bros. & Co. was elected a Member of the Executive Committee.

The West Indian Club Dinner.

One of the most successful of the fortnightly Dinners of the West Indian Club took place at the Howard Hotel, on Wednesday, March 5th, the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, the originator of these functions presiding. Among those present were Sir David Palmer Ross, K.C.M.G., Colonel Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., A. E. Aspinall, Esq., F. W. G. Austin, Esq., G. B. Baker, Esq., M. M. Beeton, Esq., H. Berger, Esq., A. Bovell, Esq., H. G. Boyle, Esq., H. Brack, Esq., Captain Clover, U.S.N. Harold Cox, Esq., C. Czarnikow, Esq., W. Durran, Esq., W. A. M. Goode, Esq., Y. E. Gunning, Esq., A. J. Hawkins, Esq., J. W. M. Jarrett, Esq., A. Johnson, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., R. B. McClure, Esq., A. de Mercado, Esq., L. de Mercado, Esq., — Moore, Esq., Col. Nourse, C. S. Parker, Esq., L. Portman, Esq., J. Rippen Esq., R. Rutherford, Esq., R. Schult, Esq., W. A. P. Shephard, Esq., W. P. B. Shephard, Esq., and J. H. Wilkinson, Esq.

The Late Hon. J. Gardiner Austin.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death on March 9th of the Hon. J. Gardiner Austin, the news of which reached us by Cable. It is assumed that the sad event was comparatively sudden, as up to the departure of the Mail on the 1st inst. he had been taking his usual prominent part in the public meetings held during the fortnight, on matters vital to the best interests of the Island. By Mr. Austin's untimely death, the community at large loses one of its most active and intelligent members, one who could ill be spared at the present critical and anxious time, and one, too, who commercially, politically, and socially, was so highly and generally respected, that it is felt a gap has been made which cannot easily be filled. Mr. Austin had occupied various important positions in the Island, including the Chairmanship of the Commercial Hall. He was also an old and active Member of the Directorate of the Mutual Life Assurance Society, and until his preferment to the Legislative Council last year, he was for some years one of the Representatives of the City of Bridgetown in the House of Assembly. In both these last-mentioned positions, his wide and practical mercantile experience, added to the general knowledge he possessed of the needs of those around him, proved him to be a most useful member.

It should be added that for a great many years he filled the Consulate at Barbados, for Sweden and Norway, and that in recognition of his long service, His Majesty the King of Sweden, has recently conferred on him a decoration, in the shape of a Medal, to mark his due appreciation of these. Mr. Austin had long represented the old established firm of Messrs Michael Cavan & Co., with whom his name will always be honourably associated.—R.I.P.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," March 12th, 1902. BARBADOS.—Mrs. St. Leger Dawson, Mr. W. A. Jeffrey, Dr. and Mrs. R. M. Johnson, Mr. Max Nooldechen, Mr. and Mrs. George Dove, Miss Maud King, Mr. and Mrs. A. Sommer and 2 Ch., The Hon. Laline Vereker, Miss Warburton, Mr. W. Nicholls, Mr. C. E. Vezey, Captain L. Young. DEMERARA.—Mr. Stuart Oliver, Mrs. C. C. Baker and 2 Ch., Mr. C. F. Bethune, Mr. J. J. Sabey, Mr. W. M. Campbell. JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. Montague Kirkwood, Miss M. Robertson, Mr. Cruddas, Dr. P. V. Pingel, Mr. H. B. Rudd, Mrs. and Miss Deakin, Mrs. Stuart, Master G. B. Hay, Mr. and Mrs. James Cull, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Storie, Rev. Montagu H. Noel, Mr. K. Anderson, Mrs. and Miss Browning, Mr. S. B. Browning, Mr. Owen Jones, Mr. W. B. Scott, The Hon. H. Coke, Mrs. Reginald Coke, Mr. Moritz Kalb. TRINIDAD.—Mr. and Mrs. G. Eccles, Mrs. M. Kochen, Mr. P. Hughes, Mr. William Hopwood, Mrs. F. A. Turner and 2 Ch. GRENADA.—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Gay, Miss Robson. ST. LUCIA.—Mr. E. S. Carruthers.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," March 19th, 1902:—**DEMERARA**.—Mr. and Mrs. F. May, Mrs. F. Fowler, Miss Mackey, Mr. J. Morigo, Mr. W. Douglas. **JAMAICA**.—Miss M. Myers, Capt. and Mrs. Begbie. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. W. J. S. Tucker, Dr. and Miss Perez, Mr. and Mrs. Hargreaves, Mr. A. Fraser, Mr. L. Agostini, Mr. L. O'Connor. **TOBAGO**.—Mr. H. De Courcey Hamilton. **ST. LUCIA**.—Miss Weymouth.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," March 4th, 1902:—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. J. J. Anderson, Rev. Mr. Boyd, Mr. R. Blatchford, Mr. Cockayne, Mr. T. L. Harvey, Mr. G. Macara, Mr. Morris, Dr. and Mrs. Little, Mrs. W. G. Rackhan, Mr. G. E. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Walker, Rev. and Mrs. Shaul.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," March 15th, 1902:—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. T. H. Brinkley, Mr. T. F. Burgess, Mr. H. John Collins, Mr. E. G. Corner, Mr. E. W. Fitzgerald, Mr. J. R. Hill, Mr. H. F. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. C. Law, Mr. T. Layborn, Mr. G. H. Linden, Mr. L. Macintyre, Mr. Madden, Captain Morris, Mr. A. Muir, Mr. and Mrs. F. Muir, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Palaret, Miss Palaret, Mr. A. E. Shears, Mr. F. Small, Mr. H. T. Thomas, Mr. D. I. Ward, Miss F. Ward, Capt. J. E. Ward, Mr. C. E. Wildsmith, Miss P. Gregory, Mr. Juan Rodriguez, Mr. — Rodriguez, Mr. — Rodriguez, Mr. Charles Wollen.

Rum.

A very dull tone continues to prevail in the proof market, and business is confined to some 900 Puns Demerara and Berbice at 11d. to 1/1½ per proof gallon, being generally steady rates to an occasional ¼d. decline; also 50 Hhds. Mauritius at 10d. proof. The further shipment of 1,100 puns of "Indianapolis" being far more than was expected, does not tend to improve the position. For Jamaicas on the spot there is very little enquiry, but some crops have been sold at steady prices.

We append the Board of Trade returns:

| | | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| LANDED | In Feb. | 857,371 | 626,079 | 500,307 | 242,447 |
| | 2 months | 1,914,517 | 1,715,787 | 1,102,482 | 765,867 |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. | In Feb. | 438,619 | 719,206 | 542,046 | 403,359 |
| | 2 months | 842,308 | 1,137,381 | 1,082,272 | 775,656 |
| EXPORT | In Feb. | 65,658 | 67,530 | 87,060 | 78,960 |
| | 2 months | 142,480 | 115,226 | 171,564 | 144,993 |
| STOCK (Gall.) | 28 Feb. | 7,860,000 | 7,324,000 | 6,908,000 | 7,618,000 |

STOCKS IN LONDON.

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| JAMAICA. PUNS.. .. | 6,298 | 7,014 | 8,200 | 10,714 |
| OTHER W. I. ISLANDS .. | 848 | 498 | 437 | 597 |
| DEMERARA | 9,254 | 10,459 | 5,201 | 5,172 |
| FOREIGN | 2,335 | 1,890 | 1,788 | 578 |
| BRITISH EAST INDIA .. | 1,535 | 1,225 | 1,021 | 309 |
| VATED | 3,779 | 3,092 | 3,501 | 3,471 |
| TOTAL | 24,049 | 34,178 | 20,148 | 20,341 |

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—The market has been dull throughout the month and prices have experienced a further decline, amounting to about 1s. 6d. per cwt. At the public sales 8,227 bags were offered, of which only 2,335 bags were sold, but latterly a considerable business has been transacted privately at the above-mentioned decline. At the close we quote 56s. to 65s. per cwt. for low middling to middling; 66s. to 67s. 6d. for good middling; and 68s. to 85s. for fine and superior.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| IMPORTED 1st Jan. to 8th Mar. .. | 11,455 bags against | 7,644 bags. |
| DELIVERED | 9,731 | 14,514 .. |
| STOCK, 8th Feb. | 14,734 | 19,157 .. |

GRENADA.—During the month the large quantity of 16,145 bags has been offered at the public sales, and meeting a good general demand the greater part was disposed of, at prices which show no quotable change on those ruling a month ago, the value of ordinary to good being 54s. to 56s. 6d., and middling to fair 57s. to 62s. per cwt.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| IMPORTED, 1st Jan. to 8th Feb. .. | 22,466 bags against | 14,815 bags. |
| DELIVERED | 14,714 | 15,410 .. |
| STOCK, 8th Feb. | 14,407 | 2,941 .. |

West India Produce.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Landed terms) PIMENTO ... | 2½d. to 3d. per lb. | LOGWOOD ... | £4 5s. to £4 7s. 6d per ton. |
| GINGER ... | 36s. to 60s. per cwt. | LOGWOOD ROOTS | £4 |
| BEESEWAX ... | £7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt. | FUSTIC ... | £4 to £4 5s. per ton. |
| HONEY ... | 14s. to 24s. per cwt. | " ROOTS ... | £3 15s. to £3 17s. 6d. per ton. |
| LIME JUICE ... | 10d. to 1s. 2d. per gall. | ARROWROOT ... | (St. Vincent) 1½d. to 2d. per lb. |

Exports.

| From— | | Sugar. | Rum. | Cocoa. | Diamonds | Gold. | Co'nnts. | Molasses. | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|-------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| | | Tons. | Puns. | lbs. | Carats. | ozs. | | Puns. | | |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Feb. 26th, 1902 | | 33,812 | 2,136 | 16,152 | — | 12,677 | 528 | 114 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Feb. 27th, 1901 | | 17,892 | 7,807 | 361 | — | 12,586 | 55,000 | 255 | | |
| TRINIDAD— | | Bags & Brls. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee | Asphalt. | Co'nnts. | Molasses | Tons. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to Feb. 26th, 1902 | | 23,316 | 64 | 8,805,490 | 9,760 | 14,428 | 1,626,704 | 749 | 34 | 25 |
| Jan. 1st to Feb. 26th, 1901 | | 33,875 | — | 4,306,790 | 9,120 | 30,154 | 1,865,370 | 348 | 18 | 27 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 | 1901 | 1900 | 1899 | 1898 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. |
| United Kingdom, 8th March | 219,414 | 87,706 | 58,338 | 53,330 | 78,143 |
| France, 1st February | 709,588 | 652,867 | 634,514 | 590,000 | 545,000 |
| Germany, 1st March | 1,268,896 | 998,104 | 854,433 | 874,348 | 1,004,983 |
| Hamburg, 12th March | 142,100 | 57,320 | 42,300 | 53,200 | 122,600 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st March | 622,059 | 578,499 | 581,434 | 535,215 | 494,475 |
| Holland, 1st March | 126,984 | 93,025 | 79,772 | 63,149 | 100,705 |
| Belgium, 15th February | 153,041 | 101,485 | 112,399 | 116,735 | 129,316 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| United States, 12th March, Total Stocks | 3,244,082 | 2,569,006 | 2,363,190 | 2,285,977 | 2,475,222 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 12th March, Total Stocks ... | 111,000 | 183,031 | 149,950 | 167,216 | 257,739 |
| Cargoes afloat, 13th March | 304,000 | 153,039 | 99,648 | 63,000 | 101,635 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 10,640 | 15,761 | 25,864 | 97,858 | 70,858 |
| Total..... | 3,669,722 | 2,920,841 | 2,638,652 | 2,614,051 | 2,905,454 |

Robinson's Drying Apparatus.

We have received from Mr. Edward Robinson an illustrated description of a Steam-heated Drying Apparatus which should be of interest to West Indian Planters, especially as its use is not limited to one kind of work. It is adapted for drying Cocoa, Coffee, Pimento, Copra, or almost any granular or broken up substances, the same machine being employed for these various purposes. We understand that numbers of machines of this type are at work, and that they are well spoken of by those using them.

The Drying Apparatus consists of a revolving cylinder, a steam air heater, and a pressure fan. A small engine and boiler combined is also provided of sufficient power to supply steam for the heater, drive the fan and rotate the cylinder. Wood, coal, or liquid fuel can be used, and the quantity required is too small to need consideration. The revolving cylinder is divided into four compartments, each having a suitable lid for filling and discharging. The Cocoa, &c., to be dried is simply dropped in through the openings, and, for discharging, the lids are removed, the cylinder turned, and the Cocoa falls out into a box beneath. Such box may be on wheels, if desired, for easy and immediate removal.

Passing through the centre of the revolving cylinder is a stationary air tube having a series of nozzles directed downwards. Each of the four compartments is provided with lifters, and these keep the Cocoa separated, distributed and opened out as the cylinder slowly revolves. Two or three turns a minute will be found sufficient for Cocoa. The blast of hot wind discharging from the nozzles under pressure is driven into and among the cocoa, &c., the latter being kept in constant motion and turning over in the wind.

The temperature is under perfect control, and can be maintained at any desired point. Even with a low temperature the drying is very rapid, and the free outside moisture of the Beans is quickly carried off, so as to make the Cocoa safe to stand in bulk for a night or so. After an interval for sweetening, another short run will again dry it. Thus the approved process of partially drying and

then having to sweat in bulk can be easily and cheaply carried out under all conditions of weather. If preferred, however, or the nature of the material under treatment admits of it, the whole drying process can, of course, be completed in one operation.

A Cylinder of this kind is used for drying Beef, cut into pieces about the size of Cocoa Beans. A charge is dried thoroughly in 4 hours so that it will grind into fine powder. Another large cylinder in Venezuela is said to dry a charge of about four tons of Coffee in 12 to 14 hours.

The smallest Cylinder made takes about 15 cwt. of Cocoa at a charge. The saving of labour is obvious.

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) March 4th, "Very dry, rain wanted." March 17th, "Idem." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) March 10th, "Rain has fallen heavily." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) March 11th, "Heavy rains fallen generally since last message. Moderate rains have fallen generally, in Berbice, since last message." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 14th, "Weather fine with occasional light showers."

Publications Received.

General.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

British Guiana Directory 1902, and Administration Reports for 1900-1901. The Financial News. Imperial Department of Agriculture, Barbados. Seedling and other Canes at Barbados, 1901. Seedling and other Canes in the Leeward Islands, 1900/01. The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, February, 1902. Jamaica Board of Agriculture, Report on Cultivation of Pineapples. The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre. The Louisiana Planter. The Produce Markets Review.

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 Prices Current (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.).
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. G. R. Alston & Co.); and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Faines & Reid, Park, Macfadyen & 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 St. Christopher Advertiser.</i> |
| <i>The Antigua Standard.</i> | <i>The Dominican.</i> | <i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i> |
| <i>The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i> | <i>The Dominica Guardian.</i> | <i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i> |
| <i>The Barbados Globe.</i> | <i>The Federalist & Grenada People.</i> | <i>The Sentry (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 Berbice Gazette (British Guiana).</i> | <i>The Jamaica Times.</i> | |

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

Special Notice.

Members will greatly oblige if they will remit to the Secretary the amount of their subscriptions for the current year, due on January 1st, at their earliest convenience. Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Billiter Square Buildings. 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.,

Saturday, March 29th, 1902.

The Present Situation.

The Committee have continued during the past fortnight to keep in close touch with the various Departments of the Government, regarding the measures of relief which it is realised must be adopted if the Sugar Industry is to survive the period of 18 months between now and the date when the Convention for the abolition of Bounties and Cartels is, if ratified, to become operative. On March 20th a meeting of Members of Parliament was held at the House of Commons to consider the present condition and prospects of the British home and Colonial industries, in view of the Convention. Sir Nevile Lubbock and Mr. Martineau attended the Meeting in order to explain the bearings of the Convention upon the situation in the British West Indies, and as affecting the Refiners of this country.

The following is the text of a letter which was forwarded by the Committee to Mr. Chamberlain on March 18th, reminding him of the gravity of the situation in the West Indies, and requesting him and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to receive a deputation.

March 18th, 1902.

SIR,—We have the honour to call your attention to the critical position in which the Sugar Industry of the West Indies is now placed, owing to the fact that the Sugar Bounties Convention recently agreed to at Brussels, will not take effect until September 1st, 1903. We feel it our duty to convey to you, to the best of our ability, what the immediate result is likely to be, and what, in our opinion, it is essential should be done by His Majesty's Government to enable the industry to survive the intervening period.

2. We wish to say that we have no doubt that the Convention, if it comes into operation, will solve the West Indian problem; but in the first place, the Convention has not been ratified and need not be ratified for some 10 months to come; so that, until that time arrives, the sugar industry of the world, so far as it is dependent on the British Market, will be left in a state of uncertainty, except as regards the European Beet Sugar production. The Beet Sugar crop, which is about to be sown, will be sown with the full knowledge that it will continue to receive the enormous bounties which it now receives.

3. There is consequently, in our opinion, no hope of any improved price for sugar in the immediate future; and the question to be considered is, whether the sugar production of our West Indian Colonies can be continued under the existing strain until September, 1903.

4. We have no hesitation in saying that if nothing is done this will be impossible. We admit that there may be a certain number of rich proprietors who, in view of the prospects of the Convention coming into force, will continue to carry on their Estates; but the great majority of proprietors will be unable to do so. Moreover, those who *do* continue, will reduce the amount they allow for the cost of production, and hence, wages will be everywhere reduced to the detriment of the Estates, and the working classes dependent upon them, and consequently to the revenue of the Colonies.

5. We wish respectfully to point out what is no doubt well known to you, Sir, that the effect of the Bounties has been immensely aggravated during the last 12 months by the Cartel systems of Austria and Germany, and hence has arisen the apparently rapid development of a crisis which

has been hanging over the heads of the West Indies for the last 25 years. We have every confidence, Sir, that you are well aware of the critical condition of these Colonies, but we feel that we should be failing in our duty did we not express to you clearly and decidedly, our view of the position. We who have signed this letter, are mainly instrumental in providing for carrying on the Estates. Many of us will lose heavily by the present crop, owing to the inability of those to whom we have made advances for the crop to repay those advances. We have had, some of us, to consider whether under these circumstances, we were justified in continuing these advances for another crop, and have decided that we cannot do so unless some practical assistance is given by our Government to make such advances fairly safe.

6. Present prices are leaving a loss of from £2 to £3 per ton on the sugar produced, and we have, after very careful reflection, decided to express to you our conviction that unless His Majesty's Government can see their way to relieve the strain by at least £2 per ton, there will be a material reduction in the cultivation of sugar in the West Indies.

7. It is for the Government to consider what this would mean. We have no wish to put forward an exaggerated or an unnecessary alarmist view, but we venture to think that such an event is one which no Government could contemplate without the gravest anxiety, and we have ventured to write this letter to you, Sir, to exonerate ourselves from all responsibility, by conveying to you our deliberate opinion in regard to what is required to meet the case. No one can absolutely predict the future; but there is such a thing as tempting Providence. It is our duty to give His Majesty's Government the warning. On them must rest the responsibility of dealing with it. We believe that these Colonies are at the breaking point, and that immediate relief is absolutely necessary to prevent what we believe would be a serious calamity.

8. In these circumstances, we venture respectfully to request that you will be pleased to receive, with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a deputation of the West India Committee, which may lay before you, verbally and more fully, the considerations indicated in the above brief statement of the situation.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient and humble servants,

HENRY K. DAYSON, Deputy Chairman,
The West India Committee.

For the COLONIAL BANK,
By order of the Board of Directors,
H. H. DOBREE, Chairman.

The WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION OF GLASGOW,
JAMES EWING & CO.

The NEW COLONIAL CO., Ltd.,
R. BROWN, Secretary.

HOOKER BROS., McCONNELL & CO., Ltd.,
FRED V. McCONNELL, Director.

PLANTATION LEONORA, Ltd.,
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BODDINGTON & CO.
For the ST. LUCIA USINES & ESTATES CO.,
H. HALES.

For the DENNERY CO., Ltd., of ST. LUCIA,
H. HALES.

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman,
The West India Committee.

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For the

WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION OF LIVERPOOL,
The DEMERARA CO., Ltd.,

SANDBACH TINNE & CO., Liverpool,
S. SANDBACH PARKER.

GEORGE CARRINGTON.
WALLWYN FOYER B. SHEPHEARD.

SCRUTTON, SONS & CO.
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

The Right Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain, M.P.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Codrington College, Barbados.

The following letter was addressed to the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Trustees of Codrington College on the 12th instant :—

Sir,

I am directed by my Committee to address you on the subject of Codrington College, Barbados.

Early in 1899 it was announced by the Trustees that the college would have immediately to be closed, the income derivable from the Sugar Estates upon which it mainly depends being insufficient, owing to the effect of the Foreign State Sugar Bounties, to provide for its upkeep.

The matter was warmly taken up by the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, and at his instance a Sub-Committee of my body was appointed to consider and report as to what could best be done to avert the threatened closing of the oldest University in the West Indies, which it was felt would be most detrimental to the West Indies.

A fund was subsequently inaugurated under the patronage of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl of Stamford, the Earl of Bessborough, Bishop Mitchinson, Dean Kitchin, the late Bishop of Barbados, Canon Tristram, G. W. H. Codrington, Esq. and Lieut.-Col. A. E. Codrington, and as the result of an appeal circulated widely throughout the press, a sum of £1,886 11s. 8d. was handed to your Society, as Trustees, as an emergency fund for the sustenance of Codrington College.

On July 20th, 1899, we received the gratifying intelligence from the late Prebendary H. W. Tucker, that, thanks to our efforts, your Society was relieved from the consideration of the question of suspending the work of Codrington College, and that other circumstances tended also to justify the instructions given to the Principal, that students would be received, without any warning that the College might be closed before their course was finished.

From certain references which were made during the debate on the Estimates in the House of Assembly of Barbados, it would appear that the position of the College financially, is once more not so promising as might be. Having in view the possibility of a renewed effort being necessary to provide for its maintenance, I am directed by my Committee to ask you if this is indeed the case.

My Committee feel that if some definite statement were made by your Society as to the condition of the College, and the manner in which the fund raised by them has been applied, it would greatly strengthen their hands in any renewed effort they may decide to make in co-operation with your esteemed Society.

I am, etc.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

The West Indies and the Brussels Convention.

The news of the signature of the Brussels Convention reached the West Indies before the Mail left, and it is our pleasant duty to record the gratitude which appears to be generally felt towards the *West India Committee* for the part they have taken in bringing about this successful result. Not only do our correspondents with one accord speak of this, but it is also testified to by numerous letters received by the Mail from private Individuals and Firms. But the Convention has still to be ratified, and the outlook for the next 18 months was causing some apprehension when the Mail left, it being feared that it would be a case of the stable door being shut after the departure of the horse, unless the Government were prepared to adopt measures for the relief of the sugar industry, pending the taking effect of the Convention.

The R.M.S. "La Plata" anchored off Plymouth at 2.15 a.m., Thursday, March 27th, and the Mails were delivered on Thursday afternoon at 12.20.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) March 12th. Upon the receipt of the welcome tidings of the signing of the Brussels Convention, a special meeting of the Agricultural Society was held, at which H. E. Sir Henry Jackson was present, and resolutions of gratitude were passed (1) to Mr. Chamberlain; (2) to H.E. the Governor, and (3) to the West India Committee. Of these, the first resolution strongly urges the increased need of central sugar factories in view of the keen competition now likely to ensue among sugar-producing countries. The following is the text of the resolution regarding the West India Committee:—

This Society desires to express its sense of obligation and gratitude to the West India Committee for the support given to the recent efforts to render the Brussels Conference effective in removing the disabilities arising from Bounties, Cartels and similar systems which have hitherto operated so disastrously against the sugar industry in these Islands.

This society further desires the good offices of the West India Committee in furthering the efforts being made to secure a Central Sugar Factory for Antigua.

While it was realized in the Island how beneficial the abolition of Bounties would be, all were alive to the fact that machinery would now have to be improved, and that the immediate necessities, pending the abolition of Bounties, were so urgent, that unless early help was obtained, there was still a danger of the Sugar industry foundering just as their haven of refuge was in sight. The weather continued favourable for reaping, and the crop was in full progress.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.) March 12th. Their pleasure at hearing that the Brussels Convention was at last signed was somewhat damped by the intelligence that it would not be in force until September, 1903. That would be two crops off for them, and they could not possibly hold out so long at present prices. The merchants of the Island had addressed a letter to the press, confirming their intention to cease advances unless the outlook improved, in view of the sincerity of their former circular on the subject being challenged in certain official quarters.

The weather during March had been like that of February, and the merest scuds of rain had fallen. The winds had been very high. The yield in the leeward side was very poor, not more than 1½ hds. to the acre. On the windward side it was much better, generally over 2 hds. per acre. The writer estimated the probable crop of the Island at 55,000 tons.

Gulian Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), March 12th. The Combined Court met again on the 4th inst., and had sat daily up to the present time. The weather was dry until the 7th inst., when they had upwards of six inches of rain in Town and neighbourhood. After that it had been showery and favourable generally until that morning, when heavy rains set in again. The time for the Convention for Reciprocity with the United States was to have expired on the 16th inst., but at the sitting of the Court on the 11th inst., the period was extended for six months longer. There was very little doing in Refining Crystals. A small lot had been sold some days ago at \$1.62½.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) March 12th. The Town Board of Roseau had voted £200 per annum for the purpose of lighting the Town by electricity. When the work was to be begun had not yet transpired. It was rumoured, on good authority, that a large hotel was shortly to be built on Morne Bruce, overlooking Roseau, and also that a large tract of the Crown lands was to be bought and developed by a Company. Some useful little showers had fallen during the past few days, and a continuance thereof would do much good to the young fruit now beginning to set on the lime trees.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.) March 11th. The Council and Members tried all that was in their power to evince their appreciation of Sir Alfred Jones' visit to Jamaica. His visit had been a most successful one.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd). March 11th, Dr. Geo. C. Low, of the London School of Tropical Medicine had arrived in the Island in order to prosecute enquiries as to the cause and prevention of malaria, and had already delivered a most interesting address in the Court House. Crops were being reaped rapidly and the weather was very favourable.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) March 13th. At last Meeting of Council, the Governor read a cable message he had received announcing that the Convention had been signed on the 5th inst. to take effect in September, 1903. The satisfaction of the public was qualified by doubts as to arrangements for enabling the sugar industry to hold out for another eighteen months and want of knowledge of details. A further proposal had been made by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, for improved Steamer services, but it had not yet been before the Council. The substance of it was that the Company will give an accelerated service and make Trinidad a port of call for the Ocean boats for the unexpired term of three years the contract had to run, for a lump sum of £5,000. It was again asserted that the Union Bank of Halifax was about to open a branch in that City. A special meeting of the Port of Spain Chamber of Commerce was held to afford an opportunity to Mr. D. R. Munro, President of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, to address the Members on the possibilities of further developing West Indian trade with Canada. Everyone in Trinidad must keenly sympathise with any endeavours in this direction so long as no attempt is made to bring about a reciprocal agreement, involving a differentiation of our duties in favour of Canada, which might cause the United States to retaliate. They were having some nice showers which were doing much good in the fields without interfering with manufacture.

The Royal Colonial Exhibition.

The West Indian Section at the above Exhibition continues to attract a great deal of attention from the Public. The Colonial Institute have kindly lent the flags of British Guiana and the West Indies, and an exhibit by the West Indian Club of the badges of the various Colonies has now been added. Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., as Chairman of the West India Committee, has been appointed a Member of the General Committee of the Exhibition.

The West Indian Club Dinner.

In view of the Easter Holidays, the usual fortnightly Dinner will not be held on April 2nd. A very successful Dinner was held on March 19th, A. N. Lubbock, Esq. presiding. Among those present were: Sir Walter J. Sendall, G.C.M.G., Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., C. T. Berthon, Esq., Arthur Bovell, Esq., Innis Bowen, Esq., J. E. Chapman, Esq., L. De Mercado, Esq., G. S. Ewen, Esq., Capt. Fielder, R.A., Rev. A. Gwyther, J. E. Mitchell, Esq., A. F. Turnbull, Esq., R. Rutherford, Esq., J. H. Wilkinson, Esq., and T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.

New Members.

At Meetings of the Executive Committee on March 17th and 20th, the following New Members were elected:—

| Members. | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| GEORGE ELLIOTT SEALY, Esq. | F. W. Wilkinson. | G. A. Sealy, Esq. |
| MESSRS. WM. ALFRED JONES & Co. | Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. | H. K. Davson, Esq. |

The "Empire Review" and the Bounty Question.

The thanks of all West Indians are due to Mr. C. Kinloch Cooke, who, through the press and otherwise has so sturdily fought their battles. In the present number of the "*Empire Review*," which is so ably edited by Mr. Cooke, there appears an interesting article from the pen of Lord Pirbright, entitled, "Forty Years of Sugar Bounties; and after." No one is better qualified to speak on the question of the Bounties than Lord Pirbright, who, it will be remembered, presided over the International Conference of 1888, and we strongly advise our members to obtain a copy of the "*Empire Review*" for April, and peruse his paper, which is for the most part historical, and will be found very readable.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," March 27th, 1902.—BARBADOS.—Mr. C. Good, Mr. C. Noodit, Mr. Slowe, Mr. and Mrs. E. Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hedderwick, Mr. Hughes, D. Besamio, Mr. Giaconio Gritto. DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Mr. J. W. Tucker, Mr. D. Gravesand, Mr. Edwin Chester, Mr. T. Cameron, M. Ramdoos. JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Alexander, Mrs. Woodall, Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Brown, Mr. A. Orram, Mr. Francis Anderson, Colonel Henry, Rev. A. H. Etty, Mr. P. Tatchell, Dr. Scholten, Mr. T. Grove Powell, Mr. H. Hill Smith, Mr. Chas. Hutton, Mr. A. Watson, Mr. C. H. Carlisle, Mr. Herbert Spratt, Mr. W. L. Bruse, Mr. Denton Scholes. TRINIDAD.—Mr. G. G. Brown, Mr. and Miss Wood, Mr. E. R. Ashton, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. W. C. Robertson, Mr. R. Curtis Brown, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hooper, Capt. Lieut. Löhlein, Miss Flood. GRENADA.—Mrs. Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Lake Miss Lake and Miss Monteith.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," April 2nd, 1902.—BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Martinez. DEMERARA.—Mr. E. C. Hamley, Mr. D. Beech, Rev. and Mrs. Ritchie. JAMAICA.—Mr. H. E. Friese, Mrs. M. Friese, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dew, Mr. J. Staat. DOMINICA.—Mrs. Sowray, Mr. Hitching. ST. KITTS.—Mrs. Danavall. TRINIDAD.—Mr. D. Wake, Mr. H. McGill.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," March 20th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., Mr. A. T. Crawford, Mr. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. J. Baring Dupre, Miss Dupre, Mr. T. L. Dodds, J.P., Mr. Dickson, Alderman Fallows, J.P., Mrs. Fallows, Miss Fallows, Mr. W. Grahame, Capt.

Crabam, Mr. A. E. Grice, Mr. Highgate, Mr. W. Huntington, Sir Thos. Hughes, Mr. R. F. Hammond, Mrs. M. Hammond, Miss V. Hammond, Mr. and Miss Heginbotham, Mr. Pictor Jones, Miss Alice Land, Dr. and Mrs. Ley, Mr. A. Lilwall, Mrs. Aubrey Lewis, Col. Morrison, Master A. E. Myers, Miss Mammatt, Mr. Logan Mack, Capt. McNab, R.N.R., Mr. McConochie, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ogle, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Ogilvie, Mr. Leonard Pumphrey, Mr. R. Peddie, Mr. A. C. Paterson, Capt. Phillips, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. Ben Read, Dr. Robson, Mr. A. G. Ramage, Mr. R. B. Reith, Mr. E. Ker-Seymer, Mr. and Mrs. Spence Smith, Lieut. R. G. T. Stack, R.N., Mr. Katon Schofield, Mr. J. H. Sharrock, Mr. Trotter, Mr. and Mrs. Truelove, Mr. G. M. Tocque, Mr. Leslie Williams, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. John Wilson, Mrs. J. Wallace, Rev. J. Wallace, M.A., Mr. P. A. Williams, Mr. Francis Yates, Miss Yates.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," March 29th, 1902:—**JAMAICA**—Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Anderson, Mr. W. D. Barton, Mrs. and Miss Dawber, Mr. J. S. Fitchard, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Malcolm, Mr. F. E. Neale, Mr. A. S. Verley, Mrs. E. C. Ward, Mr. E. Cadman, Mr. E. Glanville.

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Tons. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Carats. | Gold, ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| BRITISH GUIANA — | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Mar. 11th, 1902 | 30,816 | 9,895 | 26,656 | — | 15,303 | 528 | 114 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Mar. 13th, 1901 | 20,929 | 8,842 | 361 | — | 16,202 | 55,050 | 322 | | |
| JAMAICA — | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Coffee. Cwts. | Banana Bunches. | Co'nuts. | Oranges. Puns. | | |
| Apr. 1st to Mar. 1st, 1902 | 14,347 | 1,486,620 | 21,836 | 87,469 | 10,082,693 | 16,385,969 | 80,998,387 | | |
| Apr. 1st to Mar. 2nd, 1901 | 14,656 | 1,243,798 | 18,227 | 75,649 | 7,468,517 | 11,407,060 | 87,237,155 | | |
| TRINIDAD — | Bags & Brls. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | Co'nuts. | Molasses Puns. | Tons. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to Mar. 12th, 1902 | 75,604 | 64 | 10,769,330 | 9,840 | 21,446 | 2,581,904 | 759 | 34 | 25 |
| Jan. 1st to Mar. 12th, 1901 | 118,330 | 51 | 5,179,910 | 9,120 | 39,541 | 2,354,370 | 486 | 18 | 27 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 24th March | 222,445 | 116,454 | 55,034 | 52,855 | 80,786 |
| France, 1st March | 625,971 | 553,053 | 567,247 | 570,000 | 516,000 |
| Germany, 1st March | 1,268,896 | 997,791 | 854,433 | 874,348 | 1,004,983 |
| Hamburg, 26th March | 147,060 | 58,500 | 54,600 | 62,700 | 132,000 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st March | 619,053 | 578,499 | 581,434 | 535,215 | 494,475 |
| Holland, 1st March | 126,984 | 93,025 | 79,772 | 63,149 | 100,705 |
| Belgium, 1st March | 148,612 | 85,608 | 105,828 | 106,671 | 127,328 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| United States, 26th March, Total Stocks | 3,159,021 | 2,482,930 | 2,298,348 | 2,264,938 | 2,456,277 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 26th March, Total Stocks ... | 116,000 | 191,129 | 144,297 | 192,969 | 290,305 |
| Cargoes afloat, 26th March | 351,000 | 192,154 | 115,939 | 79,500 | 119,000 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | 10,640 | 15,765 | 25,864 | 68,558 | 60,698 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | 3,636,661 | 2,881,978 | 2,584,448 | 2,605,965 | 2,926,280 |

Weather Telegrams.

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) March 20th, "Heavy rain continues, some fine weather would be acceptable." "Weather showery and favourable for the cultivation in Berbice." **TRINIDAD.**—(Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), March 25th, "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily."

West India Produce.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (Landed terms) PIMENTO ... | 2½d. to 3d. per lb. | LOGWOOD ... | ... £4 5s. to £4 7s. 6d per ton. |
| GINGER ... | 36s. to 62s. per cwt. | LOGWOOD ROOTS | £4 |
| BEESWAX ... | £7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt. | FUSTIC ... | ... £4 to £4 5s. per ton. |
| HONEY ... | 14s. to 24s. per cwt. | " ROOTS ... | ... £3 15s. to £3 17s. 6d. per ton. |
| LIME JUICE | 10d. to 1s. 2d. per gall. | ARROWROOT ... | (St. Vincent) 1½d. to 2d. per lb. |

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, April 15th, 1902.

The Relief for the Sugar Industry.

Up to the time of going to press, we are without definite information as to the form of the assistance which is to be accorded to the Sugar Industry of British Guiana and the West Indies, to enable it to tide over the present crisis. Since our last circular was published the West India Committee have lost no opportunity of bringing before the Government the urgency of the need of assistance being forthcoming if the Sugar Industry is to survive the period until the Brussels Convention, if ratified, becomes operative.

Sir Alfred Jones' Generous Offer.

Sir Alfred Jones' offer to carry Sugar, in bags and barrels, freight free by the steamers of the Imperial Direct West Indian Line from Kingston, Jamaica, to Avonmouth, Bristol, has, we regret to say, given rise to sensational and very misleading statements by a section of the Press. While fully recognising the generosity which has prompted Sir Alfred Jones to make this offer, we fear that it will do little to alleviate the present economic depression in the West Indies, or even Jamaica alone. Asked our views on the subject, we expressed them fully to Sir Alfred Jones in a letter, dated April 3rd. We pointed out that even if all the Sugar produced in Jamaica were attracted to British Markets it would represent one-tenth only of the production of Sugar of the West Indies, and that the West Indies as a whole would not benefit. We believe that Sir Alfred Jones' magnanimous offer will, under existing circumstances, have little or no effect in inducing Jamaica planters to ship their sugar to Avonmouth. The Bristol refineries having been closed, there is no market for raw sugar in that City. Raw sugar would therefore have to be transhipped to London, Liverpool or the Clyde at a cost which would practically absorb the saving of 10s. per ton freight to New York, where the value of sugar is £1 per ton higher than it is in this country.

Boer Prisoners in the West Indies.

The question of the settlement of Boer Prisoners in the West Indies is still engaging attention. We learn that a further batch is still to be drafted to Antigua, and we have once more received urgent representations from St. Kitts that a Camp may be established there. It is felt that the Government Estate, La Guerite, of some 100 odd acres, would afford an admirable site for a Detention Camp. On that Estate there is a storage reservoir of pure water of 500,000 gallons capacity, and if it were considered advisable stores could easily be landed at Lime Kiln Bay, down to which the Estate runs. In view, possibly, of the brightening peace prospects, the Government does not seem inclined for the moment to start the formation of fresh settlements. We have, however, been informed by Mr. Chamberlain that though there is no present possibility of such a Camp in St. Kitts being established, our representations on the subject will be borne in mind.

Official Appointments.

The appointment of Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., Chief Secretary to the Government of the Island of Malta, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands, in succession to Sir Henry Morre Jackson, K.C.M.G., who has been appointed Governor of Fiji, was gazetted on April 9th instant.

We have to congratulate the esteemed honorary secretary of our Branch Committee in Barbados, Mr. Forster McGeachy Alleyne, upon his appointment to be a member of the Legislative Council of that Island. We understand that this well-merited distinction has been conferred upon Mr. Alleyne largely in recognition of all that he has done in the interests of the cane sugar industry.

The Jamaica Disturbances.

What appears to have been a somewhat serious riot broke out at Montego Bay on the North side of Jamaica, on April 5th instant. According to an official despatch from the Acting Governor, the whole matter was an anti-police riot, but pending the receipt of further news by mail, we can only quote the telegrams which have been received on the subject. The riot originated in the arrest of a man for disorderly conduct. The mob overpowered the police and terrorized the citizens, the town being at their mercy for hours. One man was wounded by a revolver shot. When the ardour of the mob began to cool a volunteer patrol restored order, and all was quiet at midnight. A large force of police from all points, commanded by the Inspector-General, hurried at once to the scene in a special train, and made some arrests. The incident was purely local, and was of no political significance whatever. Rioting broke out again at Montego Bay on April 6th night, with more serious results. The police fired on the mob, killing one civilian. The casualties among the police were as follows: Inspector-General Wright, arm broken; Inspector Toole, head cut open; another officer and 16 men wounded. In response to an urgent appeal for assistance a detachment of 100 rank and file of the West India Regiment, and an additional large body of armed police, left Kingston during the night by special train for Montego Bay. His Majesty's cruiser Tribune was also ordered to the scene, and left this morning. All precautions have been taken to safeguard Kingston. The Governor was in Cuba, and Mr. Olivier, the Acting Governor, was in the country. All the arrangements, therefore, fell to Mr. T. L. Roxburgh, the Assistant Colonial Secretary, who acted with great promptness, resource and decision. Mr. Olivier reached Montego Bay and telegraphed for the Officer Commanding the Troops and the Attorney-General, who left by special train.

In the House of Commons, on April 10th, Mr. Chamberlain said, in answer to Mr. Hobhouse, that the latest telegram, received on the previous day, stated that as far as then reported all was quiet, and no further trouble probable. The *Times'* correspondent at Kingston, on April 10th, telegraphed, however, that there were still elements of mischief at Montego Bay. An attempt to blow up a guard room had been discovered, and evidence was accumulating of the intention of the rioters to cut the telegraph line and wreck the railway; 36 arrests had been made, 25 of the prisoners being men, and 11 women.

Bounties and Free Trade.

M. Yves Guyot, late Minister of Public Works in France, read a Paper on "Bounties and Free Trade" before the Political and Economic Circle of the National Liberal Club on April 9th last. The Chair was occupied by Mr. F. S. Stevenson, M.P. M. Guyot, who was cordially received, addressed the gathering in French. He acknowledged the kindly welcome with which he had been received and the tribute which had been paid to his work in connection with the question of free trade. He was an old friend of the National Liberal Club, and in France he had done as much as he possibly could to maintain the old traditions adopted in England of constitutional and Parliamentary government. From his earliest youth he had looked upon the work of Cobden as one of the greatest achievements of the century. In dealing with the subject of his address he said that nothing could be more true than the statement that "bounties are the aggressive form of protectionism." Whilst protective or prohibitive duties were destined to prevent foreign goods from being imported, bounties were destined to force the entrance for certain goods into a foreign

country. Bounties were the very negation of free competition; for this intervention of a State against one or more others had the result, if not the aim, of crushing industries which existed by their own strength. The sugar bounties given by the Continental nations had resulted in the ruin of the refineries which existed in England and of the manufacture of sugar in the West Indies. It was true that they had also resulted in the development of the British confectionery, jam, and biscuit industries. It was remarked in a recent dispute that these industries had become much more important than that of sugar refining. That might be; but free trade, as a policy, did not admit that the State should intervene in favour of a strong industry against a feebler one. If the State weighed the diverse industries in the balance in order to favour some and crush others, then it was guilty of the worst form of protectionism. It robbed some in order to give privileges to others. Another argument advanced was that of the national consumers. While he did not deny the force of the reasoning, he said it had the demerit of being founded on a basis which was not free trade, for free trade was international while this was altogether particularist. The sugar bounties resulted in increased production and limited consumption of sugar in the producing countries. According to M. Licht's calculations, there were 11,265,000 tons of sugar to be sold this year before September 1st, 1902. Last year the consumption amounted to 9,135,000 tons. Adding 400,000 tons to this as a possible increase, there remained 1,730,000 with no prospect of sale. If the system of bounties were maintained, it would continue to encourage production and to limit the internal consumption of each country. This state of affairs might go on for one or two years, but a product could not be indefinitely manufactured for the sake of the bounties. Then the allurement of the bounties having encouraged the refiners to produce more and more, a reaction would take place, and ruin would follow. Beet would no longer be cultivated, for it would sell below the cost of production. The manufacture would be arrested, and, after a crisis of depression, it would undergo a crisis of rising prices which would fall heavily upon the English "national consumers," confectioners, biscuit makers, and jam makers. It was then an error to think that the bounties would indefinitely ensure cheap sugar on the English market without a re-actionary blow. The Brussels Conference had for its object to avert the rush of this crisis, and would succeed in doing so in staying shocks which would have been too violent. Its action would have been even more efficacious if its resolutions had been made applicable from September 1st, 1902, instead of being adjourned to September 1st, 1903. They all admitted that bounties were a curse; if that be so, then free-traders ought not to favour them. His conclusions were as follows:—(1) "Bounties are a curse," therefore free-traders should not favour them; (2) they would favour them if, when as a result of a conference, some nations undertook to suppress their bounties respectively, free-traders would leave their market open to the bounty-fed products of the nations which retained the bounties. This would be the most favoured nation clause reversed; (3) when a conference, such as that of Brussels, takes place, free-traders ought to take the opportunity to act in that way which most conforms to the establishment and application of economic truth, and not to advocate a policy which is a bounty on a policy of bounties.

News by the Mail.

The R.M.S. "Orinoco" anchored off Plymouth at 5.50 a.m., Thursday, April 10th, and the Mails were delivered on Thursday at 5.30 p.m. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand) March 26th. Mercantile Circles in the Island were already beginning to feel the benefit of increased business through the arrival of the Boer prisoners. There was some talk of English Harbour being once more converted into a Coaling Station. The weather had latterly been very still and hot and favourable for reaping, except on Windmill Estates. There were indications of rain in the near future. The yield generally was satisfactory, but the market both for sugar and molasses was causing grave anxiety. At the present rates the year's working would inevitably show disastrous results.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.), March 27th. The weather continued dry, which was not unusual for that time of the year, but some good showers would be acceptable. The old canes on the windward sides were giving good returns, but to Leeward the yield was very unsatisfactory, and many estates were already closing up at short figures. The young canes were holding well. The prices though slightly improved were still very low, \$1.20 for hhds., and \$1.40 for bags. The Governor opened the new Session of the Legislature on Tuesday, March 25th, with a careful and yet hopeful speech.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), March 26th. At a Meeting of the Planters' Association held on the 19th inst., a resolution was passed congratulating Mr. Chamberlain, upon the successful result of the Brussels Conference, and thanking him for his persistent efforts to obtain fair play for the sugar industry of the British Colonies. This together with a similar resolution adopted by the Chamber of Commerce was forwarded to Mr. Chamberlain by Cable. The question of sending exhibits to the Toronto Exhibition was considered, and the writer, with Mr. Guy C. Wyatt, were appointed to represent the Association on a Joint Committee of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Mines to deal with the matter. The Governor had left on a visit to Berbice, and had gone up the Corentyne River. Very little was doing in produce. Some estates which had hitherto made sugar for the American market were now going to make yellow sugar for the United Kingdom. The weather during the first part of the fortnight was much too heavy. The last few days had been fine and bright and reports generally were favourable.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) March 26th. Telephonic communication had been established between Roseau and the village of Layou, a third of the distance to Portsmouth. H. E. Sir Henry Jackson had paid his first visit to the Island, he came with certain Members of the Federal Executive Council, to enquire into the dismissal of Police Inspector O'Farrel. The weather continued fine with just a sufficiency of rain.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.) March 13th. Subsequent to a meeting of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, the following cable was sent to Mr. Chamberlain:—

"Gratitude for your successful exertions abolish bounties."

This was confirmed by letter on March 12th. It was, however, pointed out that in order to keep the sugar industry alive until the convention came into force it was absolutely essential that relief should immediately be afforded to the planters. The situation was critical, as the price of sugar in the United States was at the lowest point it had ever been known to reach.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd). March 25th. Planters were waiting with anxiety to know what particular form the relief to the Sugar Industry was going to assume. The period till September, 1903, would be one of much difficulty, and it was to be hoped that the promised help would come promptly. Regarding the crop and weather prospects no change for the worse had occurred since the last Mail, with the exception of what appeared to be an incendiary fire on the Pond Estate.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," April 10th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mrs. Foley, Mrs. Swaby, Hon. and Mrs. F. M. Alleyne, Mrs. B. Randall, Mr. and Mrs. De Saubergne, Capt. C. R. Harris, R.N., Mr. and Miss Hamlyn, Miss Stuart, Lt. Col. R. B. Randall, Mr. E. W. L. Steinthal, Mr. Jas. Epps, Miss Epps, Mr. and Mrs. R. Thom, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Sells, Dr. Weller, Mr. and Mrs. Lamb, Miss E. Ormond. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. J. J. Kirke, Mrs. D. W. A. McKinnon, Mr., Mrs. and Miss T. S. Cornish, Mrs. MacGill, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Christie, Mr. A. L. Hemphill, Mr. F. A. Long, Mr. G. F. Franks, Mr. N. Deer, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Baxter. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. J. Kerr, Mr. J. B. Bolton, Mr. and Mrs. Ramage, Capt. and Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Edmonstone, Mr. C. A. Swinburne, Sir H. F. Lennard, Bt., Mr. and Mrs. W. Thom, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Aikman, Col. F. Townshend, Mr. A. E. Lopez, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Turner, Mr., Mrs. and Miss A. W. Aldis, Mr. A. Crossman, Miss Dunlop, Mrs. G. and Miss E. G. Miller, Mr. L. Layard, Mr. J. Rotherham, Mr. and Mrs. J. Thornely, Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, Miss Dugdale, Mr. R. Boyle, Mr. F. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harris, Rev. J. W. and two Misses Hatton, Mr. C. K. Marr, Mr. J. Sutcliffe, Col. W. Blagrove, Mr. and Mrs. A. Kingsmill, Mr. F. Smallman, Mr. W. L. Dickinson, Col. J. G. Sandeman, Major E. Sandeman and Miss Sandeman, Miss Bowden-Smith. **TRINIDAD.**—Mrs. H. Welch, Miss Frankland, Mr. and Mrs. J. Booth, Mrs. Powell, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Godwin, Mr. H. W. Linford, J. Fraser, Miss Cross, Miss H. Robinson, Mrs. A. V. M. Lavenot.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," April 16th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Lieut. H. Eardley Wilmot, Mr. W. A. Jeffrey. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. Fitch, Miss E. Flory, Miss B. Shaw, Miss E. Smith. **JAMAICA.**—M. A. H. Scott. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. E. Hargreave, Mrs. F. Pogson.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," April 2nd, 1902:—Mr. H. S. Atkins, Mr. E. Atkins, Mr. J. Atkins, Mr. E. Allen, Mr. Barker, Mrs. Brash, Lieut. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Coote, Capt. Sir Keith Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. James Fulton, Miss Green, Miss Gamble, Mr. J. W. Hodgson, Miss Jackson, Miss H. M. Jackson, Mr. W. F. Marsden, Miss McBryde, Mr. R. Miller, Mr. C. P. Penny, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Miss W. A. Robinson, Miss M. H. Robinson, Miss Sewell, Mr. A. Scutton, Miss Vaughan, Mr. Waterworth, Mr. and Mrs. A. Dell, Mr. W. Harlow, Miss F. Farquharson.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," April 12th, 1902:—JAMAICA—Mr. Britton, M. A. Clodd, Mr. F. A. Edelston, Mr. C. W. Edelston, Mr. Edwards, Mr. R. S. Haughton, Mr. St. John, Mr. Moline, Rev. D. M. Roberts, Mr. R. M. Shinson, Mr. F. A. Wiltshire, Mr. A. Miller, Mr. E. Smith, Serjts. Battist and Thompson.

Rum.

There is no change for the better to record in this market, and the continued heavy arrivals of Demerara have caused the trade to act with extreme caution. Sales being difficult to effect even at a reduction in values for proof descriptions. The volume of business is limited to 800 Puns. Demerara at 10½d. to 1s. 1d., being a decline of 1d. per proof gallon. Jamaicas are generally quiet on the spot with scarcely any business to report, but further crops have been sold at fully steady prices. Total stocks now show a considerable increase on last year, being 24,683 Puns. against 22,439 in 1901, and 16,539 in 1900.

We append the Board of Trade returns:—

| | | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| LANDED | In Mar. | 701,564 | 592,558 | 718,537 | 357,968 |
| | 3 months | 2,642,111 | 2,359,803 | 1,821,019 | 1,165,151 |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. | In Mar. | 359,487 | 367,184 | 553,841 | 445,767 |
| | 3 months | 1,201,795 | 1,504,565 | 1,636,113 | 1,221,423 |
| EXPORT | In Mar. | 85,755 | 67,160 | 90,709 | 74,419 |
| | 3 months | 228,235 | 182,389 | 262,273 | 219,412 |
| STOCK (Gall.) | 31 Mar. | 7,989,000 | 7,339,000 | 6,654,000 | 7,202,000 |

STOCKS IN LONDON.

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| JAMAICA. PUNS. .. | 6,208 | 6,356 | 6,351 | 9,729 |
| OTHER W. I. ISLANDS .. | 810 | 504 | 416 | 657 |
| DEMERARA | 10,129 | 9,534 | 4,535 | 4,028 |
| FOREIGN | 2,211 | 1,812 | 1,186 | 637 |
| BRITISH EAST INDIA .. | 1,709 | 1,155 | 549 | 317 |
| VATTED | 3,616 | 3,078 | 3,502 | 3,531 |
| TOTAL | 24,783 | 22,439 | 16,539 | 18,899 |

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD. The market opened with a flat tone at the commencement of the last month, and with supplies largely in excess of the demand the feeling of depression has continued down to the close. At the public sales 10,872 bags were offered, and of this quantity less than 2,000 bags were sold in the room, although within the last few days about 1,800 bags have been disposed of privately. Prices have continued to give way, and closing quotations show a decline of about 3s. to 5s. per cwt. viz:—51s. to 62s. 6d. for low middling to middling red, 63s. to 65s. for good middling and 66s. to 85s. for fine and superior.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| IMPORTED 1st Jan. to 5th April .. | 20,467 bags against | 10,841 bags. |
| DELIVERED | 16,865 | 17,934 .. |
| STOCK, 5th April | 17,450 | 18,934 .. |

GRENADA.—The tone of this market has been rather quiet during the month, but there has been a fair trade demand, and of 10,090 bags offered at the sales, a considerable proportion found buyers. Prices generally are to 1s. to 1s. 6d. cheaper, and at the close we quote 52s. 6d. to 54s. 6d. for ordinary to good fair, and 55s. to 59s. for middling to fine.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| IMPORTED, 1st Jan. to 5th April . | 31,512 bags against | 22,252 bags. |
| DELIVERED | 25,329 | 21,326 .. |
| STOCK, 5th April | 14,701 | 9,402 .. |

West India Produce.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (Landed terms) PIMENTO ... | 2½d. to 3d. per lb. | LOGWOOD ... | ... £4 5s. to £4 7s. 6d per ton. |
| GINGER ... | 34s. to 60s. per cwt. | LOGWOOD ROOTS | £4 |
| BEE SWAX ... | £7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt. | FUSTIC ... | ... £4 to £4 5s. per ton. |
| HONEY ... | 14s. to 24s. per cwt. | " ROOTS ... | ... £3 15s. to £3 17s. 6d. per ton. |
| LIME JUICE | 10d. to 1s. 2d. per gall. | | |

The Arrowroot Position.

The majority of St. Vincent growers signed an agreement on February 27th last to hold all arrowroot from March 20th at 2d. per lb. as a minimum price, irrespective of quality, the agreement to remain in force till November 30th. This places the market in a somewhat anomalous position, and it is feared that buyers will now pick out all the best marks at 2d. leaving "good manufacturing" root alone. If this is so it will tell hardly on some shippers later on.

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Tons. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| BRITISH GUIANA — | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Mar. 25th, 1902 | 31,944 | 10,197 | 26,636 | — | 19,088 | 528 | 114 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Mar. 27th, 1901 | 21,317 | 9,089 | 361 | — | 19,275 | 53,250 | 407 | | |
| JAMAICA — | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Cwts. | Banana Bunches. | Co'nuts. | Oranges. | | |
| Apr. 1st to Mar. 8th, 1902 | 14,802 | 1,510,429 | 22,702 | 89,323 | 10,331,784 | 16,746,019 | 82,328,837 | | |
| Apr. 1st to Mar. 31st, 1901 | 17,059 | 1,434,530 | 18,861 | 85,239 | 8,251,077 | 12,691,901 | 87,953,505 | | |
| TRINIDAD — | Bags & Bcls. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | Co'nuts. | Molasses Puns. | Tres. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to Mar. 26th, 1902 | 107,051 | 64 | 12,159,080 | 10,000 | 26,671 | 3,512,204 | 1,700 | 34 | 25 |
| Jan. 1st to Mar. 26th, 1901 | 147,581 | 51 | 5,792,250 | 10,080 | 46,141 | 2,376,970 | 522 | 18 | 27 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 5th April | 220,386 | 171,492 | 58,765 | 52,570 | 77,913 |
| France, 1st March | 625,971 | 553,053 | 507,247 | 570,000 | 516,000 |
| Germany, 1st March | 1,268,896 | 997,791 | 854,433 | 874,348 | 1,004,983 |
| Hamburg, 9th April | 143,800 | 85,400 | 72,600 | 66,600 | 139,500 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st April | 546,000* | 492,087 | 490,439 | 442,083 | 443,524 |
| Holland, 1st April | 111,912 | 75,068 | 63,610 | 46,288 | 86,137 |
| Belgium, 15th March..... | 147,511 | 73,440 | 104,280 | 101,403 | 124,089 |
| United States, 9th April, Total Stocks | 3,064,479 | 2,448,331 | 2,211,374 | 2,153,292 | 2,392,146 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 9th April, Total Stocks | 110,000 | 197,533 | 154,424 | 192,699 | 307,900 |
| Cargoes afloat, 19th April | 384,000 | 220,828 | 108,820 | 91,949 | 109,500 |
| | 13,160 | 7,041 | 27,023 | 64,123 | 70,844 |
| Total..... | 3,571,639 | 2,873,733 | 2,501,641 | 2,502,063 | 2,880,390 |

* Estimated.

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), April 1st, "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." April 14th, "Very dry, rain wanted." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) April 4th, "It is again raining, but we have had an interval of a few fine days." April 12th, "Finer weather since last message, generally acceptable." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), April 4th, "Weather rather too heavy." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), April 8th, "Demerara too wet, favourable elsewhere." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), April 2nd, "Fine with occasional light showers." (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), April 10th, "Weather showery, but not interfering with sugar making."

Special Notice.

Members will greatly oblige if they will remit to the Secretary the amount of their subscriptions for the current year, due on January 1st, at their earliest convenience. Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Billiter Square Buildings. Back numbers of the West India Committee Circulars (New Series)—with the exception of Nos. I-II, 13 and 29-32, which are out of print—can be obtained from the Secretary, post free 6d. per copy.

Algernon E. Aspinall,
Secretary.

West India Committee.

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

Tuesday, April 29th, 1902.

The Relief for the Sugar Industry.

The efforts of the West India Committee to bring home to the Government the serious results which will accrue, if immediate steps are not taken for the temporary relief of the Sugar Industry, pending the abolition of Bounties in 1903, have not been without avail. In presenting his Budget to Parliament on the 14th inst., Sir Michael Hicks-Beach stated that he thought that it would be necessary in the course of the Session to ask Parliament for some assistance for the sugar growing Colonies, pending the time when bounties were abolished by the Convention which had been signed at Brussels. On the following day during the discussion on the Budget Proposals he said that he was unable to say what the grant in aid to the sugar-producing Colonies in the West Indies would be and precisely of what nature it would be. But it certainly would not be more than £250,000 and it might be less. He added, "the reason it is to be granted is this. Owing to the present low price of sugar, the condition of the sugar-growing industry in some of the islands at the present time is simply deplorable. It would not be in order for me to enter into that subject to-night, but at the proper time my right hon. friend, the Colonial Secretary, will be able to place the circumstances before the Committee, and I do not think the Committee will hesitate to grant any aid in such a manner and after full consideration, as may be shown to be required and may be proposed to be given by the Government. (Hear, hear.) The reason it is wanted is this. We had hoped that in arriving at an agreement at the Brussels Conference, it might be possible to arrive at an agreement which should commence within a very short period of its being arrived at. For reasons which it is not necessary to enter upon, it was found necessary to postpone the commencement of the Convention under which the sugar bounties will be abolished until September 30th, 1903; and I have no doubt that at the proper time my right hon. friend will be able to show that the position of the Colonies up to the time at which the bounties are to be abolished will be of such a nature that some temporary aid must be granted in order to save some of these islands from absolute ruin and the population possibly from starvation."

The Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at the Committee Room, on Thursday, April 24th, at 3 p.m.

Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Chairman of the Committee, presided, and there were also present :—Mr. Henry K. Davson, the Deputy-Chairman, Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Sir E. Noël Walker, K.C.M.G., Mr. Mayson M. Beeton, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. Colin Algernon Campbell, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. E. A. De Pass, Mr. William Goodwin, Mr. George Hughes, Mr. E. Kynaston, Mr. Alexander Neilson, Mr. John Price, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. A. Trotter, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The Secretary having read the Notice convening the Meeting, the Chairman said: Now, gentlemen, I presume you will take this report as read. I think that this report gives a very good summary of the work that the West India Committee has been doing during the past year, and I think

that you will all admit, and I believe our friends in the Colonies will admit, that we have done good and useful work in their interest during the past year. I think also you will all admit that we might perhaps have done more had we had more means at our disposal, but when I look at our balance sheet, I confess I am almost ashamed of it. We started with a balance of £84, and although during the year we have only spent something under £1,110, we remain at the end of the year with a balance in hand of £2 9s. 10d. I think it must be very evident to everybody that that is not a very dignified position for the West India Committee to hold, and if it were recognised on the other side of the water, as I believe it universally is, that we are doing good work for them, I think it must be evident to them that that work is very much cramped and very much crippled by our want of means. Now, I may point out to you that during the last year or two, we have been contributing very large sums to the Anti-Bounty League, and I am sure that everyone will agree that that money has been exceedingly well spent. I wish to throw it out to-day as a suggestion, whether the time has not come when the Governments of the different West Indian Colonies might very fairly make some small contribution to this Committee. I think when you look round here, that even this room is quite unworthy of the position the West India Committee holds in respect to the West Indian Colonies, and that if we had a larger room, a better room, and better accommodation, I have not the least doubt that West Indians who come home here would make a very much greater use of the West India Committee rooms than they do at present. I have thought it well to throw that out to you, because I really think the time has come when the work we are doing for the West Indian Colonies should be more generally and publicly recognised than it has been hitherto.

Now, in regard to the past year, our main question has, as usual, been the sugar bounties, but we do seem now, at last, within sight of the solution of that question. There are still six months to elapse before the Convention, which has been agreed to, at Brussels, need be ratified, but at the present moment I do not see any reason to doubt that that ratification will take place. Unfortunately we all know that accidents do happen, and nobody can foretell or foresee what may happen during the next six months, and therefore, until that time has elapsed, and until the Convention has been ratified, we cannot feel absolutely certain that we are out of the wood. But of this, I, for one, do feel very certain, that if that Convention is ratified and does come into force, the West Indian problem will have been solved. We have been, I think, for thirty years trying to persuade successive Governments that the West Indian problem was the sugar problem. For years and years they combated that, and they have for years and years tried to set up something else which would make us independent of sugar. They have absolutely failed in that, as we foresaw that they would, and I think that they are now just as convinced as we are that if they wish to solve the West Indian problem, it will have to be done through sugar. Now having said that, I do not wish it for a moment to be supposed that we are not, all of us, exceedingly anxious to see everything else encouraged which can, with propriety, be encouraged. I do not think it is any use spending money in endeavouring to start an industry which has no chance of standing on its own legs, but I have no doubt there are many other industries in the West Indies which could be developed a good deal beyond what they are now. With regard to all of these industries, and, of course, the largest of them is cocoa, which is still a very prosperous one, all I need say is to repeat what I have said over and over again in this room, that the West India Committee are quite as anxious to do anything it can to support any of these industries, as we should do in the case of sugar, but, as I have often remarked here, we cannot do much good for them unless they let us know what they want us to do. We are, many of us, interested in other industries than sugar. I am interested in cocoa as well, and I am interested in cocoanuts, and I have no doubt many of you have other interests, but still, we do require to hear from these different industries what are the points that are of interest to them, and what are the points in which we can be of any use to them, and if they can keep us well informed, I will

undertake to say that the West India Committee will be at all times perfectly ready and willing, and I am sure you all will confirm me in that, to do anything we can to promote their best interests.

Perhaps you would now like me to say a word about the assistance which, we understand, is going to be rendered to the sugar industry by the Government. I am sorry I cannot tell you much. The fact is that really I know nothing more than what the Chancellor of the Exchequer has already announced in Parliament. Unhappily, the sum they have proposed to give for the relief of the West Indies will not exceed £250,000. I think you will agree with me that it depends very largely how that £250,000 is distributed, as to whether it will be the means of saving the industry, and enabling it to tide over the period or not. I can quite conceive ways in which that £250,000 might be frittered away without doing any good to the sugar industry at all. On the other hand, if that £250,000 is wisely administered and distributed, it may be the means, provided sugar does not fall any further—and I am afraid we cannot, any of us, say it will not—it may be the means of enabling the West Indies to tide over this very very black period which we can all see is ahead of us.

I do not like to sit down without saying a word about the Imperial Department of Agriculture. I think we all fully recognise the good work that that department is doing. If its advance has not been quite so rapid as some enthusiastic gentlemen expected at the first commencement, to my mind the advance has been as rapid as we had any right to expect. I think that we must have a certain amount of patience, but I believe that a very important boon is already received from that department. Although, perhaps, it is premature to say that we have any cane which, under good circumstances—circumstances of good soil and fairly favourable seasons—can beat the Bourbon cane, I think we can certainly say this, that we have now got seedling canes, which under unfavourable circumstances and in poor soil, distinctly do beat the Bourbon canes, and that is a very great gain undoubtedly. I do not see any reason to despair yet of still further improving the quality of the cane that we grow, or getting rather a better variety. I am rather inclined to doubt whether the Conference, which is annually held in Barbados, is carried on in a manner which is most suitable for doing the largest amount of good. I think that when you come to practical questions and scientific questions, such as that of the selection of seedling canes, that it is of great importance that the work that has been done during the past twelve months should, as it were, be classified and analysed and reported on by qualified gentlemen. I am inclined to think that if Dr. Morris could see his way to carrying on that Conference nearer to the manner in which the British Association is carried on, that is to say, by means of sections, which would be composed of gentlemen who will be specially qualified to look after the specialities of the work that would be referred to the separate sections, we might get more classified results of the year's work, that would be of great importance. I should like to throw this out as a suggestion to Dr. Morris, because we all recognise the earnestness with which he is working in this matter, and I am quite sure that he will be quite ready to accept any suggestion of the kind, and that he will give it his best consideration. I think that is all I need say, and I will conclude by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Deputy-Chairman: I beg to second that, and while I do so I should like to make a few remarks. We have all listened to the very interesting address that the Chairman has been good enough to make to us. We have all, I think, read the Report which covers a period of twelve months. It is very difficult in a short summary of that kind to go into all the details of the work that has been done during that period, but it is just in those details that we can trace the master mind of our Chairman. He has gone into everything that has happened in this place during the whole of that period, and I can say from the special position I occupy, by the kindness of the Committee, that

I can vouch for the fact that nothing has escaped his notice. Every detail is known and it is through him that we have been able to accomplish what we have done during the past twelve months. Of course it is impossible for anyone to work out a collection of details without some assistance, and in passing I may observe that he has been well assisted by our Secretary, to whom we are also indebted for the fortnightly Report, which has become a very readable document.

I was very glad to hear the Chairman allude to the fact that the West India Committee is not confined to sugar alone. I have always tried during my visits to the Colonies to inculcate that into the minds of the people. For many years it has been considered that the West India Committee is absorbed in sugar alone. It is not the case. Every industry that can be brought forward to increase the prosperity of the West Indies is be taken up, if we have an opportunity, by the West India Committee, but I can endorse what the Chairman has said, that we have often not an opportunity of doing so, because they have not only not subscribed to the Committee, but they have not kept us in touch with all that they are doing, and with all that they want us to do. It is impossible that we can advocate particular interests unless we are educated up to it.

It is natural that on an occasion of this kind our minds should be focussed on the Convention. I think that we are greatly indebted to Mr. Chamberlain for what he has done, because I am quite sure that he has been at the bottom of the whole thing, in bringing about the Conference that has resulted in a Convention that will promote the prosperity of the West Indies if properly carried out. We are also indebted to him for having appointed our Chairman as an expert adviser to the Delegates, because I am quite sure that but for the fact of his having been at their elbow, we should have been worse off at the end of the Conference than before it. I feel sure that it was largely owing to his presence at Brussels that the Convention was ultimately arrived at. I give full credit to the Delegates for all that they wished to do, but it was utterly impossible that they could grasp all the minor points that were so important to us. I should like to close these few remarks I have made by moving a resolution and it is thus :—

“That the grateful thanks of the West India Committee are due, and are hereby given to their Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, not only for his able and general services in the past, but for his wise recommendations as expert adviser to the British Delegates at the Brussels Conference, which has led to a Convention that if honestly observed by all the Powers will be the means of restoring prosperity to the West Indies.”

The CHAIRMAN : I think, perhaps, Gentlemen, we shall be more regular if I put first of all to the meeting the adoption of the Report and Statement of the Accounts.

The motion was then put to the meeting and agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Spencer H. Curtis : I shall be very pleased to second the motion with which the Deputy-Chairman concluded his speech. Speaking from experience I can testify to all that our Chairman has done to promote the welfare and interests of the West Indies.

The Deputy-Chairman put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman : Mr. Davson and gentlemen, I am very much obliged to you for the kind resolution you have just passed. It has always been a great pleasure to me to do anything I can to promote the best interests of the West Indies, and I need hardly say it has been an exceedingly great pleasure to me to see that all the trouble and the labour that we have taken for the last 30 years over this

Bounty question, at last, apparently, is in prospect of being crowned with success. I should not like it to be thought for a moment here that there was any difference of opinion between myself and the Delegates at the Meeting at Brussels. It is quite true, as Mr. Davson has said, that there were certain points that did arise as to which I could see considerable importance, that, perhaps, would not be so obvious to a gentleman like Mr. Phipps to whom the Sugar question was perfectly new ; but while saying that I should not like it to be thought that there was any difference of opinion between us, at the same time I beg to thank you all very sincerely for your kind vote of thanks.

THE CHAIRMAN :—Then, gentlemen, our next business is to elect nine members to the Executive Committee in place of nine retiring by rotation, namely, Messrs. W. Goodwin, H. Hales, A. M. Lee, F. Lubbock, E. L. Marshall, E. Packard, W. C. C. Park, W. P. B. Sheppard, and J. D. Taylor. These gentlemen retire by rotation from the Executive Committee by virtue of Rule 6, but being eligible, desire to submit themselves for re-election. I shall have great pleasure in proposing that those gentlemen be re-elected.

The Deputy-Chairman : I beg to second that.

The motion was put to the meeting and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard : I have a motion to submit. It follows, Mr. Chairman, from one of the paragraphs in the Report, namely, as to the cane sugar movement. I am not quite one of the junior members of this Committee, having joined it in 1872, and I should not attach much importance to this if after much experience I had not found it a very essential thing for us and for everyone. All here at least know all about it, and I am only proposing to move this encouraging sort of resolution to the Executive Committee :

“That the Executive Committee be requested to continue their support of the efforts made by friends of the West Indies and Demerara to create and stimulate a preferential demand on the part of the public for the natural cane sugars of those Colonies.”

That, more or less, is the resultant of a long experience. It is not because I have neglected the bounty question, because in the past, I believe, I was very assiduous at it, and worked very hard at it. (Hear, hear.) But I am bound to say, I think, I should like to see something more directly, and more immediately affecting the price of sugar, if it could be brought about, and I believe that nothing can do it better than by creating a demand or specialising a demand for our sugar. Two facts were mentioned to me almost within the last few days and one is this. A grocer at Brighton, having 100 tons of sugar, confessed that the public selected for 90 of these tons the coloured beet crystals ; for the remaining 10 they selected genuine Demerara sugars, and he said that it was his opinion that they did so by pure inadvertence and that a very little guidance by means of a little advertising, and a little encouragement would have led him and enabled him to have reversed those percentages. This also within the last few days. A large wholesale organisation in or near Manchester, dealing in 100,000 tons of sugar, paid over £1,000,000 in duty last year, were actually in touch with the gentleman who is representing us, Mr. Hankinson, representing a small Company that we have been pushing the Demerara sugar, and the only reason that was alleged why they could not give that preference, or why at all events, he could not bring them to the point of business was the question, “Are you going to advertise your sugars? If so, then we can give you some orders, but until we are asked for them, we cannot take them or stock them at all.” I hope I am not detaining you too long, because I feel very strongly on this point, and I have exhausted other methods of dealing with the West Indies, as I believe is your experience as regards bounties. I do think every encouragement ought to be given to

the efforts of those who are aiding or stimulating the preferential selection of the natural Sugars of the West Indies, instead of these dyed imitations.

Mr. E. R. Davson : Have much pleasure in seconding that.

The resolution was put to the meeting and agreed to.

THE CHAIRMAN : Then, gentlemen, I think that really completes our business, but before we leave this room I am sure you will all agree with me in passing a vote of thanks to our Secretary, and I think we all agree that he has done very good work for the West India Committee. I think that it is largely owing to his efforts that the West India Committee is becoming more popular, as I believe it is in the West Indies, and I think our thanks are due to him for his services. (Cheers.) I should like just to say one word about Mr. Beeton. We cannot pass him a vote of thanks as our Secretary, but when our Secretary is away he gives us all the assistance he can, and I think, therefore, it would be your wish that we should also pass him a vote of thanks for what he has done for us.

The resolution was put to the Meeting and carried unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

The Sugar Duties.

Adverting to the sugar duties, which, as we had reason to anticipate, have undergone no modification, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the course of his budget statement, said—"Sugar produced £6,390,000, as compared with my estimate of £5,100,000. (Hear, hear.) The main reason for the great excess was that there were large forestalments on sugar in December, January, and February, in anticipation, perhaps, of an increased duty. I think I may claim that the sugar duty has been most successful. (Hear, hear.) It has been successful in two ways, and for two reasons. In the first place, I wish to bear my strong testimony to the admirable work done by the Customs authorities in devising the details of the tax, and the tact and judgment with which they have carried it into execution. That has contributed greatly to the smoothness with which it has worked. In the second place, I have had a stroke of good fortune in the circumstances of the year. There has been, as the Committee are perhaps aware, an exceptionally good harvest of beet sugar ; and that has lowered the price of sugar to such an extent that, so far as wholesale purchasers of sugar are concerned, I believe for several months past they have been paying no more than from 1s. 10d. to 2s. a cwt. more, after paying duty of 4s. 2d. per cwt., than they paid a year ago. And although no doubt at first as I anticipated, the retail purchaser of sugar had the price raised upon him to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the pound, yet even that has gone down in many places certainly to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the pound, and I believe in some cases to no increase at all, as compared with the prices last year when there was no duty on sugar at all. (Hear, hear.) I hope it will be felt by the Committee that the somewhat doleful prophesies which came from some hon. members whom I now see on the benches opposite, including the right hon. gentlemen the leader of the Opposition, as to the terrible burden that this sugar duty was about to impose on the working classes, have, to a great extent at any rate, been falsified."

The Proposed Jamaica Agency.

The Report of the Sub-Committee appointed on March 6th last, to consider certain proposals submitted to them by the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture, for the appointment of an Agent to represent Jamaica in this Country, was adopted by the Executive Committee on April 16th instant. After summarising the correspondence submitted to them the Sub-Committee report that they are strongly in favour of the representation of Jamaica by an Agency in this Country. They fully appreciate the difficulties as pointed out by the Sub-Committee of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, standing in the way of the appointment of any

individual to act as Agent for the Island; and in view of Mr. Chamberlain's statement that it would be impossible to appoint an Official Agent-General for Jamaica to occupy a position in any way similar to that of the Agents-General of the Self Governing Colonies, may dismiss from their consideration of the appointment of an individual. They are, however, of opinion that the functions of an Agent for Jamaica might be adequately performed by the West India Committee. If this were done, it would eventually be necessary to increase the accommodation of the Committee, and an extra clerk would have to be employed.

Pending the receipt of further advices on the subject from Jamaica, the Committee suggest that a permanent Sub-Committee be appointed to watch over Jamaican affairs, the resolutions of such Sub-Committee to be subject to confirmation of the Executive Committee, and the Chairman of the West India Committee to be *ex officio* Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

The Coronation.

The West Indies will be represented at the Coronation by Sir Walter Joseph Sendall, G.C.M.G., the late Governor of British Guiana. Sir Walter Sendall will be a Royal Guest, and will also represent the Bermudas, British Honduras and the Falkland Islands. A movement is on foot to erect an arch representing British Guiana and the West Indies on the line of route of the Coronation procession. The Westminster City Council have placed at the disposal of the Committee of the West India Club a site for this purpose.

Herr F. O. Licht's Estimates.

In his monthly report issued on the 19th inst., Herr F. O. Licht gives the following Estimate of European Beet Sugar production for 1901 and 1902, as compared with the preceding campaigns.

| | 1901/02 | 1900/01 | 1899/00 | 1898/99 | 1897/98 | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| GERMANY | 2,300,000 | 1,984,186 | 1,798,631 | 1,721,718 | 1,852,857 | tons. |
| AUSTRIA | 1,320,000 | 1,094,043 | 1,108,007 | 1,051,290 | 831,667 | .. |
| FRANCE | 1,200,000 | 1,170,332 | 977,850 | 830,132 | 821,235 | .. |
| RUSSIA | 1,110,000 | 918,838 | 905,737 | 776,066 | 738,715 | .. |
| BELGIUM | 350,000 | 393,119 | 302,865 | 244,017 | 265,397 | .. |
| HOLLAND | 200,000 | 178,081 | 171,029 | 149,763 | 125,658 | .. |
| OTHER COUNTRIES | 400,000 | 367,919 | 263,919 | 207,115 | 196,245 | .. |
| Total | 6,880,000 | 6,046,518 | 5,518,048 | 4,982,101 | 4,831,774 | tons. |

The campaign of 1901-1902 would thus appear likely to show a surplus of 833,000 tons over that of 1900-1901.

Regarding the probable beet area for the year, Herr Licht estimates that it will be 1,791,500 to 1,903,500 hectares as compared with 1,961,123 hectares in 1901. Assuming this to be correct, the sugar quantity would be 6,285,000 tons, to 6,677,000, while this year's production in Europe is estimated at 6,880,000 tons of raw sugar at the least.

The Jamaica Riots.

Sir Augustus Hemming, the Governor, has returned to Jamaica, and has appointed the Chief Justice, Sir Fielding Clarke, the Officer commanding the troops, and an elected Member of the Legislature, as Commissioners to investigate the facts and causes in connection with the recent riots at Montego Bay. A further riot has taken place at Annotto Bay, but we learn by telegram that it was in no way connected with the disturbances at Montego Bay, being confined entirely to Indian Coolies who were celebrating the feast of Hassan Hosein.

The West India Club.

Mr. L. De Mercado presided over the fortnightly Dinner of the West India Club on April 16th inst. Among those present were Sir James Hay, K.C.M.G., Major Laurence, Sir E. Noël Walker, Innis Bowen, Esq., G. Firth Franks, Esq., W. A. M. Goode, Esq., G. Hughes, Esq., A. Johnson, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., J. C. Lynch, Esq., A. De Mercado, Esq., H. Powell Rees, Esq., J. Rippon, Esq., F. I. Scard, Esq., R. Rutherford, Esq., E. Marsh Webb, Esq. The arrangements for to-morrow's Club Dinner have been undertaken by Mr. A. E. Aspinall. It was hoped that the English Cricket Team which has just returned from what has proved to be a most successful tour through British Guiana and the West Indies, would be present, but in view of the commencement of term at the Universities and the opening of the cricket season, they found it impossible to accept the invitation of the Club.

New Members.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee on April 16th inst., the following were elected Members of the West India Committee :—

| Name. | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ARTHUR BRAUD, Esq. | S. H. Curtis, Esq. | C. A. Campbell, Esq. |
| MISS LEACOCK. | T. W. Wilkinson, Esq. | Hon. F. M. Alleyne. |
| HON. C. J. SIMMONS. | W. Goodwin, Esq. | R. Rutherford, Esq. |

The West Indian Mail.

The R.M.S. "Atrato" reached Plymouth at 7.45 a.m., on Wednesday, April 23rd, and the Mails were delivered in London by the first delivery on April 24th. Among the passengers were the Hon. C. T. Cox, the Administrator of St. Kitts, and the English Cricket Team, which under the captaincy of Mr. R. A. Bennett, has completed a most successful tour through British Guiana and the Islands. We sincerely hope that our members visiting this country, will notify to the Secretary their address in order that he may keep them notified of the West Indian Fixtures likely to take place in connection with the Coronation Festivities.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), April 9th. On the 4th, Sir Henry Moore Jackson, distributed the prizes won at the Agricultural Show. The weather had been dry, only occasional showers having fallen, which however, up to the time of writing, had sufficed to keep the sprouts green. Some estates were doing exceptionally well as far as output was concerned, whilst others showed a disappointing result. This was due in great measure to the ruinous loss in extraction to which many estates were subjected from their antiquated machinery and worn out mills. The loss in this direction alone was immense. Each year brought the Island to a worse pass, and until central factories were established, an enormous proportion of the crop of the Island would continue to be burnt as fuel. Some sugars had changed hands locally at 1.35 per 100 lbs. for '89, and molasses have been delivered at 7½ cents per gallon, including puncheon. As that package cost what represented 4 cents, the margin of 3 cents 1½ per gallon for the molasses, which meant almost a free gift of it after the expenses of filling, carting, &c., were considered.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), April 11th. The late Attorney-General had been raised to the Bench, and the Solicitor-General had been appointed to act in his place, with Mr. C. P. Clarke as Solicitor-General. Prices of sugar and molasses had again dropped to \$1.00 and \$1.20 per 100 lbs. for lhd. and bags respectively, with \$5.00 for package, and 7 cts. per gall., with \$4 for puncheon. The weather continued very dry, and everything was being scorched. Unless rain came very soon there would be another difficulty to contend with. Crops were progressing favourably, and in most parts the yield was very fair. There had not been much sugar sold to date, planters relying on molasses' sales to work them in, and it was to be hoped that the Government might yet do something which would justify their holding. Owing to Mr. Gardiner-Austin's lamented death a vacancy had occurred on the local West India Committee. The writer had been appointed by the Committee of Commerce as their representative, and had accordingly been obliged to resign as representative of the Agricultural Society. The Hon. W. K. Chandler had been appointed in his place.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), April 9th. At a Meeting of the Combined Court on April 8th, a proposal to vote some \$10,000 for the purpose of sending home a contingent of Police from the Colony to take part in the Coronation proceedings and for local celebrations was thrown out. It was felt that they could not afford to spend the money, and it was accordingly to be left entirely to private effort to provide for any local celebrations. Very little business had been transacted during the fortnight, the arrival of the English Cricketers having occupied the attention of all classes. There was nothing doing whatever in produce. The market was dull, and refining crystals were quoted at \$1 65. The weather had been much too wet in Demerara, although the last three days had been fine and bright. In Berbice and Essequibo the rainfall had been lighter.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), April 9th. Much satisfaction was felt in the Island at the increase in salary and power given to the Administrator, and the increase in salary to the Treasurer as announced by the Governor a fortnight before. At the last meeting of the Federal Council, Dominica's contribution to the Federal expenditure was increased to approximately one-fifth of the whole. On the 4th inst. the Victoria Memorial Library was formally opened by the Hon. H. H. Bell, although the collection of books and papers are not yet complete. The building, which though small was very well designed, and stood in the Public Gardens opposite the Court House, it would prove a great boon to the public. The itinerary of the coastal steamer "Yare" had been changed, she now went right round the Island and made fortnightly trips to Martinique. Sufficient showers of rain had fallen during the fortnight.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas), April 9th, 1902. The visit of the team of English Cricketers, captained by Mr. Bennett, proved a most pleasurable event. The second match was very exciting, as the probability of a win for Grenada and St. Vincent was in view during the final stages of the contest. A finer lot of men would be hard to find, and their chief desire seemed to be to enjoy everything, and to meet everyone with a delightful cordiality. The Grenadians thoroughly enjoyed the visit; and in their enjoyment they do not forget that Lord Hawke was the inaugurator of these Cricket contests, and the inspirer of the visit of Mr. Bennett's team. The cricket of Mr. Bosanquet, Mr. Dillon, and Mr. Fane impressed Grenadians most. On their side Mr. Mignon was most successful with the bat, and Mr. Oliverre, of St. Vincent, with the ball. Occasional showers were mitigating the dry season, which was now coming to its end. The idea that Grenada would produce a very large crop was likely to prove ill-founded: a thousand bags in excess of last crop was the most that we calculated on. The result of the Brussels Conference had stirred many a heart with hope, and it has awakened numbers to the value of the empty lands that were admirably adapted to cane cultivation.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), April 8th. Mr. Charles T. Cox, the administrator, returned to England by the Mail for a six months' vacation. In the course of his address to the Legislative Council on March 26th, he was able to announce that for the first time for eight years the expenditure for the financial year had been covered by the Revenue without Imperial aid. The adjournment was, however, only effected by a rigid curtailment of expenditure, the revenue having shown no expansion. As to the outlook, Mr. Cox said:—"In conclusion I would say that while the short financial statement put before you is no doubt satisfactory, the fact must be emphasised that it does not in itself indicate a permanent return of prosperity. The immediate future of St. Kitts-Nevis is the future of the Sugar Industry. Of that future it is too soon to speak, but we are at least free to face it with a clean balance sheet and restored financial credit, important factors in the attraction of capital. It is also my earnest hope, Gentlemen, that the Presidency which by economy and self-denial has all but emerged from dependence on the Imperial Exchequer, may be deemed to have earned for itself the most favourable consideration in any measures of assistance which may be found necessary and possible for the sugar-growing Colonies of the Crown."

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), April 11th. Praedial Larceny was greatly on the increase in the Island, and there had been fires in some quarters. With the Arrowroot crop drawing to a close, and few canes there were likely to be reaped by the end of May, the condition of the labourers was going to be serious.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick), April 10th. The direct mail service from Southampton to Trinidad was in a fair way of being arranged. The Chamber of Commerce had passed a resolution approving the latest offer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., and subsequently the Legation Council by a vote agreed to pay an additional subsidy of £5,000 per annum for the remaining three years of the existing contract, on condition that the trans-atlantic steamers went direct to Trinidad from Barbados on the outward journey, and called at Trinidad immediately before going to Barbados on the homeward journey. The speed being accelerated between Barbados and Jamaica. Jamaica would not suffer by this change. Jacmel would be dropped as a port of call, and passengers and their luggage would be embarked and landed free of charge. A contingent of the local forces was to be sent to London to represent the Colony at the Coronation—25 cavalry and 25 infantry with three officers. The Revolutionists' steamer, "Ban Righ," was still in Port of Spain harbour, being watched by the Venezuelan gunboats, while H.M.S. "Indefatigable" was watching both. The weather kept fine for crop reaping, with occasional welcome showers. The sugar crop was about half-way through, and that it would be a good one was beyond doubt. How the majority of the sugar planters would carry on till September, 1903, at present prices, however good the crops were, was a difficult problem.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," April 23rd, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mrs. J. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Nicholson, Rev. Macine, Mr. and Mrs. Braddon, Miss Macquarrie, Rev. J. G. and Mrs. Pearson, Mr. T. H. Balyey, Mr. J. B. Tyme, Mr. W. P. Weber, Mr. F. P. Stubbs, Mr. C. Jardine, Mrs. Wieting, Miss Wieting, Dr. De Freitas, Mr. and Mrs. W. Mearns, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Woodroffe, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Macquarrie, Mrs. A. E. Johnson, Mr. E. K. Davson, Mr. F. H. Hollins, Mr. E. W. Dillon, Mr. J. L. Fane, Mr. E. C. Lee, Mr. E. R. Wilson, Mr. T. R. Dashwood, Mr. R. N. Blaker, Mr. E. M. Dowson, Mr. B. I. Bousanquet, Mr. L. Arbuthnot, Mr. White, Mr. Kirk, Miss Vyfhins, His Honor C. T. Cox, Mrs. C. T. Cox, Right Rev. Bishop of Antigua, Mrs. Earle, Miss E. Green, Gen. Pemberton, Mr. W. W. Selwyn, Dr. Passarge, Mr. Rodger, Miss M. Cumming, Mr. B. H. Stephens, Miss F. Tronchin, Mr. McMonics, Mr. T. W. Knaggs, Mr. R. de Plessis, Capt. J. B. Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Cochrane, Miss Cochrane, Mrs. Bousignac, Major-Gen. J. C. Stewart, C.B., Major and Mrs. Hanbury, Mr. C. A. Langmore, Master G. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Deau, Mr. C. D. Manico, Mr. E. Norton, Mrs. R. S. Cheesman, Miss Cheesman, Mr. W. R. Jardine, Dr. Low, Miss E. Everard, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Thorne, Mrs. Bennett, Mr. Bulman, Miss Sealy, Miss Field, Mrs. and Miss Browne, Miss A. H. Chandler, Baroness Halkett, Mrs. J. B. Saunders, Mrs. Murray, Dr. and Mrs. Deane, Mrs. Whish, Master C. H. Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, Miss Henderson, Miss Shankland, Mr. Mark Kerr, Mrs. E. S. Wortley, Mr. R. N. Bromley. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. W. R. Hulton, Major-Gen. Gough Calthorpe, Mrs. Gough Calthorpe, Miss Calthorpe, Rev. S. M. Leveridge, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Rev. W. Bramley Moore, Mr. J. Haddon, Miss de Wend, Mr. J. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Flett, Mr. and Miss Courage, Mr. O. R. Simner, Mr. G. F. Davies, Mr. E. J. Williams, Mrs. and Miss Graham, Mr. Graham, Mr. O. George, Mr. and Mrs. Winterbotham, Mr. Godfrey Chapman, Hon. F. Parker, Mrs. Sexton, Mr. and Mrs. Hazeldine, Mrs. Stanley, Miss Bird, Miss Fyfe, Mr. J. Maw, Miss Fynn, Mr. A. F. Fynn, Miss Fischer, Mr. H. B. Beckett.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," April 30th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. H. A. Williams, Mrs. L. E. Shuthel. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. F. W. Collier, Mr. B. Greene. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. Groves. **ANTIGUA.**—Detachment of 3rd Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers, Mrs. Wright. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. T. J. C. Davenport.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," April 16th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Lord and Lady Auckland, Mr. and Mrs. Ziba Armitage, Miss Winifred Armitage, Mr. and Mrs. Adams, Mr. J. T. Brown, Miss A. Brown, Rev. W. R. Browne, Mr. Burgess, Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Clare, Mr. Callister, Hon. W. Eden, Hon. F. Eden, Mr. Ellis Edwards, Misses Ellis Edwards, Col. and Mrs. Frankien, Mr. C. Britton, Mr. Robert Combe, Mr. W. W. Fisher, Rev. J. W. Gedge, Mrs. Gibbs, Mr. Giveen, Miss Heckford, Mr. Hulme, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. E. A. H. Haggart, Mr. E. Haigh, Mrs. Hart, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. A. W. Joynt, Col. and Mrs. H. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Law, Lieut. Lewis, Mrs. Bycroft's Maid, Mr. H. Haddick, Mr. McIntyre, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. Nickson, Capt. Harold Neale, Miss Roxburgh, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Rycroft, Mrs. Henry Sharpe, Mr. J. M. Saunders, Mr. Small, Mr. Shears, Mr. and Mrs. Thursfield, Miss Thursfield, Mrs. Tivy, Mrs. Tresland.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," April 26th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. T. Baillie, Mr. S. Bolam, Mr. Charles Burn, Miss Burn, Miss — Burn, Mr. J. Curnock, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Crum Ewing, Mr. J. Krausse, Mr. Howell Russell, Mrs. Hilda B. Singleton.

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 19th April | 223,786 | 202,021 | 55,133 | 48,365 | 77,886 |
| France, 1st April | 571,002 | 421,398 | 486,861 | 520,000 | 471,000 |
| Germany, 1st April | 1,135,479 | 838,754 | 718,108 | 752,209 | 885,874 |
| Hamburg, 23rd April..... | 139,000 | 74,600 | 58,700 | 68,100 | 137,300 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st April | 543,800 | 492,087 | 499,439 | 442,083 | 443,524 |
| Holland, 15th April | 106,274 | 66,301 | 56,453 | 42,078 | 79,714 |
| Belgium, 1st April | 141,693 | 60,266 | 99,889 | 95,875 | 120,009 |
| | 2,861,034 | 2,155,427 | 1,965,583 | 1,968,710 | 2,215,307 |
| United States, 23rd April, Total Stocks | 115,000 | 186,300 | 177,692 | 202,397 | 345,317 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 23rd April, Total Stocks..... | 392,000 | 209,104 | 103,897 | 86,086 | 81,396 |
| Cargoes afloat, 24th April | 13,160 | 7,041 | 19,250 | 58,768 | 61,709 |
| Total..... | 3,381,194 | 2,557,872 | 2,266,422 | 2,315,961 | 2,793,729 |

Subscriptions.—Special Notice.

Members will greatly oblige if they will remit to the Secretary the amount of their subscriptions for the current year, due on January 1st, at their earliest convenience. Particulars of Membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, Billiter Square Buildings. 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.

Brussels Conference Correspondence.

The correspondence relating to the Sugar Conference at Brussels, 1901-1902, has now been published in the form of two Parliamentary papers [Cd. 1,013] and [Cd. 940]. In our next Circular we propose to summarise these papers, which cover the period from February, 1901 to March of the current year. Meanwhile copies have been posted to our Honorary Correspondents in British Guiana and the West Indies.

Proposed Central Factories for Jamaica.

With Mr. Chamberlain's approval the Government of Jamaica introduced a Bill into the Legislature, on April 15th inst., guaranteeing interest on loans for the erection of central sugar factories. Much satisfaction is expressed at this step.

Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and the West Indies.

Upon the requisition of thirty-three members a West India Section of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool has been formed. Among the signatories of the requisition was the West India Association of Liverpool, which, however, has decided not to merge its identity in the West India Section, Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd., Messrs. Crosfields, Ltd., Messrs. Czarnikow & Co., Messrs. Fawcett, Preston & Co., Messrs. A. Garnett & Co., The Imperial Direct West India Mail Co., Messrs. William Alfred Jones & Co., and Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co. At a meeting of this newly-formed section held yesterday it was decided that the Chairman and Committee should be elected by ballot.

The Report on British Guiana for 1900-1901.

The Annual Colonial Report on British Guiana for 1900-1901 has just been published. From this it appears a wider interest in the cultivation of products other than sugar has been for some time apparent, and there is a more general disposition to regard the soil as the natural field of employment for the majority of the people. A movement for establishing a peasantry on the Crown lands has been aided by recent legislation. Under the former system of land grants the poor man was unable to take up lands, but since 1898 the number of grants has increased rapidly, and last year these amounted to 11,314 acres, while in the previous year the area was 10,925 acres. Last year the revenue was £509,950, and the expenditure £505,492. Three-fifths of the revenue are derived from Customs. The public debt is under a million sterling. The imports amounted to £1,393,528, and the exports to £2,068,406; of the latter more than half consisted of sugar. The exports last year were the largest for the past five years. The United Kingdom absorbed over 48 per cent. of the total trade, the United States 42 per cent., and other British possessions over 7 per cent. The population of the Colony at the end of 1900 was 294,943. Immigration from India continued steadily, the number of immigrants during the year being 4,470. Much progress was made in marking the boundary laid down by the Venezuelan Arbitration Tribunal.

West India Produce.

(Landed terms)

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| PIMENTO ... | 2½d. to 3d. per lb. |
| GINGER ... | 34s. to 60s. per cwt. |
| BEEFWAX ... | £7 15s. to £8 2s. 6d. per cwt. |
| HONEY ... | 14s. to 20s. per cwt. |
| LIME JUICE | 10d. to 1s. 2d. per gall. |

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| LOGWOOD ... | ... £4 5s. to £4 7s. 6d. per ton. |
| LOGWOOD ROOTS | £4 per ton. |
| FUSTIC ... | ... £4 to £4 5s. per ton. |
| „ ROOTS ... | £3 15s. to £3 17s. 6d. per ton. |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Tons. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds. Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| BRITISH GUIANA — | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Apl. 8th, 1902 | 32,013 | 10,296 | 26,656 | — | 23,125 | 624 | 114 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Apl. 10th, 1901 | 24,160 | 9,410 | 361 | — | 22,421 | 57,250 | 407 | | |
| JAMAICA — | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Coffee. Cwts. | Banana Bunches. | Co'nuts. | Oranges. | | |
| Apr. 1st to Mar. 22nd, 1902 | 15,249 | 1,546,272 | 23,952 | 92,624 | 10,886,956 | 17,613,819 | 83,839,537 | | |
| Apr. 1st to Mar. 31st, 1901 | 17,059 | 1,434,630 | 18,861 | 85,239 | 8,251,077 | 12,691,901 | 87,953,505 | | |
| TRINIDAD — | Bags & Brls. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee. lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | Co'nuts. | Molasses Puns. | Trcs. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to Apl. 9th, 1902 | 170,174 | 64 | 14,084,500 | 15,840 | 32,401 | 3,745,904 | 1,125 | 34 | 25 |
| Jan. 1st to Apl. 9th, 1901 | 199,358 | 51 | 6,495,034 | 14,720 | 50,600 | 2,602,970 | 891 | 59 | 66 |

Weather Telegrams.

BRITISH GUIANA.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), April 19th, "Heavy rains generally." Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), April 23rd, "Weather still too heavy for cultivation, but we have had a few fine days lately." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), April 24th, "Weather all that can be desired." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) April 25th, "Finer weather since last message generally acceptable."

Publications Received.

General.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

Handbook of Jamaica, 1902. Imperial Department of Agriculture Report for 1900. The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, March, 1902. The Louisiana Planter. The Financial News. The Produce Markets Review. Our Western Empire, Vol. 1., No. 10, April. The International Sugar Journal, Vol. 4, No. 40, April. Statutes of Jamaica from 1681 to 1901. West India Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 1. Wine Trade Review, April.

Market Reports.

Barbados Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Gardiner, Austin & Co.). Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.). Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.). Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown). Demerara Market Report (Messrs. Wieting & Richter). Jamaica "Gleaner" Mercantile Intelligencer (The "Gleaner" Co., Ltd.) Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. G. R. Alston & Co.). Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.). Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & 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., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.

West Indian Newspapers.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <i>The Antigua Observer.</i> | <i>The Berbice Gazette (British Guiana).</i> | <i>The St. Christopher Advertiser.</i> |
| <i>The Antigua Standard.</i> | <i>The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).</i> | <i>The St. Christopher Gazette.</i> |
| <i>The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i> | <i>The Dominica Guardian.</i> | <i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i> |
| <i>The Barbados Advocate.</i> | <i>St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).</i> | <i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i> |
| <i>The Barbados Globe.</i> | <i>The Daily Gleaner (Jamaica).</i> | <i>The Sentry (St. Vincent).</i> |
| <i>The Clavion (British Honduras).</i> | <i>The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).</i> | <i>The Mirror (Trinidad).</i> |
| <i>The Argosy (Demerara).</i> | <i>The Jamaica Times.</i> | <i>The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).</i> |

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

West India Committee.

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

Monday, May 12th, 1902.

The Martinique Disaster.

A disaster of appalling magnitude has overtaken the French Island of Martinique, involving the complete destruction of the town of St. Pierre, and the immolation of the majority of its inhabitants. For some time past symptoms of volcanic energy and seismic disturbances had manifested themselves, and at 8 o'clock, as far as can be gathered, on the morning of May the 8th, a violent eruption of Mont Pelée, which overshadows St. Pierre, took place, totally destroying the town and the majority of the inhabitants. It is, indeed, at present estimated that the loss of life amounts to 30,000. Most of the shipping in the Bay was destroyed, including the *Grappler*, cable ship, and the *Rovaima*. The *Roddam*, however, of the Direct Line, managed to escape and reach St. Lucia. It is natural that the deepest anxiety should be felt as to the safety of the neighbouring islands. St. Kitts and Dominica appear to be safe, and with commendable promptitude Mr. Bell, the Administrator of the latter Island, has, with the approval of the Executive Council, forwarded provisions to the value of £100 to Martinique. St. Vincent is, however, in a worse position, and there the Souffrière appears to have been in violent eruption, and already 500 lives have been lost, while the Carib estates and everything on them have been destroyed.

From official despatches received, it would seem that in the first week in May slight earthquakes had been frequent to the north of St. Vincent, and on the 6th, at 3 a.m., a dense cloud of steam arose from the Souffrière. The inhabitants were greatly alarmed and swarmed into Châteaubelair, where 300 were fed. No disturbance was felt at Kingstown. On May 10th, Sir Robert B. Llewelyn cabled from St. Lucia, that the eruption at St. Vincent was still proceeding and that 30 deaths were reported. In Barbados, loud reports resembling artillery fire were heard on the afternoon of the 8th, and a steady downpour of dust continued from 3 o'clock in the afternoon till night time, with the result that in the morning Barbados was covered inches thick.

The following telegram of condolence has been sent to the Colonial Minister in France: "West India Committee of Planters and Merchants trading with the West Indies desire to convey to the French Government and People the expression of their sincere and heartfelt sympathy at the appalling disaster at Martinique. Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Chairman, Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary."
—May 12th.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday next, the question of raising a relief fund in aid of the sufferers will be raised. Any such appeal on behalf of our neighbours in the West Indies would, we are confident, meet with a ready response, but the disaster has been so overwhelming that financial assistance may be too late. By Thursday, however, it will be possible to gauge more accurately the extent of the calamity.

The Present Situation.

No announcement has as yet been made as to extent or nature of the assistance to be accorded to the Sugar Industry, to enable it to tide over the period until the Brussels Convention, if ratified, takes effect. This delay is causing some uneasiness, and we have urged upon the Colonial Office that the end of the present month is the latest time when the assistance to be effective must be forthcoming. Such is the general feeling in the West Indies, and much surprise has been felt at a statement of the Governor of Barbados, which appears in the Blue Book containing the Sugar Bounty Correspondence, that the crisis would not improbably begin towards the end of June.

The Late Sir Harry Langhorne Thompson, K.C.M.G.

With deep regret we have to announce the death of Sir Harry Langhorne Thompson, K.C.M.G., who died suddenly at Government House, St. Lucia, on Monday, April 28th last. Sir Harry Thompson was born in London, on February 6th, 1857, and was the eldest son of Sir Ralph Thompson, K.C.B., who retired from the War Office, after 41 years' service, in July, 1895. He was educated at Winchester College, and was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Paphos, Cyprus, in 1879. Two years later he was transferred to Limassol, and in 1883 was promoted to be Commissioner of Paphos. In 1892 Mr. Thompson was appointed Chief Secretary to the Government of Cyprus, and, in 1895, Administrator of St. Vincent, in succession to Colonel J. H. Sandwith, C.B. In September, 1898, the island was visited by a severe hurricane, which caused widespread destruction, and reduced large numbers of the inhabitants to destitution. Mr. Thompson and his wife, a daughter of Mr. Bosworth Smith, the Harrow master, worked night and day to alleviate the condition of the sufferers. Mrs. Thompson wrote a very graphic account of the hurricane, which was reproduced in *The Times* of October 1, 1898. In recognition of his services Mr. Thompson was created a K.C.M.G. in 1900, and was promoted to be Administrator of St. Lucia, in succession to Sir C. A. King-Harman. Sir Harry Thompson was a Vice-President of the West Indian Club.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the West India Committee, on May 1st inst., the following resolution was adopted unanimously :—

“This Committee having heard with sincere regret of the death of Sir Harry Langhorne Thompson, K.C.M.G., desires to record its sense of the services rendered by him as Administrator of St. Lucia, and also as Administrator of St. Vincent, where he did so much to alleviate the distress caused by the disastrous hurricane of 1898, and hereby instructs the Secretary to convey to Lady Thompson and the Family their expression of heartfelt sympathy at the loss which they have sustained.”

Messrs. Park, Macfadyen & Co.

A preliminary meeting of the principal creditors of Messrs. Park, Macfadyen & Co., the announcement of whose failure was received with very general regret on May 3rd last, was held on May 9th, when it was resolved that they should present a petition to the Court of Bankruptcy at once, and that Mr. Charles Fitch Kemp, Chartered Accountant, of 36, Walbrook, E.C., should be recommended to be appointed Special Manager, with a view to the protection of the interest of the Creditors.

A Committee of four was appointed to advise with him as to any important matters which required to be dealt with immediately. Assurances were given at the meeting that any assistance (for which security could be given) required for the carrying on of any of the Jamaica estates, would be forthcoming.

Liverpool and the West Indies.

At a Meeting of the West India Section of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool, held on May 6th, it was resolved that each of the following firms elected by ballot should appoint a representative to serve on the Committee for a period of three years. Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Crosfields, Limited, Evans, Sons, & Co., G. H. Fletcher & Co., Wm. Gossage & Sons, Limited, Hawkes, Somerville & Co., Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, Leech, Harrison & Forwood, Sandbach, Tinne & Co., The West India Association of Liverpool, Nicholas Waterhouse & Sons, and Wright, Crossley & Co.

The Cane Sugar Movement.

The following information arising out of a recent correspondence with Mr. T. Hankinson, should prove encouraging to our Cane Sugar Planters. It appears that out of £1,000,000 paid by a large wholesale Co-operative Society in the north last year in duty on dutiable articles generally, the proportionate amount on Sugar alone was £454,000. These large and representative buyers, responsive to the wishes and tastes of their customers, stock no yellow Beet Crystals, but maintain a preferential selection of genuine Cane Sugars and an archway of sugar-canes at present adorns the entrance to their sale room.

The Sugar Conference Correspondence.

The Correspondence relating to the Sugar Conference at Brussels has now been published in the form of two Parliamentary Papers emanating from the Foreign Office (Miscellaneous No. 5, 1902, Cd. 1013), and the Colonial Office (Cd. 940). Of these, the first contains the communications which passed between the British and Belgian Governments, and led to the reassembling of the Conference, the sittings of which were suspended in June, 1898. On December 12th, 1901, instructions were given to the British Delegates in a despatch by Lord Lansdowne. He pointed out that a preliminary tripartite arrangement was concluded at Paris in October, 1900, between France, Germany and Austria-Hungary, providing for the abolition of bounties on sugar by Germany and Austria-Hungary, whilst France was to be permitted to retain a portion of her indirect bounty, her direct export bounty being entirely abolished; and that His Majesty's Government would greatly prefer that France should undertake to also abolish entirely her indirect bounty, or else to arrange for its gradual extinction by successive and periodical further reductions.

The Instructions continue :—

“ You should endeavour to secure consideration for this view; but if France will not entertain it, His Majesty's Government are prepared to give their assent in principle to the Paris arrangement as the best solution at present attainable, and provided that the concurrence of the other sugar-producing States represented at the Conference be secured.

“ 3.— Considering that it is of urgent importance, in the interests of the British West Indian Colonies and of the sugar-refining trade in the United Kingdom, that effective steps should be taken for the abolition of the bounties, His Majesty's Government would be prepared to concur in the adoption of a penal clause, if it should become evident that such a measure is absolutely necessary to secure the conclusion of an agreement for the suppression of the bounties between a sufficient number of the Powers concerned, and provided that His Majesty's Government were satisfied with the conditions under which the clause would be applied in case of need.

“ It would be necessary, in any case, that the penal clause should be so framed as to leave it open to His Majesty's Government to prohibit the entry of bounty-fed sugar into the United Kingdom, such a penalty being, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, preferable to a resort to countervailing duties.

“ Some difficulty will no doubt arise as to the application of the penal clause should France still be permitted to retain a portion of her internal bounty, and you will be careful to consider the bearing of existing Treaties between Great Britain and foreign powers which contain most-favoured-nation clauses, either in regard to customs duties or to the prohibition of entry of goods.

"4.—The question of "Cartels," or Sugar Trusts, will no doubt come under discussion during the proceedings of the Conference.

"You should press strongly for the abolition or due regulation of this system, whether by a reduction of the existing difference between the amount of the customs and the excise duties, or by other sufficient means.

"In case you should find it impossible to reach an agreement on this point, you will refer home for instructions as to the course to be pursued.

"5.—Any Convention which may be agreed upon should be made applicable to the United Kingdom alone, and the fiscal arrangements as between the United Kingdom and the British Colonies and Possessions should be left outside the Convention.

"Should this latter provision meet with serious opposition you should apply to His Majesty's Government for further instructions.

"6.—Instructions in regard to India are given in a separate despatch for your guidance.

"7.—The above instructions are given for your general guidance in the conduct of the negotiations, but you should refer home for instructions, in case any other points of difficulty or importance should be raised during the proceedings.

"You will make it clear to the Conference that you are not at present empowered to sign any Convention, and that assent given by you to any Article in the course of the negotiations is only *ad referendum*, and subject to the ultimate approval of His Majesty's Government, who must be able to study the complete text of any proposed Convention before they can finally decide whether it is acceptable."

On December 21st, 1901, the delegates summed up the work of the Conference to that date, and applied for further instructions which were accordingly addressed to them by Lord Lansdowne on January 17th, as follows:—

"1.—Penal Clause.

"His Majesty's Government authorize you to accept a Penal Clause of general application, excepting to sugar from British possessions.

"It should be stipulated that the advantages to be retained by France should be allowed to all countries entitled by Treaty to most-favoured-nation treatment.

"2.—You are authorized to make the Declaration suggested by the Austro-Hungarian Delegate, qualified, however, so as to run as follows:—

"Great Britain declares that there exist no direct or indirect bounties on the production or exportation of sugar in the Crown Colonies. It is understood that as long as the Convention remains in force the Government of Great Britain has no intention of encouraging or provoking the establishment of a bounty of any kind on sugar in the Crown Colonies in excess of the bounties reserved to France and to the French Colonies."

"3.—You are authorized to state that His Majesty's Government will invite the British self-governing Colonies to adhere to the Convention, subject to entire freedom of Imperial fiscal relations.

"You can therefore agree to a Clause providing for the adherence to or withdrawal from the Convention of any British Colony.

"4.—As at present advised, His Majesty's Government are of opinion that no higher surtax than 5*l.* per 100 kilog. can be considered satisfactory.

"5.—With reference to your inquiry whether I have any further instructions to give you in the event of its being found impossible to reach any agreement, I have to instruct you to await the declarations of Germany and Austria-Hungary on the subject referred to in the last paragraph. In the event of their refusal to lower the difference between their customs and excise duties on sugar, you should make, at the earliest moment that may seem suitable, a Declaration as nearly as possible in the following terms:—

"His Majesty's Government accepted the invitation to the Conference in the belief that the tripartite Arrangement of Paris, 1900, which has been unanimously adopted as the basis of its discussions, was intended by the Powers parties to it to effect the abolition of bounties under whatever form, subject to the reservation with regard to the amount of indirect bounty to be retained by France.

"In the course of discussion, however, it has become evident that this object would not be in fact effected by that arrangement unless the disproportion between the customs and excise duties on sugar in some of the principal sugar-

producing countries were confined within certain limits, on the principles agreed to by the Conference of 1898; and it appears probable that, unless agreement on this point can be arrived at, the Conference must prove abortive.

““ His Majesty's Government feel that such a result, involving the continuation of an unequal competition between the various sugar-producing countries in the international market, would be contrary to the real interest of all of them; but their main reason for desiring to terminate a system which has tended, for the time, to cheapen the price of sugar to consumers in the United Kingdom, has been their conviction of its injurious effect on their sugar-producing Colonies in the West Indies.

““ In these circumstances, the British Delegates are instructed to declare that if this last of several efforts which the Powers have made to terminate the system should share the fate of its predecessors, His Majesty's Government will be bound to propose to Parliament such measures as will, in their judgment, be sufficient to meet the case.’

““ In the event of any other difficulty arising which, in your judgment, is likely to prevent an agreement for the conclusion of a Convention, you will report it for further instructions.’

““ As regards the duration of the Convention, you may accept five years, but you should press for the earliest possible date for its coming into force, while reserving to His Majesty's Government perfect liberty of action in the meantime.

““ In so far as concerns the French “*détaxes de distance*,” you may assent to whatever may be agreed to by the other Powers concerned.’

““ As regards the suggestion that a declaration should be made by the British Delegates that, in the event of Great Britain ever becoming a sugar producing country, excise duties corresponding to the import duties would be imposed, the fiscal policy of this country is so well-known that it would appear to be unnecessary to add anything to the reference already made by you to the action taken by Parliament last year in imposing a duty on glucose, the only form of sugar at present produced in the United Kingdom. If, however, you should be pressed for a further Declaration, you should state that if any limit to the difference between import and excise duties be embodied in the Convention, His Majesty's Government would, of course, be bound to observe this limit, but that there is no reason why they should bind themselves further than other countries are prepared to do.”

This despatch was accompanied by a statement to show that the fiscal system of the United Kingdom gave no advantage, as was alleged, to the refiners. On February 27th, 1902, definite bases for an agreement were submitted to the various Governments, and these were subsequently embodied in the Convention signed on March 5th, the full text of which appeared in the *West India Committee Circular* 66. The correspondence closes with a despatch from Lord Lansdowne thanking the British delegates, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, for their services, and Mr. Pittar, Sir Nevile Lubbock, and Mr. George Martineau, for placing at their disposal their exceptional knowledge of the complicated questions connected with the sugar trade.

The second paper issued by the Colonial Office covers a period from November, 1901, to March, 1902, and embodies the communications passed between the Colonies and the various representative Associations of the Planters and the Governments. On November 12th, 1901, Mr. Chamberlain informed the Governors of the self-governing Colonies that the Conference would probably shortly reassemble and that the Government proposed to suggest a clause, providing that no convention that was approved should be applicable to the Colonies, unless notice of their adhesion were given by them within a certain interval after its signature. The replies of the respective Colonies were favourable. Petitions and Memorials from Barbados, Trinidad, the Leeward Islands, St. Lucia, and British Guiana, confirm in a striking manner the representation which the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE were making to the Government, as to the critical state of the sugar industry and the importance of the immediate abolition of bounties. Then follow Memorials of a similar nature from the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool, and various merchants, and a letter from the Anti-Bounty League to Mr. Chamberlain, pointing out the disastrous effect which the collapse of the sugar industry would have upon British Guiana and the West Indies. On March 6th, Mr. Chamberlain announced that the Sugar Convention was signed on the 5th inst. The Colonies were unanimous in congratulating Mr. Chamberlain for his good services, but were compelled to point out immediately after, that the condition of the sugar industry must remain critical until the Convention came into force, and urging His Majesty's Government to take steps for a relief of the sugar planters during the eighteen months' interval.

West Indian Affairs.

The R.M.S. "Trent," anchored off Plymouth at 9.40 p.m., on Tuesday, May 6th, and letters were delivered by first post on May 7th.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), April 22nd. The weather had been extremely hot and dry during the month, and rain was needed to promote the growth of the young plants. Crop operations were progressing rapidly and the yield continued fairly satisfactory. The removal of the Governor, Sir Henry Moore Jackson, to Fiji, was causing general disappointment. During his brief tenure of office he had displayed exceptional powers of administration, and appeared to be specially qualified to cope with the many economic problems of the Leeward Islands.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), April 25th. Resolutions were passed on April 15th, extending for another six months the period for ratification of the Reciprocity Convention pending with the United States. Regarding the prospects of Codrington College, it was feared that with present prices the estates could not be looked to to provide an adequate source of income, though they were well managed, and the crops, especially on College Estate, were good. The weather continued very dry, and the rainfall for the year to date averaged only about three inches. The yield had consequently gone back, and the sugar was not tasting as well as it might. Reaping operations were progressing rapidly, and many estates would soon finish, in fact the crop had never been so forward for many a year. The falling off in the yield was undoubtedly due to want of rain during January and February. Prices on April 25th were \$1.00 and \$1.20 per 100 lbs. for Hhds. and Bags respectively. Molasses $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents per gallon and \$4.00 per puncheon. There had been a tendency to hold for better prices, but planters were bound to sell, owing to want of room and money.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), April 23rd. A Meeting of the Planters' Association was held on April 16th, to consider a circular from the Acting-Surgeon General as to the need of microscopes for diagnosing Anchylostomiasis in Estates Hospitals. It appearing that the disease is preventable, it was agreed that every possible measure should be adopted to stamp it out, and it was decided to accede to the request for microscopes on the understanding that no further assistance should be required in the hospitals to attend to their investigations.

As the outcome of the Government's proposals for dealing with the question of the Rum Surtax, Mr. Steel, C.B., of the Excise Department out in Demerara, where he was visiting most estates with a view to finding out what it costs the Planters per gallon of rum to comply with the regulations of the Spirit Ordinance.

Much regret was felt at the death, at sea, on board the R.M.S. "Atrato," on April 16th, of Mr. James Thomson, Member for Berbice, and late Proprietor and Editor of the *Dycesy*.

The Sugar market could hardly be in a worse condition. Refining crystals were quoted at \$1.57. A sale of 500 tons was made on April 22nd, at a trifle under, and another sale on the day of writing at a fraction over that figure. The weather, although much too wet at different times during the fortnight was then fine and bright and favourable generally.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), April 24th. A public meeting was to be held on the following day to discuss what should be done to commemorate the Coronation. Small shipments of green limes were beginning to be made to the United States. Slight, but sufficient, rains were continuing.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.) April 18th. The riot at Montego Bay had been much exaggerated. A certain number of roughs, led on by the lewd women of the town, attacked a police force too few in numbers to protect themselves, with the usual results. As a whole, there had been too little rain. The manufacture of sugar was drawing to a close, and the yield had latterly been very good. More showers—which would be acceptable—were expected. The Council of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture was trying to secure for Jamaica, the old floating dock at Bermuda, when the new one was delivered.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), April 22nd. Crop was working smoothly, and the weather continued favourable. Nice showers, which were good for the old as well as for the young growing crop, continued to fall.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), April 25th. The weather was splendid for reaping operations.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick), April 24th. Notwithstanding the indifference with which the West India Colonies were treated, much money was being voted for and much loyal feeling shown in organising suitable demonstrations for the Coronation. The weather kept good for harvesting, and they had frequent showers which were welcome.

The West Indian Club.

The following gentlemen were present at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club, presided over by Mr. A. E. Aspinall:— Sir E. Noël Walker, K.C.M.G., G. B. Baker, Esq., P. J. Dean, Esq., Capt. Foulkes, R.E., G. F. Franks, Esq., W. A. M. Goode, Esq., C. A. Hicks, Esq., A. Johnson, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., L. De Mercado, Esq., A. Mc. D. Nathan, Esq., H. A. A. Nicholls, Esq., Hon. A. C. Ponsouby, and R. S. Wilcoxon, Esq.

The next dinner will take place to-morrow, at 7.30 p.m., the arrangements being undertaken by a Dinner Committee consisting of the Hon. A. C. Ponsouby, L. de Mercado, Esq., and J. Rippon, Esq.

New Members.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on May 1st inst., the following new Members were elected:—

| Name. | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| J. R. BANCROFT, Esq. | T. W. Wilkinson, Esq. | G. Carrington, Esq. |
| S. CLAUZEL, Esq. | Hon. E. Du Boulay. | Edward G. Barr, Esq. |
| C. JONGUE, Esq. | Hon. E. Du Boulay. | Edward G. Barr, Esq. |
| REV. CANON LORAINÉ ESTRIDGE. | Cyril Gurney, Esq. | E. L. Marshall, Esq. |

This brings the number of Members elected during the current year to 17.

The Royal Exchange Colonial Exhibition.



Our Illustration represents part of the West India Section of the Royal Exchange Colonial Exhibition, which was finally closed on May 3rd last. During the six weeks it remained open it is estimated that the average attendance daily was no less than 25,000. The West Indian Stall attracted a large amount of attention, and its object will have been achieved if it leads to a very small percentage of the visitors turning their attention to the Pure Cane Sugar and other Products of the West Indies, which were so tastefully arranged by Messrs. James Philip & Co., of 4, Fenchurch Buildings, E.C., The Direct West India Cable Co., and other firms.

‘The Agricultural News.’ *

With a view to supplying, in a popular form, information of an agricultural character suited to the requirements of the West Indies, the Imperial Department of Agriculture has undertaken the publication of a fortnightly review, entitled “The Agricultural News.” The first number of that publication which has reached us contains many interesting articles regarding the Agricultural products of the West Indies, the diseases with which some of them are associated, and other information which should prove invaluable to Planters, and command for this useful publication a ready sale.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. “Trent,” May 7th, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Mr. P. L. and Mrs. Dillon, Miss Manning, Mrs. T. B. Evelyn, jun., Mr. J. W. C. Catford, Miss Lee, Mrs. Munro, Miss Delamere, Mr. W. Jeffrey, Mr. R. C. Catford, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Berkeley, Miss Sybel Chandler, Mr. J. E. James, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hoad, Mr. J. G. Crompton, Miss Crompton, Mrs. Evelyn Arkwright, Miss Goff, Major-General and Mrs. Byam, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bailey, Mr. G. S. Bailey, Mr. P. D. George, Mr. Albert Goudie, Mr. John Goudie, Miss Blencowe. DEMERARA.—Mr. G. Perch, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Wright, Mr. George Giles, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brice, Rev. Archdeacon and Mrs. Heard, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Smellie, Mr. H. J. Taylor, Mr. W. Whale, Mrs. W. M. Steele and three Ch., Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Bounker, Mrs. Ozzard, Mr. J. Persand, Mrs. H. J. Taylor, Masters J. and T. Irving, Mr. W. H. Dunkin. JAMAICA.—Capt. and Mrs. R. J. Edmunds, Rev. R. G. and Mrs. Ambrose, Mrs. Nethersole, Miss E. Nethersole, Mrs. Lane, Dr. R. L. Verley, Miss C. Pearson, Rev. and Mrs. Ashton, Miss Thomas, Mr. C. W. K. Bovell, Mr. J. Few, Miss Smythe, The Hon. L. J. Bertram, Mr. James Dew, Mr. T. Dew, Mr. H. Clark, Mr. J. G. Hyndman, Miss Hyndman, The Hon. Evelyn Ellis, Mr. S. Lings, Mr. A. E. Henton, Mr. C. Arthur Head, Miss Head, Mr. J. Greenless, Major and Mrs. Bertram, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Spedding, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tonks, Miss Tonks, Mr. B. Fetherstone. TRINIDAD.—Miss Corbally, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Hargreaves, Miss Coddington, Dr. Seccombe, Mr. W. W. Todd, Mrs. D. L. Todd, Mrs. G. F. Fenwick, Mr. Edgar Johnstone, Mr. T. K. Blakely, Mr. J. A. Robertson, Miss Gladys Maloney, Miss Jones, Viscount Campden, Rev. Father May, Mr. C. O. Robertson, Mr. A. T. Taitt, Mr. E. Blanc, Dr. and Mrs. A. Macshane, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. C. Storey, Mr. and Mrs. A. Holler. ANTIGUA.—Master W. K. W. Shand, Miss Janet Lewis, Major A. D. Neeves. DOMINICA.—Miss Scully and Mrs. Scully, Mr. Christopher Head, Miss B. Lockhart. GRENADA.—Mrs. H. E. McEwen, Miss Hagedorn, Miss E. Garraway. ST. KITTS.—Rev. and Mrs. Evered. ST. LUCIA.—Miss Ella Salmon, The Misses Lucy and Lina La Porte, Master Lastic, Mr. Collin Parker, Mr. George Williams, Miss Plummer, The Hon. G. T. Plummer, Mrs. Williams. ST. VINCENT.—Mrs. Dasent. TOBAGO.—Miss A. Clement.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. “Orinoco,” May 14th, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Miss E. Williams, Mr. J. C. Lynch, Mr. A. Cameron. DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. R. O. H. Spence, Mr. Newnham, Mr. and Miss Sloman, Miss J. Greig, Mrs. Mitchell. JAMAICA.—Mr. C. J. Nicholson, Lt. G. E. Painter, 20 Army Invalids, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. Painter. TRINIDAD.—Mr. Guiseppi. ANTIGUA.—Mrs. Goodwin, Mr. G. O. Nugent. ST. VINCENT.—Rev. J. K. Darrell.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. “Antonio,” May 1st, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Rev. and Mrs. R. C. Bacon, Mr. Barton, Mr. Corner, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Clerk, Mr. H. Conran, Mr. Wm. Conran, Miss Conran, Mr. and Miss Cork, Dr. J. L. Cox, Mr. H. N. Carvalho, Mrs. J. DeCordova, Mrs. M. DeCordova, Miss DeCordova, Mrs. Dawber, Miss Dawber, Mrs. Noel de Montagnac, Mr. Wm. Franklin, Miss Geary, Mr. and Mrs. Hood Daniel, Miss Isaacs, Mr. J. P. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Langdon, Mr. T. R. Layborn, Mr. and Mrs. Muir, Miss Melhado, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Malcolm, Mr. and Mrs. C. Morris, Mr. Morris, Jr., Miss Lily Maynier, Mr. A. Muir, Mr. Gaston Martineau, Hon. and Rev. and Mrs. James McNee, Mr. Madden, Mr. K. McDiarmid, Mr. and Mrs. H. Palairet, Mrs. Sanguinetti, Mrs. and Miss Shaw, Mr. Percy Sewell, Mr. A. F. M. Strachan, Mr. and Mrs. John Stokes, Mr. W. V. Townend, Lieut. L. W. Taylor, R. E., Mr. and Miss Verley, Mr. James Henderson, Mr. H. N. Ives, Mr. Robt. McLean, Mr. John Mitchell, Miss Arabella Parris, Miss Tracey.

Sailings per R.M.S. “Port Antonio,” May 10th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Miss A. E. Holden, Mr. A. N. Watney, Lt. E. E. White, Mr. J. W. Wighton, Mr. M. L. Paterson, Mr. Shirley.

*Agricultural News. A Fortnightly Review of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, Vol. I., No. 1. Price 1d. The Agricultural Reporter, 7, High Street, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—During the last month there has been a better demand both for home trade and export, and with holders showing a desire to meet the market nearly 7,000 bags have been disposed of. At the opening a further decline of 1s. to 2s. per cwt. was accepted, but towards the close there has been more firmness and a recovery in prices of about 1s. per cwt. has resulted, existing quotations being 57s. to 60s. for middling, 60s. 6d. to 63s. 6d. for good middling, and 64s. to 85s. for fair and superior :

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED 1st Jan. to 3rd May .. | 26,237 bags against | 14,180 bags. |
| DELIVERED " " .. | 20,437 " " | 19,831 " " |
| STOCK, 3rd May .. | 18,810 " " | 20,376 " " |

GRENADA.—Only 3,126 bags have been offered at the Public Sales during the month, and meeting with a steady demand were all sold at, and since, the auctions. The market is almost bare of supplies, and prices are slightly in favour of sellers, the values of ordinary to good fair being 53s. to 55s. 6d., and middling to fine 56s. to 60s. per cwt.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, 1st Jan. to 3rd May .. | 34,736 bags against | 24,055 bags. |
| DELIVERED " " .. | 33,470 " " | 24,982 " " |
| STOCK, 3rd May .. | 9,784 " " | 7,609 " " |

Rum.

During the past month a quiet tone has prevailed in this market. Towards the close, however, there has been more disposition on the part of the "Trade" to go into stock, importers having met the demand by a further reduction in price of say 1d. per proof gallon. Consequently a fair business in Demeraras has been effected, amounting to about 1,300 puns. at 9½d. to 1s. per proof gallon. There has been a slow demand for Jamaicas, and only a limited quantity has found buyers apart from the crops sold for arrival.

We append the Board of Trade returns, which are anything but satisfactory:—

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| LANDED | In April 565,335 .. | 786,237 .. | 337,381 .. | 265,362 |
| | 4 months 3,244,516 .. | 3,179,805 .. | 2,132,353 .. | 1,449,135 |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. | In April 358,392 .. | 373,295 .. | 280,755 .. | 374,821 |
| | 4 months 1,560,187 .. | 1,877,860 .. | 1,916,868 .. | 1,596,244 |
| EXPORT | In April 70,510 .. | 76,811 .. | 68,528 .. | 73,277 |
| | 4 months 298,745 .. | 259,197 .. | 330,801 .. | 292,689 |
| STOCK (Gals.) | 30th April 8,109,000 .. | 7,533,000 .. | 6,513,000 .. | 6,959,000 |

STOCKS IN LONDON.

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| JAMAICA. PENS. | 6,805 .. | 7,442 .. | 6,398 .. | 9,251 |
| OTHER W. I. ISLANDS .. | 875 .. | 536 .. | 462 .. | 653 |
| DEMERARA | 10,030 .. | 10,452 .. | 4,615 .. | 3,360 |
| FOREIGN | 2,545 .. | 1,693 .. | 1,431 .. | 707 |
| BRITISH EAST INDIA .. | 1,672 .. | 1,653 .. | 437 .. | 249 |
| VATTED | 3,614 .. | 3,190 .. | 3,400 .. | 3,451 |
| TOTAL | 25,541 .. | 24,966 .. | 16,743 .. | 17,671 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 3rd May | 212,307 | 198,821 | 47,063 | 50,376 | 72,472 |
| France, 1st April | 571,002 | 421,398 | 486,861 | 520,000 | 471,000 |
| Germany, 1st April | 1,135,479 | 838,754 | 718,108 | 752,209 | 885,874 |
| Hamburg, 7th May | 164,600 | 84,100 | 77,300 | 99,200 | 158,300 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st May | 488,000* | 417,975 | 405,750 | 359,887 | 392,483 |
| Holland, 15th April | 106,274 | 66,301 | 56,453 | 42,078 | 79,714 |
| Belgium, 15th April | 135,083 | 54,219 | 96,484 | 91,034 | 118,184 |
| | 2,812,745 | 2,081,568 | 1,888,019 | 1,914,784 | 2,178,027 |
| United States, 8th May, Total Stocks | 133,000 | 216,568 | 184,829 | 212,362 | 348,405 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 8th May, Total Stocks | 433,000 | 187,740 | 102,463 | 83,500 | 84,052 |
| Cargoes afloat, 8th May | 14,764 | 7,041 | 21,463 | 55,800 | 46,663 |
| Total | 3,393,509 | 2,491,917 | 2,196,774 | 2,266,446 | 2,657,147 |

* Estimated.

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Tons. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds. Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|
| BRITISH GUIANA— | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Apl. 22nd, 1902 | 33,288 | 11,065 | 26,656 | — | 26,747 | 624 | 645 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Apl. 24th, 1901 | 24,850 | 9,483 | 361 | — | 27,900 | 58,250 | 407 | | |
| JAMAICA— | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Coffec. Cwts. | Banana Bunches. | Co'nuts. | Oranges. | | |
| Apr. 1st to Mar. 31st, 1902 | 15,843 | 1,655,999 | 23,325 | 100,861 | 11,148,708 | 18,085,819 | 84,306,787 | | |
| Apr. 1st to Mar. 31st, 1901 | 17,059 | 1,434,630 | 18,861 | 85,239 | 8,251,077 | 12,691,901 | 87,953,505 | | |
| TRINIDAD— | | | | | | | | | |
| | Bags & Bels. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | Co'nuts. | Puns. | Molasses Tons. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to Apl. 23rd, 1902 | 205,139 | 64 | 15,002,670 | 15,840 | 36,270 | 4,553,524 | 1,156 | 34 | 25 |
| Jan. 1st to Apl. 23rd, 1901 | 296,855 | 51 | 7,449,410 | 14,720 | 57,160 | 3,228,478 | 1,216 | 59 | 168 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), April 29th, "Very dry, rain wanted." May 12th, "Light, partial showers." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 1st, "Too much rain for present requirements, more sunshine wanted." May 10th, "Weather still too heavy for cultivation." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) May 2nd, "Weather favourable for cultivation, except at West Coast, where it is, heavy rain since last message, but now finer." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 7th, "Showery and favourable for cultivation." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 6th, "Fine, with occasional light showers."

Publications Received.

General.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

The Agricultural News. Fortnightly Review of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The International Sugar Journal, May, No. 41, Vol. 4. The Queensland Sugar Journal. The Louisiana Planter. The Financial News. The Produce Markets Review. The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre. Hansard. Trinidad & Tobago, 1901. British Guiana Ordinances, 1901.

Market Reports.

*Barbados Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Gardiner, Austin & Co.).
Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.).
Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown).
Demerara Market Report (Messrs. Wieting & Richter).
Jamaica "Gleaner" Mercantile Intelligencer (The "Gleaner" Co., Ltd.)
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. G. R. Alston & Co.)
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (W. J. S. Tucker, Esq.)
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & 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, Macfaaden & Co., Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.*

West Indian Newspapers.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <i>The Antigua Observer.</i> | <i>The Argosy (Demerara).</i> | <i>The St. Christopher Advertiser.</i> |
| <i>The Antigua Standard.</i> | <i>The Daily Chronicle (Demerara).</i> | <i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i> |
| <i>The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i> | <i>The Federalist and Grenada People.</i> | <i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i> |
| <i>The Barbados Advocate.</i> | <i>The Daily Gleaner (Jamaica).</i> | <i>The Sentry (St. Vincent).</i> |
| <i>The Barbados Globe.</i> | <i>The Daily Telegraph (Jamaica).</i> | <i>The Mirror (Trinidad).</i> |
| <i>The Clarion (British Honduras).</i> | <i>The Jamaica Times.</i> | <i>The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad).</i> |

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.,

Monday, May 26th, 1902.

The Sugar Bounties Convention.

It is announced from Brussels that the Convention has been unanimously ratified by the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. The news from Berlin is less satisfactory. In fact *The Times* correspondent, telegraphing on May 18th, went so far as to state that "it would really seem as if the Brussels Sugar Convention were in danger of being wrecked by the action of the German Agrarians and the weakness of the German Government." The Convention has been referred to a Special Committee, in spite of the appeal for urgency put forward by Count von Bülow, and the vigorous opposition of Count von Posadowsky, the Minister of the Interior, to such a course. He had previously intimated very plainly his belief that if the Convention were not accepted by the Reichstag, it was fairly certain that England would impose countervailing duties on bounty fed sugar.

The action of the Agrarians and the sugar interests is apparently based on the assumption that England is only playing a game of diplomatic "bluff" in this question, an assumption which will be somewhat rudely shaken by the announcement that the Indian Government is taking steps to counter-vail the German and Austrian Cartel Bounties.

It is hoped that this may be soon followed up by the introduction of the Enabling Bill for the ratification of the Convention in the House of Commons with as little delay as possible. If this Bill is so drafted as to confirm the German Ministers' declaration, then it is probable that very little more would be heard of the obstructionist tactics of the Agrarians.

The Volcanic Eruptions.

The past fortnight has been one of continued anxiety in view of the telegraphic reports which have reached us as to the eruptions of the Soufrière in St. Vincent. As these have all been communicated to the Press it is needless for us to recapitulate them in the present *Circular*. Though the loss of life appears mercifully to have been less than that caused by the eruption of Mount Pelée in Martinique, the destruction to property appears to have been even more widespread than that in the French Island. The Governor telegraphed on May 16th that 1,300 bodies had been found and buried, but that no prominent residents or officials had been injured. At least 2,000 animals, horses, mules, donkeys and cattle were killed, while nine of the best sugar estates were seriously damaged. The deepest sympathy will be felt with the sufferers whose troubles will not have been mitigated by the circulation of rumours—apparently not altogether disinterested—that the Island will be abandoned. We have it, however, on the highest authority that this is not the case, and that the British Government have not contemplated taking such a step.

The St. Vincent Relief Fund.

On May 13th, we telegraphed to the Colonial Office—

"Would Mr. Chamberlain approve West India Committee immediately opening St. Vincent Relief Fund, will Mansion House Fund be necessary—Aspinall Secretary."

To this we received the following reply:—

"Much obliged for enquiry, think it best to wait full details expected shortly, present information not reliable—Chamberlain."

Next day, however, the news from St. Vincent became so alarming that Mr. Chamberlain addressed a request to the Lord Mayor that a Mansion House Fund might be opened for the relief of the sufferers. This was promptly acceded to, and the opening of the Fund was announced in the following letter to the Press from the Lord Mayor.

SIR,—I have received the accompanying communication from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, inviting me to open a fund at the Mansion House, for the relief of the terrible distress prevailing among the inhabitants of St. Vincent, consequent upon the recent volcanic eruptions which have caused such appalling and calamitous results, not only in the British, but in the French possessions in the West Indies.

In assenting to Mr. Chamberlain's request and opening a Mansion House Relief Fund, I feel that I shall not have to appeal in vain on behalf of our fellow-countrymen who are suffering from this most awful visitation. Many as have been the claims recently made upon the generosity of the public in this most exceptional year, I yet venture to think that the community will not turn a deaf ear to the bitter cry of anguish and distress which now reaches them from their kith and kin in the British islands in the West Indies. I am informed that help, to be efficient, should be speedily and promptly rendered, and I trust that I may be in a position by the liberality of my fellow-citizens and the public at large, to make an early and substantial remittance to the Governor of the Colony for the alleviation of the distress which now prevails.

As this is not a matter for London only, but for the whole country, I would beg my colleagues the Lord Mayors and Mayors throughout the metropolis and the provinces to aid me in making the Mansion House Fund commensurate with the need which exists.

Donations may be sent to me at the Mansion House, or to the bank of Messrs. Prescott, Dimsdale & Co., 50, Cornhill.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH C. DIMSDALE, Lord Mayor.

The Mansion House, E.C., May 14.

Downing Street, 14th May, 1902.

My Lord Mayor,—

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a telegram which has been received from the Governor of the Windward Islands, reporting the terrible loss of life and suffering caused by the eruption of the Soufrière in the Island of St. Vincent.

2.—I had not felt justified in appealing to your Lordship for aid on behalf of the Island until the Governor had verified on the spot the nature and the extent of the injury and the loss; but his telegram and others confirm, I deeply regret to say, the worst anticipations which had been formed, and I can no longer refrain from asking that a fund may be opened at the Mansion House for the relief of the numerous sufferers by this melancholy disaster.

3.—It will be within your Lordship's recollection that Saint Vincent was laid waste by a hurricane in September, 1898, and that your predecessor in that year used the powerful influence of the Mansion House on behalf of this Island and of Barbados. There is no part of His Majesty's dominions, I may say with confidence, which deserves so truly as Saint Vincent the practical sympathy of the people of this country. In normal times it has been among the most depressed islands in the sorely-trying group of West Indian Colonies, and, in addition, it has now, within the space of four years, been visited by two calamities, which it would be difficult, probably impossible, to parallel in the history of a British Colony.

4.—I am well aware how many calls there have been of late on the generosity of this country, but I should be wanting in my duty as Secretary of State for the Colonies, if I did not venture to impress upon your Lordship, and through you on the public at large, my sense of the urgency of the present case.

I have the honour to be, my Lord Mayor, your Lordship's obedient servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, M.P.

We at once thanked the Lord Mayor in the following letter, which was also communicated to the Press with the announcement that his Lordship was greatly obliged for, and cordially accepted the kind offer of the Committee to receive and forward to him any donations received in aid of the Fund.

MY LORD,

On behalf of the West India Committee of Planters and Merchants trading with the West Indies, and others interested in those Colonies, we desire to convey to you our grateful thanks for the prompt manner in which you have acceded to the request of Mr. Chamberlain to open a Mansion House Fund for the relief of the sufferers from the appalling disaster in St. Vincent.

We feel confident that your Lordship's appeal will meet with generous response from the people of this Country, who so readily came to the assistance of their fellow countrymen when St. Vincent was devastated by the hurricane of September, 1898.

With a view to assisting in some measure the Fund now opened, we wish to say that, as in 1898, we shall be glad to make it known that we are prepared to receive and forward to you any donations towards it which may be addressed to the Secretary at the above address.

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

The Right Hon. The Lord Mayor, M.P.

Weather Telegrams.

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Sandbach, Finne & Co.), May 12th, "Weather all that can be desired." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 15th, "Finer weather since last message." May 22nd, "Weather continues wet." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 22nd, "Showery and unsettled." **TRINIDAD.**—May 13th, "Fine, with occasional light showers."

Volcanic Ash as a Fertiliser.

We are indebted to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for a sample of the Volcanic Dust, which, as the result of the eruption of the Souffrière fell over Barbados in St. Vincent. The *Barbados Agricultural Reporter* of May 10th, gives a graphic description of the scene. "The first week of May was absolutely dry, but sultry and hot, indicative of atmospheric disturbance and presaging rain, but about 2 p.m. on Wednesday the 7th instead of rain-clouds great dust-clouds in rolling masses, wave after wave, came up out of the west and draped both land and sea in sombre grey, darkening the sun, and mantling the land with gloom; and for two hours or more the roar of volcanic battle became detonating across the sea in quick succession with an explosive energy, only to be mimicked by the biggest guns. About 4 p.m. in the afternoon—just 90 years after the last memorable event of 1812—Souffrière once more rained its 'May-dust' on our Island, blotting out the sun completely at 5 p.m., covering all up in darkest night, and tormenting us with the most insinuating dust that it is possible to imagine. The scoriæ seem to have fallen uniformly throughout the Island, in the central districts covering the soil to about two inches; and, as the dust is easily blown about by the winds, for a night and a day our Island became a miniature and very disagreeable Sahara."

Mr. T. W. Wilkinson wrote, on May 10th, that it was estimated that about 2,000,000 tons of the dust had been deposited over the Island. When the mail left a preliminary analysis of the dust had already been made by Professor J. P. D'Albuquerque, the Island Professor of Chemistry and Agricultural Science, with a view to ascertaining if it was likely to prove of manurial value. The learned Professor has expressed his opinion that while the dust when mixed with the heavy clay lands might tend to improve the texture of the surface layers, it has no fertilising value. The dust as measured at "Willey" fell to an approximate depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, and it is estimated that in the neighbourhood of Bridgetown the fall amounted to nearly 20 tons per acre.

The particles for the most part were found by the Professor to vary in diameter between 0.35 and 0.15 millimetres and not exceed 0.5 millimetres.

Dissolved by boiling hydrochloric acid in 1 hour :—

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| Phosphoric acid | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | a trace |
| Potash | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.07 per cent. |

Dissolved by water :—

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Calcium Sulphate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | trace |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|

Present :—

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Sulphide | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | a trace |
| Ferrous and Ferric iron (as silicates?) | | | | | | | | |

Dr. Longfield Smith as a result of a preliminary mineralogical examination reported—

“I find this dust to consist of volcanic minerals and volcanic glass, the minerals predominating.

“These minerals consist chiefly of silicates of iron and magnesia. There is also a considerable proportion of quartz and some potash felspar. I have compared this volcanic dust with a sample of that which fell in this island in May 1812. The two samples differ greatly when observed under the microscope. The dust which fell in 1812 is much finer and contains very few mineral crystals, it being chiefly composed of fragments of dark brown volcanic glass.”

In this connection it is interesting to record that in 1812, when Barbados was similarly covered by dust during the eruption of the Souffrière on April 30th of that year, Sir Humphry Davy subjected the ashes to analysis, and found them to contain silex, alumina, oxide of iron, and oxide of manganese. It is recorded in Sir R. H. Schomburck's History of Barbados that it was afterwards proved that they imparted fertility to the soil upon which they were lying. Professor Ehrenberg, of Berlin, to whom Sir R. H. Schomburck sent some of the ashes, stated that they resembled strikingly those of the Lipari Isles and contained Phytolithariae, organic bodies of terrestrial and fresh water formation.

Reference to the figures of the Barbados Crops in the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 54, shows that in Barbados in 1812 the Sugar crop amounted to 14,484 tons. In the following year the abnormally small crop of 12,345 tons is recorded, while in 1814 it took a sudden jump to 17,732.

Raw Sugar Statistics.

A circular has been issued by Messrs. Czarnikow, MacDougall & Co., of New York (April 23rd, 1902), giving the following interesting statistics regarding raw sugar. The dates embraced in each campaign are from 1st October to the 30th September following. These figures will doubtless prove useful to Members for purposes of reference :—

| SEASON 1897-1898. | | | | | | | | Consumption. |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|
| Visible Supply, 1st October, 1897 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 985,284 |
| Beet Crops, 1897-98 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,825,000 |
| Cane | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,537,000 |
| | | | | | | | | 8,347,284 |
| Deduct visible supply, 1st October, 1898 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 910,171 |
| 1898-1899. | | | | | | | | |
| Visible Supply, 1st October, 1898 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 910,171 |
| Beet Crops, 1898-1899 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,948,000 |
| Cane | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,792,000 |
| | | | | | | | | 8,650,171 |
| Deduct visible supply, 1st October, 1899 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 831,558 |
| | | | | | | | | 7,818,613 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|
| | 1899-1900. | | | | | | | | |
| Visible Supply, 1st October, 1899 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 831,558 |
| Beet Crops, 1899-1900.. .. . | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,518,000 |
| Cane | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,410,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | 8,759,558 |
| Deduct visible supply, 1st October, 1900 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 480,001 |
| | | | | | | | | | 8,279,557 |
| | 1900-1901. | | | | | | | | |
| Visible Supply, 1st October, 1900 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 480,001 |
| Beet Crops, 1900-1901 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,069,000 |
| Cane | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,110,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | 9,659,001 |
| Deduct visible supply, 1st October, 1901 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 851,092 |
| | | | | | | | | | 8,807,909 |
| | 1901-1902. | | | | | | | | |
| Visible Supply, 1st October, 1901 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 851,092 |
| " Estimated " Beet Crops, 1901-1902 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,880,000 |
| " Estimated " Cane | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,325,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | 11,056,092 |

CANE CROP—TONS.

| | ESTIMATE. | ACTUAL. | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| | | 1901-2 | 1900-1 | 1899-1900 | 1898-9 | 1897-8 |
| CUBA | 750,000 | 612,000 | 281,000 | 315,000 | 250,000 | |
| PORTO RICO | 100,000 | 75,000 | 33,000 | 55,000 | 51,000 | |
| TRINIDAD | 50,000 | 48,000 | 38,000 | 49,000 | 48,700 | |
| BARBADOS | 60,000 | 61,000 | 41,000 | 51,000 | 52,000 | |
| MARTINIQUE | 35,000 | 33,000 | 30,000 | 31,000 | 30,700 | |
| GUADELOUPE | 40,000 | 38,000 | 23,000 | 39,000 | 37,000 | |
| DEMERARA | 100,000 | 95,000 | 79,000 | 93,000 | 107,000 | |
| BRAZIL | 215,000 | 180,000 | 155,000 | 145,000 | 170,000 | |
| JAVA | 720,000 | 704,000 | 679,000 | 829,000 | 623,000 | |
| PHILIPPINES | 54,500 | 56,000 | 60,000 | 124,000 | 175,000 | |
| MAURITIUS | 170,000 | 175,000 | 159,000 | 180,000 | 117,000 | |
| REUNION | 40,000 | 43,000 | 29,000 | 40,000 | 35,000 | |
| JAMAICA | 30,000 | 30,000 | 28,000 | 30,000 | 35,000 | |
| MINOR ANTILLES | 95,000 | 85,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 96,000 | |
| UNITED STATES | 300,000 | 350,000 | 200,000 | 275,000 | 345,000 | |
| PERU | 135,000 | 120,000 | 120,000 | 125,000 | 65,000 | |
| EGYPT | 90,500 | 85,000 | 95,000 | 91,000 | 100,000 | |
| SANDWICH ISLANDS | 340,000 | 320,000 | 280,000 | 240,000 | 200,000 | |
| | 3,325,000 | 3,110,000 | 2,410,000 | 2,792,000 | 2,536,400 | |

BEET CROP.

| | ESTIMATE. | ACTUAL. | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| | | 1901-2 | 1900-1 | 1899-1900 | 1898-9 | 1897-8 |
| GERMANY | 2,300,000 | 1,979,000 | 1,798,000 | 1,722,000 | 1,852,500 | |
| AUSTRIA | 1,320,000 | 1,094,000 | 1,108,000 | 1,051,000 | 831,500 | |
| FRANCE | 1,200,000 | 1,170,000 | 978,000 | 830,000 | 821,000 | |
| RUSSIA | 1,110,000 | 920,000 | 906,000 | 790,000 | 739,000 | |
| BELGIUM | 350,000 | 340,000 | 303,000 | 235,000 | 265,400 | |
| HOLLAND.. .. . | 200,000 | 178,000 | 171,000 | 150,000 | 125,600 | |
| OTHER COUNTRIES | 400,000 | 388,000 | 254,000 | 170,000 | 190,000 | |
| | 6,880,000 | 6,069,000 | 5,518,000 | 4,948,000 | 4,825,000 | |
| TOTAL (Cane and Beets) | 10,205,000 | 9,179,000 | 7,928,000 | 7,740,000 | 7,361,400 | |

New York, 23rd April, 1902.

West Indian Affairs.

The R.M.S. "La Plata," arrived at Plymouth at 11.55 a.m., on Thursday, May 22nd, and the Mails were delivered by first post Friday, May 23rd. The topic of absorbing interest when the Mail left was, of course, the calamity in Martinique and St. Vincent, but as we have dealt with that in another column, we will confine ourselves to extracts from the letters of our hon. correspondents regarding other matters of interest.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), May 7th. Sir Henry Moore Jackson left Antigua on May 7th. The feeling of regret at his departure was universal, and however good a man his successor might be it would be a long time before he could master the unusually difficult problems, which would have to be solved by any Governor of this unfortunate Colony. Unless central factories were soon erected, the patched up machinery now in use on many estates would become impracticable for sugar manufacture, and the area of cultivation would in consequence be necessarily largely reduced. No one but those on the spot could realise the deplorable state of things in the Island generally. During the past fortnight exceptionally heavy rains had fallen amounting to an average of about 10 inches, and crop operations had been materially retarded, more especially as the majority of estates were deficient in fuel.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), May 10th. Quarantine against the Island had been raised. Rain had fallen during the past 24 hours from 50 parts in some places to nearly 2 inches in others, while a greater fall was reported in the Leeward District. This had helped to clean up the Island, which, as would be easily understood, presented a very dirty appearance after the fall of volcanic dust. Rain was still wanted and appearances were all in favour of some falling shortly. Crops were advancing and many estates would finish by the end of the month. The yield, owing to drought was still going back and the Island would not make the crop which had been anticipated. The young canes were looking healthy, but of course very low and all depended upon the weather. The price of sugar was \$1 05 for Hhds., with \$5.00 for package, \$1 25 for bags, and molasses 7½ cents. per gallon, with \$4.00 for puncheon. At a Meeting of the Barbados Agricultural Society held on May 9th, the following Resolution was adopted:—

Resolved that the Barbados General Agricultural Society respectfully ask the West India Committee to take an early and suitable opportunity of laying before the Colonial Premiers, who are about to attend a Conference in England, the actual position and requirements of British West India; inviting them to consider, at the Conference, in what way the trade relations between these possessions and the other portions of the British Empire may be best improved.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), May 7th. News had been received of the death of Mr. C. K. Jardine, the editor of *The Demerara Daily Chronicle*, in Glasgow. Mr. Steele, of the Excise Department, had been visiting the different estates during the fortnight to enquire into the question of the Rum Surtax, and was about to leave for Trinidad. The Governor returned on April 30th, from a visit to the Kaietur Falls. Mr. N. Darnell Davis, C.M.G., Auditor-General, was returning by the mail. The sugar market remained depressingly low. Small transactions had taken place at about \$1.67 to \$1.70, the latter figure being the quotation on May 7th. The weather has been showery during the fortnight, and on the whole favourable to the estates.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), May 8th. The Administrator had begun to organise the Coronation Festivities, and a programme had been arranged which it was hoped would give general satisfaction. The Legislature had granted £100, and nearly the same amount should be available through private subscriptions. Among other things it was proposed to give every school child a bronze medal in commemoration of the event. A good deal of unrest and anxiety was being felt on account of the eruption in Martinique. The weather had been terribly hot and sultry with occasional heavy downpours of rain, and a just perceptible amount of grey dust had fallen. All the previous afternoon heavy reports were heard from the direction of that Island, at times with great frequency, and towards evening, though the intervals became longer, the reports got heavier, sometimes sufficient to cause the houses to shake slightly.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), May 6th. The weather was good and there had been an abundance of rain in some parts.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), May 9th. All business was suspended and great consternation prevailed in consequence of the activity of the Souffrière.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick), May 8th. A meeting of Sugar Planters was held on May 1st, regarding the critical condition of the sugar industry, and a deputation subsequently presented the following memorial to the Governor:—

To His Excellency, Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief, etc., etc., Trinidad and Tobago.

The memorial of the undersigned Committee appointed at a representative meeting of planters and gentlemen interested in the Sugar Question, held at Chaguanas, on the 1st May, to wait upon Your Excellency and to urge the following points for your consideration:

1. To press on the Government the urgency of prompt measures to meet the present grave outlook.
2. That the loss on this crop, it is estimated, will not be less than £2 per ton. This calculation is based on present market values.
3. The effect of the present position will be the abandonment of certain factories, two of which were announced at the meeting. A reduction in wages and a dislocation of labour with its attendant consequences are inevitable.
4. The Committee were expressly urged to point out to Your Excellency that the sugar crop will be finished in a few weeks, and that if relief as indicated in the Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was to be granted it is advisable to announce it with as little delay as possible.
5. The meeting directed the Committee to approach Your Excellency with the request that the Government of this colony should take these matters into consideration, with a view of such intervention as may be found practicable and expedient.
6. Earnestly trusting that this memorial may receive Your Excellency's most favourable consideration,

We are, as in honour bound,

Your obedient and humble servants,

(Signed) A. P. Marryat, M.L.C.; W. S. Robertson, M.L.C.; Rene de Verteuil, M.L.C.; George White; Attorney Sir C. Tennant, S. Henderson, Attorney; C. D. Kemp Wilde; E. L. Bovell, Attorney L. Bert de Lamarre; W. Greig, Attorney; Turnbull & Co.; Adam Smith; Attorney J. Cumming.

The weather was rather unusually dry for the time of year, but signs of rain were not wanting. Many of the Sugar Estates would close crop in the third and last week of the month, but others would wait all the time they could get up to the second week in June.

“Molascuit.”

How to dispose of centrifugal Molasses profitably has for a long time been a problem of considerable importance to Sugar Planters. Possibly an answer may be found in Mr. George Hughes' process for making a cattle food of the Molasses and Megass. This food has been named “Molascuit,” and is believed to be worth £6 to £7 per ton, while even as a new material it will now sell here readily at £5 to £6 per ton. The mixture consists of 20 per cent. of fine and absolutely dry cellulose fibre of the sugar cane and 80 per cent. of molasses, in fact, the original juice in the fibre is replaced by the molasses. The mixture is in good condition naturally, but is improved by further drying with hot air, not exceeding 212°F, or sun. Of the absorbent fibre 50 per cent. is digestible, which means in other words, the manufactured article should not contain more than 10 per cent. of woody fibre. A great advantage of the process lies in the fact that this cattle food can be shipped in bags, and in a condition that commends its use to the British Agriculturist.

The fibre can be obtained by passing the Megass through a Carter's disintegrator and screening the produce. In an early issue we shall hope to give some further details of this Molascuit.

The Imperial Institute City Sample Room.

A large sample room has been opened at 49, Eastcheap (ground floor), in connection with the City News Room and Information Office of the Imperial Institute, for the display of produce from the Colonies and India, for which it is desired to find openings in the British Markets. Sir Frederick Abel, Bart., the Hon. Secretary and Director, has written to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE offering to find space for any samples of present interest which they may desire to have on show. Doubtless many of our Members will like to avail themselves of the opportunity of exhibiting their produce, etc., in which case they are requested to communicate with the Secretary.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata." May 22nd, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mrs. E. Griffith, Mrs. C. Honeychurch, Mr. H. Maxwell Lefroy, Dr. Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Gill, Mrs. Foord Hilton, Mr. C. W. Lambert, Mr. A. H. Easty, Lady Howard of Glossop, Mr. H. Potter, Major-General J. F. Hylton, Lieut. J. T. Briscoe. **DEMERARA.**—Hon. N. Darrell Davis, Mrs. A. L. W. McEwan, Mrs. S. Jones, Mr. W. E. Lewis, Mr. A. K. Menzies, Miss Jenman, Rev. A. C. Waller, Mrs. Haydock Wilson, Masters D. and R. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Lennox, Mr. E. G. Woolford, Mr. D. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Parks, Mr. A. M. Cswal, Miss Gilchrist, Miss Devenish, Mr. and Mrs. Gomme, Mr. H. C. Spooner, Mr. S. A. Carter, Col. and Mrs. McInnis, Miss Bull. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. Kerrick, Mr. and Mrs. Northcote, W. H. Blomfield Smith, Mr. O. C. Uber, Mr. S. G. Truscott, Mr. and Mrs. Caston Muirhead, Lieut.-Col. Joynt, Mr. O. Diwig, Mr. M. Bialloskhi, Hon. V. G. Bell. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Glen, Miss Tullis, Sister Frances Raphael, Mrs. and Miss Howalson, The Misses Stones, Master and Miss M. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Muller, Mr. S. Dean, Mr. A. Parra, Miss D. Cleaver, Mrs. and Miss Logie, Miss Medea Haynes, Master F. Haynes, Master G. Haynes, Mrs. and Miss Penalosa, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Fetchtenburg, Mrs. H. E. Stone, Mrs. E. R. Cleaver, Mrs. J. Haynes, Mr. J. Haynes, Miss A. Richardson, Mr. W. A. Bunyan, Mr. E. D. Clarke, Mr. E. Frustrick, Mrs. Tarring, Rev. Father Caulwell, Miss J. Wakefield. **ANTIGUA.**—Mrs. Wm. Hart, H. E. Sir H. M. Jackson, K.C.M.G., and Lady Jackson, Master A. Hart. **DOMINICA.**—Mrs. F. Brown, Mr. Radcliffe. **St. Lucia.**—Lady Thompson, Rev. Pere Veillet, Lieut. Nicholson.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," May 28th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mrs. P. Charles, Miss G. Payne, Mrs. Swaby. **DEMERARA.**—Two Misses Farrar, Archdeacon Gwyther, Mr. N. Hackett, Dr. De Freitas. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. G. Bolan. **DOMINICA.**—Mrs. Styles.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," May 14th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Alhuser, Mr. S. Barham, Mr. Britton, Master Ivor Campbell, Miss B. A. Chambers, Dr. Edwards, Mr. Edelsten, Mr. C. W. Edelsten, Mr. Geo. Henderson, Mr. T. R. Hill, Rev. and Mrs. John Hunter, Mrs. and Miss Johnson, Captain Lund, Mrs. A. Morrice, Master F. H. Morrice, Miss May Morrice, Master G. H. Morrice, Miss Lily McCrea, Miss McPhail, Mrs. Nuttall, Miss Nuttall, Mr. and Mrs. E. Nuttall, Mr. T. E. Neale, Mr. R. Pinnock, Mr. G. Pinnock, Miss M. B. Steer, Mrs. and Miss Walder, Mr. Wiltshire, Miss Conery, Mr. Gill, Mr. Jeffries, Mr. Paul Lehmann, Mr. A. Miller, Mr. A. Shaw, Miss Julia Spence.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," May 24th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Nurse Bishop, Mr. F. W. Clarke, Mr. W. Franklin, Miss L. S. Paterson, Mrs. and Miss Roxburgh, Miss Touzalin, Miss and Master Trench, Mr. and Mrs. Harding.

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 17th May | 209,644 | 202,014 | 43,959 | 50,900 | 80,212 |
| France, 1st May | 495,630 | 328,062 | 413,178 | 465,000 | 404,279 |
| Germany, 1st May | 1,002,446 | 665,249 | 586,012 | 631,378 | 762,966 |
| Hamburg, 21st May | 155,700 | 80,800 | 80,900 | 118,300 | 160,000 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st May | 489,075 | 417,975 | 405,750 | 359,887 | 392,483 |
| Holland, 1st May | 100,504 | 59,694 | 51,044 | 38,551 | 72,105 |
| Belgium, 1st May | 130,163 | 47,913 | 87,529 | 82,887 | 112,236 |
| United States, 21st May, Total Stocks | 2,583,162 | 1,801,707 | 1,668,372 | 1,746,903 | 1,984,281 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 21st May, Total Stocks | 122,000 | 222,829 | 182,303 | 245,456 | 340,578 |
| Cargoes afloat, 22nd May | 443,000 | 179,848 | 87,446 | 78,000 | 85,221 |
| | 20,180 | 7,041 | 13,384 | 43,795 | 28,231 |
| Total | 3,158,342 | 2,211,425 | 1,951,507 | 2,114,154 | 2,438,311 |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Tons. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds. Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|
| BRITISH GUIANA— | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to May 6th, 1902 | 33,796 | 11,475 | 26,656 | — | 31,258 | 642 | 645 | | |
| Jan. 1st to May 8th, 1901 | 24,887 | 9,614 | 361 | — | 31,130 | 73,250 | 407 | | |
| JAMAICA— | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Coffee. Cwts. | Banana Bunches. | Co'nuts. | Oranges. | | |
| Apr. 1st to Apr. 19th, 1902 | 1,724 | 178,713 | 927 | 7,822 | 979,510 | 1,559,650 | 1,733,700 | | |
| Apr. 1st to Apr. 27th, 1901 | 3,465 | 280,310 | 1,570 | 4,060 | 915,665 | 1,324,539 | 239,450 | | |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brs. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | Co'nuts. | Puns. | Molasses Tons. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to May 7th, 1902 | 292,565 | 244 | 16,416,220 | 19,520 | 43,088 | 4,638,524 | 1,572 | 111 | 50 |
| Jan. 1st to May 7th, 1901 | 347,923 | 57 | 8,889,990 | 14,880 | 68,404 | 3,840,358 | 1,435 | 59 | 168 |

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

West India Committee.

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BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, June 9th, 1902.

The Brussels Convention.

The prospects of the ratification of the Brussels Convention for the abolition of Sugar Bounties are now decidedly brighter. The Committee of Parliamentary experts appointed by the German Government has now accepted the Convention in its original form as signed by the Delegates at Brussels. It is therefore expected that no opposition will be offered in the Reichstag, but that the Convention will be ratified in due course.

Action of the Anti-Bounty League.

The Anti-Bounty League, addressed on June 2nd inst., the following letter to The Marquis of Lansdowne, K.G., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

"MY LORD,

"Serious and apparently well-founded apprehensions are now entertained that the ratification by the Legislatures of Germany and Austria-Hungary of the Brussels Sugar Bounties Convention may fail to be effected, and we desire to call your Lordship's attention to the grave injury inflicted on British Sugar Industries, both at home and in the Colonies, by the uncertainty which exists on this point.

"2. During this period of suspense (the anxiety of which is aggravated by the doubtful issue of the struggle now proceeding in the United States on the subject of sugar tariff legislation), any expenditure of capital on the development or improvement of the industry becomes wholly impossible, while provision for even the ordinary necessities of the properties concerned assumes rather the aspect of hazardous speculation than of legitimate trade investment. It is a simple fact that the whole sugar industry of the world, except in protected or bounty-fed areas, has been financially paralysed.

"3. The beet sugar producers of Germany and Austria-Hungary are largely represented in their respective Legislatures. They strained every nerve at the Brussels Conference to prevent the conclusion of the Convention. Their opposition to the Bill giving effect to it will not be less strenuous or determined. It has already been so far successful in the German Parliament as to secure the reference of the measure to a Special Committee, in spite of the efforts of the German Government to secure its immediate consideration. The period at which the measure will become law is thereby certainly delayed, and its passing within the period prescribed by the Convention probably endangered.

"4. It is notorious that the action of the opposition in the German Reichstag is based on the assumption that, although His Majesty's Government is willing, in concert with other Powers, to penalise or prohibit the importation of bounty-fed sugars, as provided by the Convention, it would, if the Convention fails to be ratified, acquiesce in the unrestricted entry of German bounty-fed sugar into this Country.

"5. This opinion, however, is not shared by the Imperial Chancellor and the Minister of the Interior, who have emphatically declared that no such acquiescence on the part of England is to be anticipated. We would, therefore, venture respectfully to point out to your Lordship and His

Majesty's Government how vitally important it is that these declarations on the part of the German Ministers should be supported and confirmed by some public assurance that the German Government is not mistaken on this point, but has rightly interpreted the views and intentions of His Majesty's Government. The obstructionists in the German Reichstag, if convinced that they have nothing to gain, so far as the admission of bounty-fed sugar into Great Britain is concerned, from the destruction of the Convention, would probably abandon an objectless contest.

"6. The action of the Indian Government in countervailing the Cartel Bounties by a scale of duties corresponding to that provided for the purpose in the Brussels Convention will no doubt go far to disabuse the minds of the opponents of the Treaty as to the probable action of His Majesty's Government. But we would venture, respectfully, but earnestly, to express our hope that, with as little delay as the state of public business will admit, the necessary enabling Bill for the ratification of the Brussels Convention may be introduced into Parliament, and that it may be drafted in such terms as will prove clearly that the obstructionists in the German Reichstag have nothing to gain by persisting in the course they have adopted.

"7. In such a measure it is of essential importance that powers should be taken authorising the King in Council, not only to prohibit imports of Bounty-fed sugar, as was provided in the Bill introduced into Parliament in connection with the London Convention of 1888, but also, in the alternative, to penalise such imports by means of countervailing duties. The large proportion which German and Austrian supplies of sugar bear, and must for some time to come continue to bear to our total imports, would cause the application of prohibitory powers to be attended with great practical difficulties. These difficulties would be entirely avoided by the adoption of countervailing duties. Such a measure, by removing all doubts and ambiguity as to the attitude and intentions of His Majesty's Government would, we are confident, effectually secure the speedy ratification of the Brussels Convention, and so indirectly restore that stability and confidence to the sugar industries of the British Empire, which alone can enable them to tide over the critical period, which in any case must tax their resources to the utmost, pending the abolition of the bounties in September, 1903.

" We have the honour to be, etc.,

(Signed)

" STANMORE,

" *President.*

" NEVILLE LUBBOCK,

" *Chairman of the Executive Committee.*

" MAYSON M. BEETON,

" *Secretary.*"

The Promised Grant and the Convention.

The following correspondence has passed between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office on the above subjects:—

May 2nd, 1902.

" Sir,

" We had the honour to address you on March 18th regarding the critical position in which the Sugar Industry in the West Indies is placed owing to the fact that the Sugar Bounties Convention recently agreed to at Brussels will not, if ratified, take effect before September 1st, 1903.

" In presenting his Budget statement to Parliament on the 14th ultimo, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that he thought it would be necessary in the course of the Session to ask Parliament for some assistance for the Sugar-growing Colonies, pending the time when Bounties were abolished

by the Brussels Convention, and on the following day during the discussion on the Budget proposals he indicated that the assistance would amount to £250,000, though it might be less.

"Meanwhile, the situation in the Sugar growing Islands of the West Indies is becoming daily more precarious. The crop is being brought to a close, and it will rest with Estates proprietors to decide whether they will carry on their estates or abandon cultivation.

"We have already pointed out to you, Sir, the serious results which would arise from the adoption of the latter course, and our representations on the subject have been amply confirmed by the recently published Blue Book (Cd. 940), and we much fear that if the announcement of the decision of His Majesty's Government as to the precise nature of the assistance to be afforded is longer delayed it may be too late to bring about the desired effect.

"We have, etc.,

(*Signea*) "N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*.

"A. E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*."

Rt. Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., etc., etc.

Downing Street,

May 13th, 1902.

"Sir,

"I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, urging an early announcement of the decision of His Majesty's Government as to the measures to be taken for the relief of the Sugar Industry in the West Indies.

"2. In reply, I am to inform you that Mr. Chamberlain is well aware of the importance of an early announcement, and with that object is communicating with the Governors of the Colonies concerned.

"I am, etc.,

(Signed) "C. P. LUCAS."

May 29th, 1902.

"Sir,

"We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lucas' letter of the 13th instant, written by your direction in reply to our letter to you of the 2nd instant, stating that you were aware of the importance of an early announcement of the decision of His Majesty's Government as to the measures to be taken for the relief of the sugar industry in the West Indies, and that with that object you were communicating with the Governors of the Colonies concerned.

"In this connection, a matter of serious and pressing importance has arisen since we addressed you.

"It appears that a very serious opposition to the ratification of the Brussels Convention has sprung up in Germany on the part of the Agrarian party. From recent issues of the *Times*, we gather that Count Von Bulow is somewhat afraid of opposing the Agrarian party, which seems to exercise almost supreme power in Germany. It would, therefore, appear that there is a very appreciable risk that Germany may not care to ratify the Convention.

"Should this result arise, it is quite obvious that His Majesty's Government will have to reconsider the position. As it is not a practical measure to prohibit the importation of German Sugar, we would suggest that it is in the highest degree important that His Majesty's Government should, with the least possible delay, introduce into the House of Commons a bill for the ratification of the Convention, and giving the King, in Council, power to impose either Countervailing Duties or prohibition in the term of the penal clause of the Brussels Convention on any sugars in receipt of Bounties coming to this Country, after the date of the coming into force of that Convention.

"We wish to point out to you, Sir, the extremely critical position in which the West Indies find themselves at the present moment. Unless the Convention comes into operation next year, or the British Government imposes Countervailing Duties on beet root Sugar receiving a bounty, it is quite obvious that sugar cultivation in the West Indies must at once cease. In the meantime, there is the greatest uncertainty as to whether either of these events will occur, and West Indian Proprietors are called upon to incur a loss during the present and coming crop, of a sum which cannot be less than 1½ millions sterling, with the prospect, at the end of that time, of having to abandon the whole of their estates. The present position is not only serious and critical but very pressing, inasmuch as the 1902 crop is nearly at an end, except in British Guiana, and a decision must be come to within the next month as to whether the cultivation of the Sugar Cane shall be carried on or abandoned.

"We feel sure therefore that you, Sir, will excuse our bringing the matter once again to your attention.

"We have the honour etc.,

(Signed) "N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

"ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*"

Mr. Chamberlain replied that the matter would receive his earnest consideration.

The German Reichstag and the Brussels Convention.

The German beet-sugar interests are leaving no stone unturned to thwart the ratification of the Brussels Convention in the German Reichstag. One of their latest moves has been the issue of a pamphlet by Mr. Meyer, the well-known refiner, in which he attempts to show that, as cane sugar can be produced far more cheaply than beet, and as prices may be expected to remain at a very low figure in the future, the prosperity of the German beet-sugar industry will be seriously imperilled by the coming into force of the Brussels Convention. This alleged economic inferiority of the beet-sugar industry, as compared with cane, is a welcome admission on the part of our German rivals and a striking commentary on the doubts which were expressed on this point by the Royal West India Commissioners, which have been freely used by the advocates of *laissez faire* as an argument in favour of not intervening to prevent the extinction of the West Indian sugar industry. But, in our opinion, Mr. Meyer in his zeal to prevent the ratification of the Convention entirely overstates his case.

He assumes, to begin with, (as we think quite erroneously) that prices may be expected to remain below M7.50 the centner (or, roughly, £7 10s. a ton) if the Convention be ratified. He then assumes M8.50 as the average cost of production of beet, and M6 as the average cost of production of cane. From these premises he draws the logical conclusion that the production of beet will rapidly decline, while the production of cane will as rapidly increase.

Admitting the accuracy of Mr. Meyer's estimate as regards the cost of production of beet, the evidence which he adduces in support of his assumption as to the average cost of cane is entirely

inconclusive. He quotes, for instance, the cost of production of a ton of sugar in one particular factory in the Sandwich Islands from the "*Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance*," (U.S.A.), at \$28.59.

But we have to note in regard to this particular evidence :

(1) That the next paragraph states that the cost of production has since increased by 25 per cent—to \$35.75 or £7.375 per ton ;

(2) That the ton referred to is probably the American ton of 2,000 lbs., which would bring the cost of production of a ton of 2,240 lbs. (equal 20 centners) to £8 11s., or M8.20 per centner ;

(3) That, on examination of the accounts, it is evident that no sufficient charge, if any, has been made for the cost of upkeep and replacement of an exceptionally gigantic capital expenditure on irrigation works in a tropical country, where depreciation is even more rapid than in Europe.

Taking 7 per cent. as a reasonable charge for depreciation, the cost of production would be increased by another M2 per centner, bringing the total to nearer £10 per ton than £6.

We cite this as an example of the kind of evidence which Mr. Meyer brings forward in support of his contention. The beet and cane-sugar industries of the world have never yet met in fair and square competition, and when bounties are abolished, the event only can prove whether or no, and, if so, at what exact degree the beet is relatively an inferior economic product. Mr. Meyer would have us believe that it is economically inferior to the extent of 40 per cent. We are inclined to think that 10 per cent. is nearer the mark, and this—as will be remembered—is the estimate which is borne out by the evidence published in the Report of the Royal West India Commission as to the cost of beet sugar production on the Continent relatively to that of cane in Egypt, in Queensland, and in the West Indies.

The Rum Surtax.

It will be remembered that in September, 1901, Mr. Chamberlain addressed a despatch to the Governors of British Guiana and the West Indies, suggesting that the injustice of the Rum Surtax might be met by the payment to the Colonies from the Colonial Funds of an export allowance calculated on the same principle as the similar allowance made to British Distillers. Mr. Steele, of the Excise Department, was subsequently commissioned by the Government to determine the nature and extent of the burden imposed upon distillers in British Guiana and the West Indies from existing excise restrictions, and the amount at which a Compensatory allowance upon export might equitably be fixed, and also to advise the Colonial Governments how far it might be desirable or necessary to recast the existing system.

Mr. Steele has now visited the distilleries of British Guiana and Trinidad, and from private information received by the Mail it would appear that he has satisfied himself that the very ample excise regulations existing in those Colonies do not put the planters to an expense of more than $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per proof gallon. We presume that Mr. Steele has made it clear that the authorities in the West Indies as to why, if excise regulations so complete as those in British Guiana and Trinidad can be carried out at a cost of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per proof gallon in the very small production of these Colonies, they should cost 4d. per gallon upon the enormous production of this country ! Mr. Steele is now visiting the Northern Islands, and his report will be anxiously awaited.

The St. Vincent Disaster.

We have hesitated to give any lengthy account of the recent appalling eruption of the Soufriere in St. Vincent, in view of the graphic descriptions of the disaster which have already appeared in the

Press. We think, however, that the following letter to the Secretary from our esteemed correspondent in St. Vincent, Mr. Alexander Porter, written on May 14th, which reached us *via* New York on June 2nd, should be placed on record in the West India Committee Circular.

KINGSTOWN PARK HOUSE, ST. VINCENT, 14th May, 1902.

"DEAR SIR,

"You will have heard long 'ere this reaches you of the awful calamity that has overtaken this Island by the eruption of the Soufrière Mountain—a dormant volcano which is over 4,000 ft. above the sea. The last eruption having occurred on 30th April, 1812—90 years ago. On Tuesday, the 6th inst., the mountain commenced to give signs of unrest, and a strong shock of earthquake, accompanied by terrible noises, which became louder and louder, was felt, and about 7 p.m. columns of steam and smoke issued from the mountain with a fearful report; this continued all night, and on Wednesday, the 7th, there was another awful escape of steam, and about 2 p.m. four or five distinct streams of red hot lava were visible running down the sides of the mountain. At this time the inhabitants of Kingstown were in a fearful state of excitement, owing to the falling of stones, ashes, and dust, which made it as dark as midnight.

"It is impossible for anyone outside of this Island to realise what appalling devastation has been wrought, the scene of desolation and destruction defies description, and it may briefly be said it could not be worse. The most of the destruction has taken place in the Carib Country, or Windward side of the Island, where over 1,600 lives have been lost, but in all probability the total loss of life will never be known, but it cannot be far short of 2,000. The dead bodies have not yet been all buried, but are being interred in trenches as quickly as possible. All stock are dead, and are lying about in all directions, but large gangs of workmen are now employed looking after this important matter.

"The Carib Country has been nearly all destroyed. The Estates of Tourama, Orange Hill, Waterloo, Rabacca, and Lot 14 have been almost obliterated, with nearly every soul and animal living thereon, while Mount Bentinck and Langley Park Estates, have also suffered considerably. The loss of property and live stock in this part of the island unfortunately falls almost entirely on one individual. In the Leeward district the damage has also been very serious, although the loss of life has not been more than 8 or 12. The Estates of Richmond and Wallibou have been completely destroyed and considerable damage has also been done to Fancy Estate, otherwise the other parts of the Island and Estates have suffered but little. The loss of live stock and provisions have, unfortunately been very severe among the labouring class in the Carib Country, and Leeward district, who have lost their houses, and all their effects as well. The several rivers and streams have almost dried up, and the canal which supplied the Carib Country with water for man and beast and which is of vital importance to people living in that quarter, has been completely destroyed, and ought to be taken in hand at once, as nothing can be done in this quarter until the canal is put to rights, and a good supply of water obtainable. Everything possible is being done for the poor sufferers, and assistance is being generously given by the neighbouring Islands. Business here has almost been suspended since the 7th inst.

"Yours faithfully,

"ALEX PORTER."

The St. Vincent Relief Fund.

The Mansion House Fund for the Relief of the Sufferers from the Volcanic Eruption in St. Vincent is progressing satisfactorily, and now amounts to £54,000. On Friday, June 20th next, the Queen's Gate A.D.C. have kindly consented to play "A Fool's Paradise" in aid of the Fund.

The performance will be under the patronage of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, The Right Hon. Lord Harris, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., the West India Committee of Planters and Merchants, and many past and present West Indian Governors. We are asked to state that tickets, 10/6 each, can be obtained at the Albert Hall or from H. M. Chevallier Cobbold, Esq., Hon. Sec., Queen's Gate A.D.C., 17, Red Lion Square, Holborn, W.C. The thanks of the West India Committee are due to Mrs. E. A. de Pass, who has sent us a large parcel of clothing for the sufferers, which has been despatched to the Governor of the Windward Islands, and to the following, whose subscriptions, which have been duly handed to the Lord Mayor, are most gratefully acknowledged.

| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------|-----|----|----|---------------------------------|---|----|----|
| Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co. | 100 | 0 | 0 | Messrs. Miller & Vincent | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| .. L. Rose & Co. | 52 | 10 | 0 | A. M. Lee, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| .. Thomson, Hankey & Co. | 52 | 10 | 0 | Capt. Soames .. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| .. Joseph Travers & Co. | 52 | 10 | 0 | Mrs. Rennie Cockerell | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| .. Henckell Du Buisson & Co. | 52 | 10 | 0 | R. Alleyne-Harris, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| .. Boddington & Co. | 50 | 0 | 0 | Mrs. E. A. De Pass | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| .. E. A. De Pass & Co. | 26 | 5 | 0 | Offertory, Potton Parish Church | 2 | 10 | 3 |
| .. Previte & Co. | 26 | 5 | 0 | G. F. Franks, Esq., M.A. | 2 | 10 | 0 |
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| .. McWhirter, Roberts & Co. | 20 | 0 | 0 | Dr. H. E. Courtenay Corkery | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Duncan Mackintosh, Esq. | 15 | 0 | 0 | Col. A. H. Nourse | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co. | 10 | 10 | 0 | Charles Vogau, Esq. .. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| .. Wilkinson & Gaviller | 10 | 10 | 0 | M. M., Seaford | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq. .. | 10 | 10 | 0 | An Australian .. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Messrs. Dreyfus & Co. | 10 | 0 | 0 | M. V. J., Southampton | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| K. A. Macaulay, Esq. | 10 | 0 | 0 | M. C. M. Mann, Esq. .. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| D. Q. Henriques, Esq. | 5 | 5 | 0 | Chas. J. Saunders, Esq. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Trent-Stoughton | 5 | 5 | 0 | G., Herne Hill .. | 0 | 2 | 0 |

West India Section—Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.

A meeting of the newly-appointed Committee of the West India Section of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, of Liverpool, was held on May 26th, in the board-room of the Chamber. SIR ALFRED JONES, K.C.M.G., president of the Chamber, presided at the outset, and there were also present Messrs. J. E. TINNE, E. S. PARKER, W. G. KELLOCK, W. H. ALTY, R. A. BARKER, JOHN HARRISON, JOHN SMITH, C. J. CROSFIELD, J. EDWARD HAWKES, and THOMAS H. BARKER (Secretary).

It was announced that the following gentlemen had been elected to serve on the Committee:—

| | |
|--|---|
| SIR ALFRED JONES, K.C.M.G. (Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Company, Limited). | MR. HENRY GREY KELLOCK (Leech, Harrison and Forwood). |
| MR. E. S. PARKER (West India Association of Liverpool). | MR. J. E. HAWKES (Hawkes, Somerville and Co.). |
| MR. J. ERNEST TINNE (Sandbach, Tinne and Co.). | MR. JOHN HARRISON (Wright, Crossley and Co.). |
| MR. W. H. ALTY (Booker Bros., M'Connell and Co., Limited). | MR. ROBERT MORRIS (N. Waterhouse and Sons). |
| MR. JOHN SMITH (William Gossage and Sons, Limited). | MR. C. J. CROSFIELD (Crosfields, Limited). |
| | MR. JOHN JAMES EVANS (Evans, Sons and Co.). |
| | MR. R. A. BARKER (G. H. Fletcher and Co.). |

On the motion of SIR ALFRED JONES, MR. J. ERNEST TINNE was unanimously elected Chairman of the section for the ensuing year, and MR. J. E. HAWKES Vice-Chairman for the same period. MR. TINNE, in taking the chair, said that he must thank the Committee for the honour done him in electing him as Chairman of the West India Section, the formation of which was a very important step in the interests of the Colonies. The question of the sugar industry in the West Indies at the present juncture was one of the greatest importance to England, and was causing considerable anxiety to all interested in that trade. They had all been disappointed with the recent pronouncements with regard to the outcome of the Brussels Conference. They had had great expectations that the relief promised to the sugar industry would come into operation next September, but now, owing to some hostile interest—whether emanating from home or abroad he was unable to say—he understood that the results of the Brussels Conference would be postponed until September, 1903. They were face to face with the most

serious condition of affairs that the West Indies ever had experienced. He had not the slightest doubt that Lord LANSDOWNE and the Secretary of State for the Colonies would take what steps were possible to prevent the industry being ruined. This matter was essentially one for the consideration of that Section, and he was sure that with the co-operation of all the members, and especially with that of SIR ALFRED JONES, it might be possible to bring about a better state of affairs. Though the position was at present gloomy they should remember that "the darkest hour was always that just before the dawn."

West Indian Affairs.

The R.M.S. "Para" anchored off Plymouth at 2.25 p.m. on June 4th and the Mails were delivered by first post Thursday June, 5th. The apparent apathy of the British Government in refusing to grant a sum of money for the relief of the sufferers in Martinique and St. Vincent was exciting much unfavourable comment in the West Indies when the Mail left, and this action was compared unfavourably with that of the United States who not for the first time had come so readily to the assistance of the British West Indies.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), May 21st. The weather was stiflingly hot, and frequent and heavy rains were rendering sugar manufacture very difficult. The event of the week had been the landing on Tuesday, May 13th, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, who were to be stationed at Scott's Hill to guard the Boer prisoners.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), May 24th. The Governor had not yet been able to publish the scheme in hand for the relief of the sugar industry, owing to some delay in the cables. The weather had been very unsettled, with every appearance of rain, but only slight showers had fallen. The Northern and Windward parishes had received most, and in Bridgetown, on May 23rd, 57 parts fell, and it looked as if more would follow. The estates with steam engines had nearly all finished crop, and only a few windmill estates were still grinding. The crop would fall short of what had been anticipated, and it was doubted if it would reach 55,000 hhds. Prices on May 23rd were \$1.00 and \$1.20 for hhds. and bags respectively, and \$5 for pkge., and Molasses 7 cents per gall., with \$4 for puncheon. On 24th the latter was 7½ cents per gall. Professor D'Albuquerque returned to England by the Mail.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), May 21st.—The weather had been showery and unsettled. Favourable though it was for cultivation generally, in some districts the rainfall had been too much. The Combined Court, on May 16th, voted \$10,000 in aid of the sufferers from the volcanic disturbances at Martinique and St. Vincent, that sum to be raised by increased taxation, 2 cents more on cheques (4 cents in all), and 6 cents per 100 lbs. on rice (35 cents to 41 cents).

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), May 22nd. The Administrator had formed a Committee of Planters and others to consider the recommendations to be made to the Commissioner, who, in accordance with the suggestion put forward by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, was expected to visit the Island. The eruptions at Martinique and St. Vincent had occupied public attention to the exclusion of all other matters during the fortnight; although few apprehended any danger to the Island, a general feeling of unrest and anxiety prevailed. On Friday, May 9th, as soon as it was known that the disaster had occurred all places of business were closed and flags flown at half-mast. Early on Sunday, the 11th, the Government despatched a sloop with provisions to Fort de France. Altogether some 400 or 500 refugees had reached Dominica where they were being provided for. A few had obtained work and the rest were being housed and fed by the populace. Memorial Services had been held by all religious denominations. It was generally realised that the case of St. Vincent was far worse than that of Martinique. The craters in Dominica were perfectly normal though the weather continued hot and sultry and the air laden with dust. The results of the experimental shipments of Dominica onions to New York were satisfactory. Twelve crates were shipped on February 28th, and five on March 11th, both reached New York in excellent condition. The first realised \$2.50, and the second \$2.40, the brokers reported that the quality of the onions was so good that they could "at all times compete with Bermudas or Cubas."

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), May 20th. Great anxiety was being exhibited as to when the promised relief was to be granted, and what form it was to take. The writer feared that if, after all the labours of the Brussels Conference, there was a failure to ratify the convention, and the Imperial Government did not take prompt action in the direction of countervailing duties, the feeling in the West Indies would become bitter and desperate.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick), May 22nd. A meeting of Representatives of the Distillers to meet Mr. Steele, the Imperial Excise Officer, regarding the Rum Surtax, had been convened for the 23rd. The proposed alteration of the route of the ocean steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet has been further delayed by the demand of

Jamaica for £520 per annum compensation for the loss of time available for replying to letters, &c. The claim had been unanimously rejected by the Chamber of Commerce. The weather continued dry with occasional showers. Most of the Estates had closed or were closing up, a few having work for another 10 days or a fortnight.

From the "London Gazette."

DOWNING STREET, *May 29.*

The King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of F. McG. Alleyne, Esq., and J. T. Jones, Esq., to be Members of the Legislative Council of the Island of Barbados.

A Leeward Islands Meeting.

Sir Henry Moore Jackson, K.C.M.G., the late Governor of the Leeward Islands, attended a specially convened meeting of Leeward Island Proprietors, on Thursday, May 29th ult. Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., occupied the Chair, and among those present were Mr. T. Du Buisson, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. A. Morier Lee, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. B. Neilson, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Mr. H. Spooner, and Mr. A. E. Aspinall, Secretary. A discussion took place regarding Central Sugar Factories and the urgent need of Relief Measures being immediately adopted to enable the sugar industry of Antigua, St. Kitts Nevis, and Montserrat to tide over the period to September 1, 1903, when the Sugar Bounties Convention will, if ratified, take effect.

New Members.

At the Fortnightly Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, May 29th, the following new Members were elected:—

| Name. | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| JAMES HENDERSON, Esq. | E. L. Marshall, Esq. | Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. |
| J. CLARENCE HENDERSON, Esq. | " " | " " " |
| W. S. VAUGHAN, Esq. | " " | " " " |
| E. L. HOLLINSED, Esq. | E. G. Louis, Esq. | T. W. Wilkinson, Esq. |
| LAWRENCE JONES, Esq. | Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G. | Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. |
| Messrs. CARVALHO, BRO. & Co. | E. A. De Pass, Esq. | Cyril Gurney, Esq. |

The number of new Members elected during the current year now amounts to 23. We again appeal to Members to help to strengthen the Committee by bringing forward candidates for election.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," June 5th, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. P. L.H. Archer, Major Daniels and Servant, Mr. H. S. Claret, Rev. and Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Emtage, Mr. J. Baeza, Professor and Mrs. D'Albuquerque, Mrs. and Miss Alleyne, Mr. A. D. Whatman, Mr. Kalisch. DEMERARA.—Dr. J. F. S. and Mrs. Fowler, Mr. W. F. and Mrs. Bye, Dr. and Mrs. Kennedy, Miss Powell, Miss E. Flory, Miss E. Smith, Mr. T. and Mrs. Smellie, Mr. P. B. and Mrs. Laing, Mr. Wm. Morrison, Mr. E. O. Wood. JAMAICA.—Mr. and Miss Douglas, Col. Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., Miss Ward, Miss Caulier, Mr. Rd. Foreshaw, Mr. R. H. B. Hotchkiss, Mrs. John McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Richards, Mrs. T. Constantine. TRINIDAD.—Mr. F. Heick, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Ortiz, Mr. and Mrs. F. de Labastide, Justice and Mrs. Routledge, Mr. J. G. and Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. S. Henderson, Mrs. Geo. Bushe, Mr. Adrian Maillard, Mr. Pedro Gonzalez, Dr. E. J. Reid, Mr. C. P. Rojas, Mr. and Mrs. S. Warner, Rear-Admiral Bourke, Mr. Cunningham, Dr. C. M. S. Farouq, Mr. and Mrs. Buberger, Mr. R. Fitt, Mr. H. L. Trombridge, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Gallie, Mr. Gudgeon, Mr. M. Speelman, Mr. and Mrs. L. Schorner, Miss H. de Gale, Hon. M. and Mrs. Seton Browne, Master E. Smith, Miss Golding, Hon. Douglas and Mrs. Alexander, Mr. A. C. Ferguson, Mr. J. E. Smith, Dr. and Mrs. O'Neale, Dr. A. H. B. Gall, Mr. H. S. Ross, Hon. and Mrs. Gurney, Major-Genl. Sir F. Scott and Lady Scott. ANTIGUA.—Mr. P. J. Sproule. DOMINICA.—Miss D. St. Evans, Miss Nichols, Hon. C. St. J. and Mrs. Branch. GRENADA.—Mr. and Mrs. F. Gregory. ST. LUCIA.—Hon. F. C. and Mrs. Manson, Mr. H. B. Murray, Miss M. Belinar, Miss V. Dennetry, Miss R. de Laubenque, Miss L. de Laubenque, Mrs. G. S. Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Ernouet. ST. VINCENT.—Mr. A. Wakefield.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," June 11th, 1902:—BARRADOS.—Mrs. Hill, Mr. J. R. L. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. A. Cameron, Mr. L. Wiles. DEMERARA.—Dr. T. C. Evans, Mr. H. W. Sconce, Mr. W. H. Davies, Mr. J. B. Sampson. TRINIDAD.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Fraser. ANTIGUA.—Mr. P. Fenton. GRENADA.—Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Dean. ST. LUCIA.—Miss H. Riddick, Major C. W. W. Clarke.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," May 28th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. T. N. Aguilar, Miss Audain, Mr. Chas. Burn, Two Misses Burn, Mr. Baillie, Capt. Brewster, Major and Mrs. Blackden, Mr. M. Booth, Mr. C. W. Booth, Mr. Curnock, Mr. Collins, Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Cooke, Mr. T. W. Clarke, Mrs. Bundy Cole, Mr. J. C. Ford, Miss Grist, Mr. and Mrs. Giffhorn, Miss Goffe, Lady Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Isaacs, Mrs. and Miss Johnstone, Miss Jameison, Mr. St. John, Mr. A. O. R. King, Mr. E. X. Leon, Mr. H. J. Lloyd, Capt. C. H. Lloyd, Mrs. and Miss McGregor, Mr. and Mrs. Henry McGilchrist, Mrs. McAuliffe, Mrs. Musson, Mr. C. H. Moline, Mrs. Howell Russell, Hon. Henry Sewell, Mrs. Singleton, Dr. J. F. Shackleton, Rev. and Mrs. Simms, Miss Simms, Miss Sant, Mr. Sinclair, Miss Street, Mr. and Mrs. Vickerstaff, Mr. Vermeulen, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Two Misses Williams, Lieut. A. S. Cole, Miss Godfrey, Miss Manning, and Mrs. Wynstanley.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," May 7th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Rev. and Mrs. Prentice, Mr. W. J. Wilkinson, Miss E. Doull, Mr. C. E. Espent, Mr. R. F. Hammond, Mr. J. Millard, Rev. and Mrs. Perkins.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—The improvement which we noted at the date of our last report has continued throughout the past four weeks, and with an active demand both from the trade and exporters the bulk of the supplies offered at auction found willing purchasers, closing prices being quite 2s. to 3s. per cwt. above those ruling a month ago for all quantities excepting the very fine descriptions, for which there is a more limited demand. Fully 3,500 bags have been sold and we quote 60s. to 63s. for middling, 64s. to 66s. 6d. for good middling, 67s. to 85s. for fine to superior:

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, 1st Jan. to 31st May .. | 29,014 bags against | 16,243 bags. |
| DELIVERED " " .. | 25,612 " " | 22,200 " |
| STOCK, 31st May .. | 16,412 " " | 20,070 " |

GRENADA.—Since the date of our last report only 400 bags have been offered at Public Sale, for which there was keen competition, the most recent transactions showing an advance of 2s. per cwt. We quote ordinary to good fair 56s. to 58s. 6d., and middling to fine 59s. to 64s. per cwt.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, 1st Jan. to 31st May .. | 36,924 bags against | 27,279 bags. |
| DELIVERED " " .. | 36,160 " " | 26,735 " |
| STOCK, 31st May .. | 9,273 " " | 9,080 " |

Rum.

There is practically no change to record in this market. In proof descriptions a moderate business has been effected at about previous values, amounting to about 850 Puns Demerara at 9½d. to 11d. The Jamaica market is quiet, but the business transacted is at fairly steady rates.

Board of Trade Returns not yet issued, but the present stock in London of all kinds is as follows:—26,339 against 24,388 in 1901, and 15,740 in 1900.

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 31st May | 212,018 | 202,838 | 45,465 | 59,753 | 80,313 |
| France, 1st May | 405,630 | 328,062 | 413,178 | 465,000 | 404,279 |
| Germany, 1st May | 1,002,446 | 665,249 | 586,012 | 631,378 | 762,966 |
| Hamburg, 4th June | 177,990 | 107,550 | 91,100 | 125,900 | 156,500 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st May | 489,075 | 417,975 | 405,750 | 359,887 | 392,483 |
| Holland, 15th May | 101,612 | 53,716 | 42,848 | 33,363 | 66,311 |
| Belgium, 15th May | 127,779 | 41,492 | 80,395 | 78,083 | 86,808 |
| United States, 4th June, Total Stocks | 2,607,450 | 1,816,882 | 1,664,748 | 1,753,364 | 1,949,660 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 4th June, Total Stocks | 144,000 | 236,802 | 183,581 | 279,182 | 308,591 |
| Cargoes afloat, 5th June | 444,000 | 173,000 | 76,190 | 78,974 | 82,587 |
| | 16,615 | 16,401 | 15,570 | 28,590 | 26,214 |
| Total | 3,212,065 | 2,243,085 | 1,940,089 | 2,140,110 | 2,367,052 |

The West Indian Club.

The usual fortnightly dinner of the members of the West Indian Club was held at their Club rooms on the 28th May last. Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, who has retired from the post of Honorary Secretary, was the principal guest of the Club. The Dinner Committee were :—Hon. A. C. Ponsonby (in the Chair), A. MacDowell Nathan, Esq., A. Bovell, Esq., and J. Rippon, Esq. The following members and their friends were present :—A. Macdonald Smith, Esq., J. Hills Hartridge, Esq., E. G. Godfrey, Esq., R. Rutherford, Esq., J. C. Catford, Esq., G. Smith, Esq., H. Culverwell, Esq., P. J. Easton, Esq., John Hinkson, Esq., W. A. M. Goode, Esq., F. Braham, Esq., Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq., J. Powell Rees, Esq., Arthur Strachan, Esq., W. P. Michelin, Esq., G. F. Franks, Esq., C. T. Berthon, Esq., Dr. Richmond, C. A. Hicks, Esq., Wells Durant, Esq. (St. Vincent), Dr. G. B. Mason, G. Hudson Pile, Esq., Hon. Chas. T. Cox, L. M. Kortright, Esq., — Roden, Esq., Allan E. Messer, Esq., R. Stanley Wilcoxon, Esq., W. Rashleigh Tew, Esq., E. Roberts, Esq., L. de Mercado, Esq., G. B. Baker, Esq., — Limpus, Esq., G. S. Ewen, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., and Robt. Schult, Esq.

A telegram from Sir Thomas Lipton to Mr. W. A. M. Goode was received and read, besides letters from Sir Cuthbert Quilter and many others, expressing regret at being unable to attend. After the usual loyal toasts had been made, Mr. Ponsonby, on behalf of the Committee and Members of the Club, expressed their great appreciation of the work done for the Club by Mr. Aspinall, and this was confirmed in a thoroughly enthusiastic manner by all present. Mr. Aspinall replied in the most suitable manner, expressing his desire to be always of the utmost service to the Club as a Member of the Committee. Mr. W. A. M. Goode has taken up the Honorary Secretaryship, and at the next dinner on the 11th June, will be the guest of the evening.

The Indian Sugar Bill.

SIMLA, June 6th.

The Council has passed the Sugar Duties Bill, imposing countervailing duties of Rs.2 13¼ annas and Rs.3 3¼ annas per hundredweight on German and Austrian sugars respectively. Mr. Turner's amendment, giving the Government power to double the tax on imported sugar, was negatived.

The *Times*, on June 4th, commented on the matter as follows :—

"India has taken early steps to realise the decision of the Brussels Sugar Convention. Coming at a time when the German Government appears to be vacillating under pressure from the agrarians, and when Austria-Hungary has yet to overthrow the strong combination of rational beet growers and sugar manufacturers, her action may possibly produce important results. It will be remembered that within a year after the failure of the Brussels Conference of 1898, the Indian Government imposed countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar on the ground that imports, which had been trivial before 1890-91, had gradually assumed such large dimensions as to threaten seriously the valuable sugar-cane cultivation of India, on which much land revenue depends. At first these duties, which were additional to a general 5 per cent. duty on all imported sugar, appeared to be effective, but after three years' experience it is found that beet sugar is entering India, to an extent quite unprecedented. In four years the total imports of refined sugar have doubled, while the imports of beet sugar, which were less than one-third of the total of 1897-98, are now more than one-half—2,850,000 cwt. out of 5,429,000 cwt. of sugar imported in 1901-2 being bounty-fed. The most notable progress is in Austro-Hungarian sugar, which attained a record figure of 2,258,000 cwt. last year. Cane sugar showed a great advance in 1900-1, when Mauritius sent a record quantity, and Asiatic sugar producing countries also contributed large supplies. But in 1901-2 cane sugar declined, though imports from Mauritius were still much above the average. Meanwhile, prices, after rising for two years, have declined in 1901-2. Beet sugar has fallen about 11 per cent.,

while the best Mauritius is now cheaper than the beet crystals. The constantly increasing imports of beet sugar after 1899-1900 furnished strong presumptive evidence that the trade was being artificially stimulated, but not until the Brussels conference revealed the far-reaching effects of the Continental sugar cartels was the progress of beet sugar in Indian markets adequately explained. The new legislation now proposed in India follows strictly the lines laid down by the Convention for countervailing bounties in excess of a specified surtax. India is thus carrying out logically the policy initiated in 1899 pending the final settlement of the Convention on September 1st, 1903, when she will have the opportunity of giving her adhesion."

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Hhds. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| BARBADOS— | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st. to May 23rd, 1902 | 23,170 | — | — | — | — | — | 26,104 | | |
| Jan. 1st. to May 23rd, 1901 | 35,003 | — | — | — | — | — | 24,116 | | |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to May 20th, 1902 | 36,553 | 11,790 | 29,512 | — | 35,375 | 2,600 | 845 | | |
| Jan. 1st to May 22nd, 1901 | 37,175 | 9,931 | 8,691 | — | 35,118 | 74,250 | 407 | | |
| JAMAICA— | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Cwts. | Bunches. | | Oranges. | | |
| Apr. 1st to May 10th, 1902 | 4,659 | 413,527 | 1,743 | 17,294 | 1,865,150 | 2,877,200 | 3,293,450 | | |
| Apr. 1st to May 3rd, 1901 | 7,469 | 561,220 | 4,796 | 6,580 | 2,274,800 | 2,870,322 | 417,000 | | |
| TRINIDAD - | Bags & Brls. | Puns. | lbs. | lbs. | Tons. | | Puns. | Molasses lrs. Brls. | |
| Jan 1st to May 21st, 1902 | 339,334 | 244 | 17,443,870 | 39,280 | 48,688 | 5,594,766 | 2,022 | 111 190 | |
| Jan. 1st to May 21st, 1901 | 379,228 | 106 | 9,770,590 | 14,880 | 75,841 | 4,204,258 | 1,553 | 59 168 | |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), May 28th, "Few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." (Messrs. Thomas Daniel & Co., Ltd., in Liquidation), May 28th, "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 29th, "Finer weather since last message." June 6th, "Weather favourable for cultivation and grinding." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 28th, "Showery and unsettled."

Publications Received.

General.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

Acts of the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands, 1901. Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information, Trinidad, April. Barbados Agricultural Gazette and Planters' Journal, May. Bryan Edwards' History of the West Indies and Pinckard's Notes on the West Indies, 1806, Vols. 1 & 2, (through the Courtesy of H. Swales, Esq.) Sugar Journal, Queensland. Our Western Empire, No. 11, Vol. 1, May. The Financial News. The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre. The Louisiana Planter. The Produce Markets Review.

Market Reports.

*Barbados Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Gardiner, Austin & Co.).
Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Jones & Swan).
Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.).
Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown).
Demerara Market Report (Messrs. Wieting & Richter).
Jamaica "Gleaner" Mercantile Intelligencer (The "Gleaner" Co., Ltd.)
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. G. R. Alston & Co.)
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (W. J. S. Tucker, Esq.)
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.)
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, 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 Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).</i> | <i>The Dominican Guardian.</i> | <i>The Voice (St. Lucia).</i> |
| <i>The Barbados Advocate.</i> | <i>The Federalist and Grenada People.</i> | <i>The Times (St. Vincent).</i> |
| <i>The Barbados Globe.</i> | <i>The St. George's Chronicle (Grenada).</i> | <i>The Sentry (St. Vincent).</i> |
| <i>The Clarion (British Honduras).</i> | <i>The Daily 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. Aspinal,

Secretary.

West India Committee.

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

Monday, June 23rd, 1902.

The Coronation of King Edward.

In view of the approaching Coronation of His Majesty, King Edward VII., we must apologise for the brevity of the present Circular. As we have already pointed out, British Guiana and the West Indies will be represented at the Coronation festivities by Sir Walter J. Sendall, G.C.M.G., the late Governor of British Guiana. In spite of the unfair treatment which they have so long received at the hands of the Mother Country, it is gratifying to find that British Guiana and the West Indies remain intensely loyal to the Mother Country. Already a detachment of troops from Jamaica and Trinidad have arrived to take part in the Colonial Procession on Friday, June 27th, the day following the Coronation, and we feel sure that in no part of His Majesty's Dominions beyond the seas will there be a more popular outburst of feeling on this auspicious occasion than in our West Indian Colonies.

The Brussels Convention.

The Brussels Sugar Bounties Convention was definitely accepted by the German Reichstag, on June 11th last, when the Bill for this purpose was read for the third time. No legislation has as yet been introduced in France and Austria, but it is now confidently expected that France will accept the Convention, in which case Austria is hardly likely to stand out alone.

The Promised Relief for the Sugar Industry.

Considerable dissatisfaction is being felt at the reticence of the Colonial Office regarding the distribution of the £250,000 grant in aid of the sugar industry to enable it to tide over the period until the Brussels Sugar Bounties Convention, if ratified, becomes operative. It will be remembered that as the result of the earnest representations of the West India Committee, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach indicated that this amount would be forthcoming, and it was confidently expected that it would take the form of a direct grant. In the case of St. Lucia this has been the case, and a free grant of £3,000 has been made to the sugar industry of that Island. In St. Kitts Nevis the distribution will be made indirectly by means of an abatement of all taxes affecting the sugar industry for two years. Barbados is, however, to be treated differently, £80,000 having been earmarked for the Island; but this sum is only to form part of a loan not exceeding £200,000, for which the planters are asked to pay the exorbitant rate of 6 per cent., besides submitting themselves to other onerous conditions embodied in the "Plantation in Aids Bill" which we regret to learn has been already passed subject to certain amendments. These amendments, however, the principal of which is the reduction of the rate of interest from 6 per cent. to 5 per cent., the Government do not appear to be willing to accept and there is still therefore a hope that Barbados may insist on her share of the Imperial Grant, in the form of a grant which would be the surest means of keeping the sugar industry alive and providing work for the labouring classes. It is felt on this side that the Bill will defeat its own purpose through the onerous nature of conditions embodied in it. A strongly worded protest has been sent in to Mr. Chamberlain by the Barbados Owners, Mortgagees, Merchants, and others resident in this Country who have large interests in the Island against the "Plantation in Aids Bill, 1902," which has been so suddenly sprung upon them, and regarding which the Colonial Office refused to vouchsafe such information as would enable proprietors to protect their interests by corresponding with their representatives in the Island.

West Indian Affairs.

The R.M. Steam Packet Company's steamer "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth at 11.35 p.m. Tuesday, June 17th, and the Mails were delivered at 11.45 a.m. Wednesday, June 18th. The Direct West India Mail Service Company's steamer "Port Antonio" anchored at Avonmouth, on Wednesday, June 11th, at 10 a.m. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents:—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), June 4th. Ever since the first outbreak of Mont Pelée, the weather had been of a most unusual character for the season of the year. Thunderstorms had been frequent and almost incessant rain had rendered the manufacture of sugar a practical impossibility, while flies by day and mosquitoes by night rendered life almost unendurable. Neglected though the Island had been, the spark of loyalty still remained unquenched and efforts were being made to celebrate the King's Coronation. 1,000 of the poor of the Island were to receive a dinner, and a programme of other festivities had been arranged.

Barbados. (T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), June 7th. Our correspondent dealt at length with the Plantation in Aids Bill with which we deal elsewhere. Plantations were sadly in need of their foreign manure since the recent heavy rains. Nice rains had fallen, and already the young crops were beginning to respond. Those estates which had not finished crop were in difficulties. The news that Peace had been declared was received with great manifestations of joy in the Island. The price of sugar at the time of writing was \$1, and \$1.20 for hhds. and bags respectively, and molasses 8 cents per gallon.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), June 4th. The weather was showery and unsettled, but on the whole favourable for the estates. There was a meeting of the Legislature on May 28th. Sales of refining crystals had taken place round about \$1.66, but with a broken cable, buyers were chary in offering, and the quotation at the time of writing was \$1.60. Correspondence was taking place between the Planters' Association and the Government on the subject of recruiting Indian Labour for the French Colonies.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), June 4th. It was reported that an offer had been made by a large firm to buy in two years' time a minimum of 35,000 bunches of bananas a fortnight, for at least five years, at a fair price on the wharf. This would prove a great inducement for small capitalists to settle on the Island. Ample rains had fallen, but it was too early to say anything as to crop prospects.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.) June 3rd. The weather had been very hot, but on June 3rd there was a fine fall of rain over Kingston, which had the appearance of being general. The ginger crop was over. It was a fair one but not so large as that of the preceding year. With regard to Pimento there were prospects of a large reaping. Barring a hurricane or extreme bad weather it was fairly assured. The coffee trees looked well for a good crop.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), June 3rd. The previous day a good deal of excitement was created by a report, vouched for by the Police Authorities, that fire and steam had been seen to issue from the ground in the town of Dieppe Bay in the Northern end of the Island. No doubt the fire and steam existed only in the over-heated imagination of the narrators of the story. Nearly £200 had been raised locally for the relief of distress in the two Islands, and the day after the disaster arrangements were completed for sending a considerable shipment of food-stuffs to Martinique. With regard to the crop and weather our Correspondent reported that they had been flooded with rain, as a result possibly of the atmospheric disturbances in connection with the Martinique disaster; and this abnormal flooding was keeping back crop reaping. He trusted that the balance of the condition of things, which unquestionably had been disturbed, would be restored.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay), June 6th. They were woefully disappointed at the apportionment of the Government Relief Fund, the £3,000 apportioned to the Island would give only about 11s. per ton on the average crops instead of 15s. as stated. This would go very little way in affording anything in the shape of substantial assistance. Up to the time of writing they had escaped from the volcanic eruption which had devastated Martinique and St. Vincent, and hoped that this immunity might continue.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), June 6th. Up to that morning they were congratulating themselves on things assuming their normal state, but loud explosions had again been heard from the vicinity of the Soufrière which had caused a good deal of excitement. Fully one-third of the cultivated area had been devastated, they were informed, however, that the Island Professor of Chemistry at Barbados, had on a further analysis given it as his opinion that the ashes emitted from the Volcano had great fertilising properties, which offered some consolation. This was borne out by the rapid growth of local vegetation which at one time seemed quite destroyed. Arrowroot, however, did not seem to recover itself as was expected, and the output next year must in consequence be very far short of this year, on their own places there must be a shortage of 3,500 barrels alone. Mr. Alex Porter returned by the Mail. He had visited all of the

New Members.

At the Fortnightly Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, June 12th, the following new Members were elected :—

| Name. | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| J. W. C. CATFORD, Esq. | R. Rutherford, Esq. | Hon. Forster M. Alleyne. |
| H. A. HOOD DANIEL, Esq. | Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G. | Cyril Gurney, Esq. |
| JOHN J. EVANS, Esq. | W. Gillespie, Esq. | E. L. Marshall, Esq. |
| SAMUEL MANNING, Esq. | Elliot G. Louis, Esq. | R. Rutherford, Esq. |

The West India Club Dinner.

At the Fortnightly Dinner of the West India Club, organised by Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. L. De Mercado, and Mr. R. Schult, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, the newly appointed Honorary Secretary was the guest of the evening.

Among those present were :—R. Rutherford, Esq., in the Chair, C. M. Bain, Esq., M. M. Beeton, Esq., J. Braham, Esq., F. Berger, Esq., H. Berger, Esq., J. W. C. Catford, Esq., F. Chatterway, Esq., P. L. Dillon, Esq., Wells Durant, Esq., W. Gray, Esq., J. Hicks, Esq., F. Kern, Esq., A. Lubbock, Esq., Dr. G. B. Mason, A. de Mercado, Esq., L. de Mercado, Esq., J. Mitchell, Esq., — O'Hara, Esq., G. Perch, Esq., G. Hudson Pile, Esq., Hon. A. Ponsonby, W. Reece, Esq., L. Schoener, Esq., R. Schult, Esq., A. J. Stephens, Esq., J. D. Trimmingham, Esq., Regd. Ward, Esq., L. Wessells, Esq., R. S. Wilcoxon, Esq., and W. A. Wolseley, Esq.

Subscriptions for 1902. Special Notice.

A considerable number of subscriptions for the current year, which were due on January 1st, remain in arrears. We earnestly appeal to those Members who have not yet paid, to forward a remittance at their earliest convenience. Special attention is called to Rules 4 and 9, of the West India Committee, which are as follows :—

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 £3 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.

9. The names of gentlemen over one year in arrears of subscription shall be taken off the list of Members.

St. Vincent Relief Fund.

We have received and handed to the Lord Mayor the following additional donations towards the St. Vincent Relief Fund.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| G. A. O. LANE, Esq. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £5 0 0 |
| Rev. Canon LORAIN ESTRIDGE | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 1 0 |
| Miss MARIANNE ESTRIDGE | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 1 0 |
| Miss EMILY ESTRIDGE | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 1 0 |
| EDWARD ESTRIDGE, Esq. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 1 0 |
| ELLIOT G. LOUIS, Esq. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 6 |

The fund now amounts to £57,000. It is estimated that the loss to proprietors as a result of the disaster cannot amount to less than £35,000, and possibly £40,000. The question of their compensation is receiving the attention of the West India Committee.

devastated districts and as he was thoroughly acquainted with the appearance of everything prior to the eruption, no better authority on the havoc wrought could be forthcoming.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick), June 5th. The weather was very unsettled and there had been several heavy showers, sugar-making was almost finished and would be completely so by the 7th.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," June 18th, 1902.—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. G. W. Hutchinson, Capt. J. S. Cape, Lieut. Gregory, Mr. C. W. Anderson, Capt. Corbould, Mr. Walter, Mr. Colson. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. T. McWilliam, Capt. A. Duncan, Mr. C. H. Nicolson, Mr. and Mrs. Marcus, Mr. J. A. Barbour James. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Sollas, Mrs. Cooper-Key, Mrs. and Misses B. and T. Verley, Miss Schloss, Mr. S. Verley, Miss E. James, Mrs. Forwood, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. C. Ogilvie, Mr. R. A. Hay, Misses E. and A. Awray, Lieut. G. M. Olham, Lieut. A. E. Norton, Capt. H. M. Burke, Coronation Contingent: Sergt.-Major, N.C.O., 34 Rank and File of Jamaica Militia, Capt. C. M. Ogilvie, C.O. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. H. W. Caird, Mrs. H. G. Pasea, Dr. Gravely, Mr. J. W. Tomlinson, Mr. M. Malden, Mr. A. Young, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Peet, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald, Mr. W. Abel, Mr. W. Savary, Mrs. Carbould, Mr. A. Fraser, Mrs. Aucher Warner, Mrs. A. P. Lange, Coronation Contingent:—Major Collens, seven N.C.O.'s, 41 Troopers, and Major A. P. Lange, C.O. of Trinidad Artillery. **ANTIGUA.**—Mrs. N. Scott-Johnson, Mrs. Holme, Mr. H. Holme, Juur., Miss N. Humphreys. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. F. E. Everington. **ST. KITTS.**—Mr. and Mrs. Harding, Rev. and Mrs. Price. **ST. LUCIA.**—Capt. Freeman ex. S.S. "Roddam." **ST. VINCENT.**—Mr. Alex Porter, Hon. D. A. Macdonald, Miss J. Findlay, Col. Richardson, Mr. W. Williams, *Daily Express*.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," June 25th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mrs. Foley, Mr. J. W. C. Catford. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. J. S. Hewick, Mr. L. C. Craig, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Rowland. **JAMAICA.**—Capt. G. A. Duncan, Mr. R. S. Wilcoxon, Mr. G. Whiting. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. W. C. Robertson.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," June 11th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mrs. John Addison, Master P. Alexander, Mr. E. R. Browne, Mrs. M. Brown, Miss W. Butterworth, Mrs. E. A. Cundall, Master E. Cobbold, Miss V. Cobbold, Mr. and Mrs. C. Don, Miss Elliott, Miss Fitzherbert, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. G. F. Farmer, Mr. W. R. Gillies, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Heyliger, Mrs. G. A. Hurcomb, Master M. G. Heron, Mrs. E. Hopkins, Mr. G. Hawkins, Miss R. Isaacs, Mr. R. K. S. Jacobsen, Miss E. L. Keeling, Mr. C. Hope Levy, Miss L. Lillie, Mrs. J. R. Latreille, Rev. W. Lund, Mrs. J. V. Leach, Miss — Leach, Mrs. John Lockett, Mr. A. Morrice, Miss C. Mayhew, Miss Mary Mostyn, Mr. A. E. Motta, Mr. R. J. Miller, Mr. Jas. Milne, Miss Peck, Mrs. H. T. Ronaldson, Miss D. Rice, Mr. H. Ramsden, Mr. and Mrs. A. Robertson, Mrs. Sinclair, Miss Smith, Miss Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tillman, Miss A. Tatem, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Smith, Mr. G. Anderson, Miss P. Gregory, Mr. H. S. Philips, Mrs. Thompson.

Advance Homeward Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," Sailing June 11th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. Anderson, Miss L. E. Allwood, Mrs. R. J. Benning, Miss S. Benning, Miss M. Benning, Mrs. B. S. Gossett, Master C. M. Hutton, Master P. M. Hutton, Miss M. L. Holden, Miss Ida Henderson, Mrs. Kelly Lawson, Miss Lance, Mrs. C. F. Lumb, Master P. Nash, Mr. C. S. Sherlock, Master L. Sloan, Major and Mrs. Townshend, Rev. Dr. Turner, Rev. and Miss Williams.

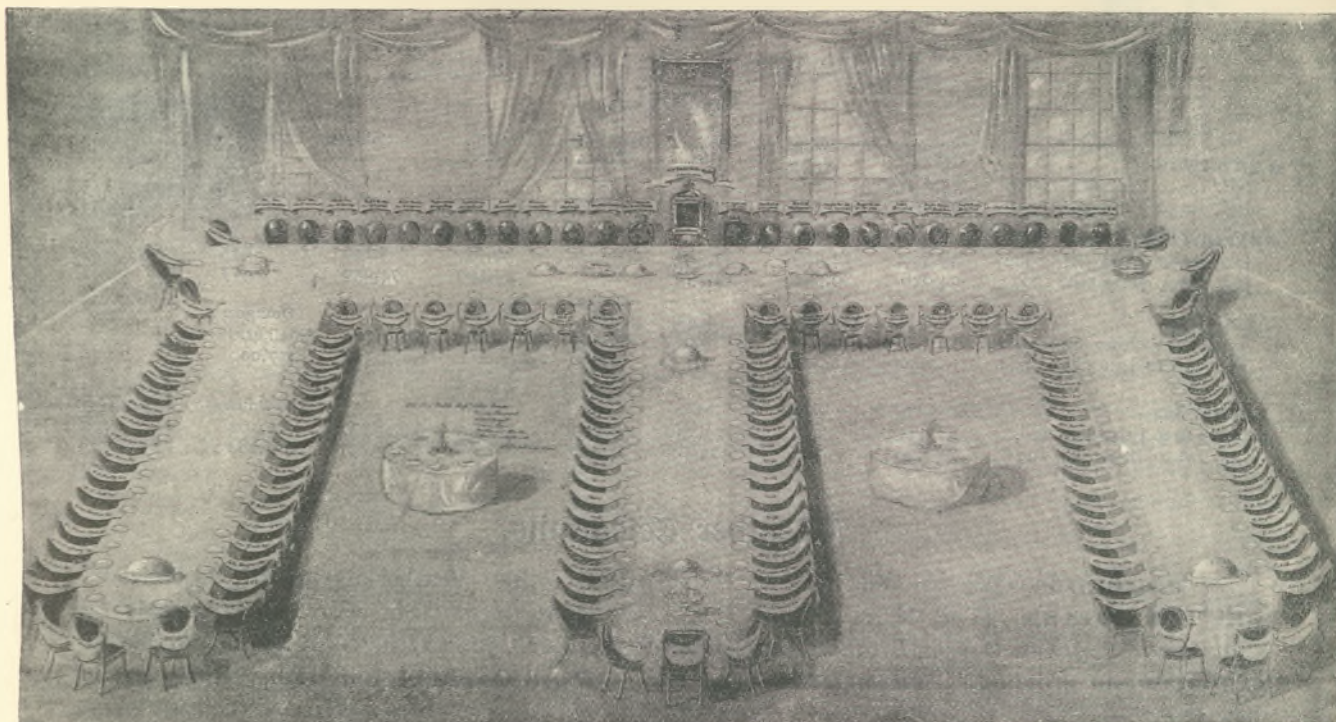
Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Maria," June 21st, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. J. G. James, Miss M. Kirkham, 2nd-Lieut. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Nuttall, Rev. and Mrs. Prentice.

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 14th June | 206,511 | 194,679 | 43,771 | 64,449 | 85,211 |
| France, 1st June | 443,796 | 283,564 | 349,144 | 400,000 | 331,483 |
| Germany, 1st June | 864,381 | 512,315 | 402,153 | 479,069 | 619,354 |
| Hamburg, 18th June | 175,700 | 81,400 | 86,900 | 132,400 | 133,500 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st June | 411,521 | 324,021 | 331,817 | 293,765 | 325,219 |
| Holland, 1st June | 95,513 | 47,581 | 35,331 | 28,318 | 59,978 |
| Belgium, 1st June | 120,107 | 36,587 | 72,602 | 71,004 | 93,584 |
| United States, 18th June, Total Stocks..... | 2,317,529 | 1,480,147 | 1,321,718 | 1,469,005 | 1,648,329 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 18th June, Total Stocks | 120,000 | 269,133 | 159,566 | 281,263 | 317,722 |
| Cargoes afloat, 19th June..... | 434,000 | 152,735 | 57,882 | 75,000 | 80,075 |
| | 16,560 | 9,360 | 11,025 | 24,402 | 23,864 |
| Total..... | 2,888,089 | 1,911,375 | 1,550,191 | 1,849,670 | 2,069,990 |

The West India Committee Banquet in 18—?



The above is a reproduction of a water-colour sketch, signed by A. Cruikshank, in the possession of the London and India Docks Company. It represents a plan of the tables at a banquet of the Standing Committee of the West India Planters and Merchants early in last Century. We are anxious if possible to trace the exact date and purpose of this banquet when two such distinguished guests as the Duke of York, and the Duke of Clarence, afterwards King William IV., honoured the West India Committee with their presence. Unfortunately a search of the minute Books of the Committee has revealed nothing beyond the fact that at a meeting held on March 26th, 1811, Charles Rose Ellis, Esq., M.P., in the Chair, it was resolved "That the West India Planters and Merchants will dine together in the month of June next, and about the same time annually. The Chairman regulating the day, the place of meeting, the notices and invitations to guests." On 16th November, 1814, Mr. Charles Nicholas Pallmer, M.P., "a planter to whose character and ability" the chairman thought it "advisable to commit to the office of Chairman of this Body," was elected Chairman of the West India Committee during the temporary absence of Mr. Ellis (at Bath), and it was doubtless during his tenure of the Chair that the Banquet was held. Among the diners will be noticed the names of many whose names in connection with the West Indies still have a familiar sound, and we hope that some of the descendants of these Gentlemen may assist us in our quest.

| KEY. | |
|---|--|
| C. X. Pallmer, Esq., M.P., Chairman. | H.R.H. Duke of York. |
| H.R.H. Duke of Clarence. | The Earl of Liverpool. |
| Earl of Westmoreland. | Rt. Hon. Geo. Canning. |
| Rt. Hon. W. W. Pole. | Lord Binning. |
| Rt. Hon. Wm. Huskisson. | Rt. Hon. Robt. Peel. |
| Sir J. T. Denham. | Edwd. Cooke, Esq. |
| Geo. Harrison, Esq. | Wm. Holmes, Esq., M.P. |
| <p> Lt.-Gen. Fother. Geo. Blackburn, Esq. G. Hallam, Esq. </p> <p> Maj-Gen. Sir G. T. Walker. Lt.-Gen. Sir C. Green, Bt. Maj-Gen. Sir H. Turpins. Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Scott. Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Grant. Rt. Hon. George Rose. Rt. Hon. C. B. Bathurst. Earl Harewood. Marquis Clanden. Earl Bathurst. Lord Colborne. H.R.H. Duke of York. </p> <p> Sir Charles Colville. Gen. Sir Alured Clarke. Wm. Mitchell, Esq. Lord Colville. Wm. Manning, Esq., M.P. Earl of Westmeath. G. W. Jordan, Esq. Wm. Hamilton, Esq. Sir Simon Clarke, Bt. Lord Rodney. Jas. Mitchell, Esq. Wm. Murray, Esq. I. H. James, Esq. I. P. Anderson, Esq. Vocal. Vocal. Vocal. Vocal. Vocal. Vocal. Geo. Robley, Esq. W. M. Alexander, Esq. Claude Neilson, Esq. Alex. Hall, Esq. T. Campbell, Esq. Richd. Wace, Esq. </p> <p> Beaton Long, Esq. Rt. Hon. F. Robinson. G. W. Taylor, Esq. Rt. Hon. C. Arbuthnot. A. C. Grant, Esq., M.P. S. R. Lushington, Esq., M.P. John Fuller, Esq. </p> <p> Jno. Barron, Esq. J. R. Grossett, Esq. Henry Shirley, Esq. Colin Robertson, Esq. Wm. Mitchell, Esq. Jas. Bourdieu, Esq. J. H. Dessel, Esq. Vocal. Vocal. Vocal. Vocal. Robt. Kerr, Esq. Denj. Harper, Esq. H. I. Underwood, Esq. John Macanion, Esq. John McGarel, Esq. W. H. Scotland, Esq. </p> <p> Hon. A. Macdonald. Jno. Irving, Esq., M.P. Joseph Murray, Esq., M.P. James Colquhoun, Esq. John Bent, Esq. John Kingston, Esq. Thos. Best, Esq. R. R. Jones, Esq. A. R. Doltin, Esq. A. P. Cumberland, Esq. Geo. Carrington, Esq. Ward Cautogan, Esq. I. G. Archer, Esq. Joseph Jordan, Esq. Thomas King, Esq. W. Irvine, Esq. John Duer, Esq. S. C. Holland, Esq. I. H. Markland, Esq. </p> <p> Col. Armstrong. G. N. Baily, Esq. Col. Colton. Capt. Finch. Major Delcher. Robt. Laug, Esq. P. M. Lucas, Esq. Dr. Garner. Em. Louzada, Esq. David Louzada, Esq. J. Murray, Junr., Esq. A. E. Fuller, Esq. T. Nighton, Esq. F. Brier, Esq. Wm. King, Esq. J. A. Rucker, Esq. John Reed, Esq. Thomas Greene, Esq. </p> | <p> Lt.-Gen. Macken. Sir Wm. Barton. John Tobin, Esq. John Ballour, Esq. Edwd. Eliche, Esq. Jno. Prestejohn, Esq. J. W. Nelson, Esq. App. Frere, Esq. F. S. Bayley, Esq. W. P. Litt, Esq. James Dawkins, Esq. Sir Francis Ford, Bt. Chas. Armstrong, Esq. J. P. Best, Esq. John Baillie. M. Cavan, Esq. Wm. Vaughan, Esq. </p> |

* At this table Messrs. John Innes, James Stewart, Alex. Grant, James Law, Nathaniel Winter, A'ext. Cruikshank will please to sit.

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Hhds. | Rum. Pans. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|
| BARBADOS— | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to June 6th, 1902 | 25,243 | — | — | — | — | — | 31,686 | | |
| Jan. 1st to June 5th, 1901 | 42,272 | — | — | — | — | — | 29,545 | | |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | Tons. | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to June 3rd, 1902 | 37,827 | 12,309 | 29,512 | — | 39,757 | 3,100 | 845 | | |
| Jan. 1st to June 5th, 1901 | 24,648 | 9,962 | 12,191 | — | 40,509 | 74,250 | 417 | | |
| JAMAICA— | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Coffee. Cwts. | Banana. Bunches. | | Oranges. | | |
| April 1st to May 17th, 1902 | 5,183 | 471,064 | 2,007 | 18,154 | 2,203,004 | 3,354,900 | 3,646,400 | | |
| April 1st to June 1st, 1901 | 7,460 | 561,229 | 4,796 | 6,580 | 2,274,800 | 2,870,322 | 417,000 | | |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brls. | Pans. | lbs. | Coffee lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | | Puns. | Molasses Tons. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to June 4th, 1902 | 383,341 | 244 | 18,817,130 | 42,100 | 52,895 | 5,930,777 | 2,162 | 111 | 191 |
| Jan. 1st to June 4th, 1901 | 418,203 | 106 | 11,402,420 | 14,800 | 81,398 | 4,987,357 | 2,284 | 143 | 245 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), June 10th, "Weather all that can be desired."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 16th, "Showery and favourable for cultivation." Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co., Ltd., June 13th, "Weather favourable for cultivation and grinding."
TRINIDAD.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 11th, "Rainy season has set in."

Publications Received.

General.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

Sugar Journal, Queensland. Our Western Empire, No. 12, Vol. 1, June. The Financial News. The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre. The Louisiana Planter. The Produce Markets Review. The Colonial Office List, 1902.

Market Reports.

Barbados Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Gardiner, Austin & Co.).
Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Jones & Swan).
Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.)
Demerara Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.).
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report (The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown)
Demerara Market Report (Messrs. Wieting & Richter).
Jamaica "Gleaner" Mercantile Intelligencer (The "Gleaner" Co., Ltd.)
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (Messrs. G. R. Alston & Co.)
Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (W. J. S. Tucker, Esq.)
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.)
Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Mau, Paines & Reid, Wilson Smithett & Co., C. M. & C. Woodhouse.

West Indian Newspapers.

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

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

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

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.,

Monday, July 7th, 1902.

The King.

Almost before our last Circular was in the hands of Members the news reached us of the serious illness of His Majesty the King. His Majesty underwent a serious operation for perityphlitis on Tuesday, June 24th, two days before he should have been crowned at Westminster. Since then, however, his progress towards recovery has, we are glad to record, been rapid, and the announcement contained in Saturday's Bulletin, that the King was out of danger, will have been received with genuine relief and satisfaction throughout the West Indies, whose unswerving loyalty has once more been evinced in a marked manner by the numerous telegrams of sympathy received. The following telegram was despatched by the Committee to Sir Francis Knollys:—"West India Committee of Planters and Merchants have learnt with deep concern of the illness of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, and trust that you will convey to Her Majesty the Queen respectful expression of their deep and sincere sympathy. It is their earnest and heartfelt prayer that His Majesty may speedily be restored to health." N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*. ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Sec.*

West Indian Affairs.

The R.M. Steam Packet Company's steamer "Orinoco" anchored off Plymouth at 5.45 p.m. Wednesday, July 2nd, and the Mails were delivered by first post Thursday, July 3rd. The Direct West India Mail Service Company's steamer "Port Morant" anchored at Avonmouth, on Monday, June 23rd, at 8 p.m. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents:—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), June 18th. Almost continuous rains had fallen, and crop operations were at a complete standstill. The rank growth of vegetation had caused an abundant crop of weeds in the young cane pieces, and some of the young cane pieces were so water logged that it was impossible to work a hoe upon them. For days no gleam of sunshine had been visible.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), June 20th. Crop was practically finished; a few windmills in the Scotland district were slowly moving round. The weather was perfect, and the new crops were looking very well and most promising. Prices were nominally \$1.05 and \$1.25 per 100 lbs. in hhds. and bags respectively, with \$5.00 for pkge Molasses 8 c. per gall. and \$4.00 for pun. There remained virtually none to sell.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), June 19th. At a meeting of the legislature on the 11th, an amended scale of rations to be given to Immigrants for three months after allotment, was passed by the Court. The only material change was that an early morning ration was to be given, but on several estates this had been done for some years past. Some 2,600 tons of refining crystals had changed hands during the fortnight at prices from \$1.66½ to \$1.67½. The current quotation was \$1.65½. Weather had been favourable generally and cultivation was looking well. On the day of writing very heavy rain was falling.

Dominica.—June 19th. Our correspondent, Mr. E. A. Agar, has sent us a table of the Imports and Exports of the Island for the years 1900 and 1901, compiled from the Treasury returns. Both show a slight falling off for the year 1901 as compared with 1900. With regard to imports there was a decrease in value under all heads (except machinery). The imports of Alcoholic liquors had fallen off, probably owing to the increase in the local manufacture of Rum, the imports of which article had practically ceased, which indicated a healthy state of affairs. The imports of Artificial manures showed a comparatively large increase, and also of manufactured goods, this latter, notwithstanding the fact that merchants

over-stocked in 1900, and that a large proportion of the labourers' wages was earned by natives of Montserrat. Antigua, who remitted a part of their earnings to their old homes. With regard to exports, Cacao had decreased slightly, but taking into consideration the havoc done to the crop by the serious drought at the beginning of the year, it was evident that the potential output had materially increased. Lime products had also fallen off slightly, also, in consequence of the dry season, but if oils were excepted, the value of the crop was greater than that of the year before. Sugar was the only export which had improved, the sole estate producing sugar had recently changed hands, with the result that not only was the local demand for common qualities almost entirely supplied, but an increased amount remained over for export. Mr. Agar's carefully compiled statement is appended.

IMPORTS INTO DOMINICA FOR THE YEARS 1900-1901.

| Article | 1900 Value £ | 1902 Value £ | Increase | Decrease |
|--|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Foodstuffs .. | 18,819 | 18,157 | — | 662 |
| Alcoholic Liquors.. | 3,062 | 2,282 | — | 780 |
| Rum .. | 452 | 140 | — | 312 |
| Sugar... .. | 1,401 | 616 | — | 785 |
| Molasses .. | 9 | 44 | 35 | — |
| Stock .. | 1,099 | 687 | — | 212 |
| Tobacco .. | 848 | 943 | 95 | — |
| Manures .. | 493 | 750 | 257 | — |
| Machinery .. | 1,587 | 765 | — | 322 |
| Lumber .. | 3,204 | 3,144 | — | 60 |
| Other Articles (manufactured goods) | 38,381 | 40,577 | 2,296 | — |
| | 69,355 | 68,305 | | |
| Percentages added in accordance with the Customs Statistical Committee of 1891.. | 10,789 | 11,091 | | |
| | 80,144 | 79,396 | | 758 |

| Imported from— | 1901 | 1902 |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| The United Kingdom | 35,474 (44%) | 31,157 (45%) |
| Canada .. | 1,620 | 2,740 |
| West Indies .. | 117,011 | 113,518 |
| Other Brit. Possessions | 544 | 399 |
| United States of Am. | 23,208 (28%) | 18,267 (27%) |
| Other Foreign Countries | 3,267 | 2,218 |
| | 80,144 | 68,305 |

* Customs Percentages have been added for 1901.
 † Mostly from Barbados in transit from other ports, British and Foreign.

EXPORTS FROM DOMINICA FOR THE YEARS 1900-1901.

| Article | Quantity | 1900 Value £ | Total Value £ | Quantity | 1901 Value £ | Total Value £ | Increase | Decrease |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| Cacao .. | 1,060,346 lbs. | — | 24,852 | 1,006,786 lbs. | — | 23,597 | — | 1,255 |
| Limes (green)* | 7,850 brls. | 2,748 | — | 8,585 brls. | 3,005 | — | 257 | — |
| Limes (pickled)* | 847 brls. | 307 | — | 1,148 brls. | 416 | — | 109 | — |
| Lime Juice (raw)* | 414,477 galls. | 15,543 | — | 206,563 galls. | 7,746 | — | — | 7,797 |
| Lime Juice (concentrated)* | 75,854 galls. | 13,015 | — | 88,644 galls. | 21,053 | — | 8,038 | — |
| Lime (raw juice) | 1,385,604 galls. | — | — | 1,348,155 galls. | — | — | — | — |
| Lime Oils | — | 4,104 | — | — | 2,866 | — | — | 1,238 |
| Total Value of Lime Products | — | — | 35,717 | — | — | 35,086 | — | 631 |
| Coffee | 10,236 lbs. | — | 384 | 5,211 lbs. | — | 195 | — | 189 |
| Oranges | 1,557,080 | — | 1,293 | 673,920 | — | 562 | — | 736 |
| Sugar | 109 tons | 1,682 | — | 210 tons | 3,213 | — | 1,531 | — |
| Syrup | — | — | — | 54 galls. | 3 | — | — | 3 |
| Rum | — | — | — | 80 galls. | — | — | — | 12 |
| Total Value of Cane Products | — | — | 1,682 | — | — | 3,228 | 1,546 | — |
| Bananas | 8,619 bnchs. | — | 323 | 7,425 bnchs. | — | 278 | — | 45 |
| Sundry Fruits and Vegetables | — | — | — | — | — | 1,008 | — | — |
| Other Exports | — | — | 4,196 | — | — | 2,938 | — | 1,258 |
| | | | 68,452 | | | 66,892 | | 1,560 |

* Reduced to gallons.

| Exported to— | 1901 | 1902 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| The United Kingdom | 46,900 (68%) | 47,224 (70%) |
| Canada .. | 2,320 | 1,278 |
| West Indies .. | 2,850 | 3,663 |
| Other British Possessions | 883 | 808 |
| United States of America | 13,179 (18%) | 12,008 (18%) |
| Other Foreign Countries | 654 | 338 |
| Not of Local Production | 66,821 | 65,319 |
| | 1,631 | 1,573 |
| | 68,452 | 66,892 |

Heavy rains had fallen in Dominica, and it was feared that some damage to the cacao crop had resulted. All anxiety in the Island as to the volcanic disturbances had ceased.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas), June 17th. The terrific heat of the last month, felt chiefly during the period when the Souffrière was in activity, had given place to a much cooler temperature and abundant rains. They had already had over 9 inches of rain during the month. The insect pest called Thrips is not so much in evidence on the leaves of the cocoa trees as it was at the corresponding period of the past three years. He was of opinion that this decrease was mainly due to the cocoa planters' persistency in burying the cocoa pods immediately after reaping and "cracking" them. The Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies had recently issued a fortnightly review called "The Agricultural News." Like all the publications from that department, "The Agricultural News" was a bright and instructive production, that is sure to find favour among West Indians interested in agriculture. It at least deserved to do so. There was every indication that the Coronation of our King will be worthily and heartily celebrated in Grenada.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), June 17th. Seasonable rains had fallen throughout the Island. They had been just heavy enough to be of service to the growing crops without causing any damage to speak of.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd), June 17th. The proposals of the Secretary of State for the relief of the sugar industry in St. Kitts Nevis by the remission of certain taxes, were thought to be entirely inadequate, though of course better than nothing at all. Owing to the special conditions existing in Nevis, this form of relief would do absolutely no good to the hundreds of small cane farmers in that Island, a most deserving class. It was to be feared that before the Convention took effect, many of the proprietors must succumb. There had been an abnormal fall of rain in May and early June, and crop reaping had been very greatly retarded.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay), June 20th. There seemed to be considerable uncertainty as to when the £3,000 allocated to St. Lucia as a grant in aid to the sugar industry would actually be paid. The weather was normal, and some heavy showers had fallen.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), June 20th. Things were gradually resuming their normal state. The Government was still feeding some 7,000 to 8,000 persons.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick), June 19th. Fourships bringing the season's immigrants were expected to leave Calcutta in September, October, November, and December, respectively. There had been a good deal of rain. It was seasonable but too favourable to the growth of grass at a time when estates were afraid to put forth all their strength to combat it.

The Coronation Honours.

The West Indies were well represented in the list of Coronation Honours which was published on June 26th, the date originally fixed for the Coronation. Our congratulations are due to the following gentlemen, whose names appear among the appointments to the most distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George:—To be K.C.M.G.: E. C. Phipps, Esq., C.B., His Majesty's Minister at Brussels, British delegate at the Sugar Bounties Conference, 1901-1902. To be C.M.G.: A. A. Pearson, Esq., of the Colonial Office, for services as one of the British delegates at the Sugar Bounties Conference; E. R. Drayton, Esq., Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General of the Island of Grenada; J. K. G. T. Spencer Churchill, Esq., Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas Islands; E. F. Wright, Esq., Inspector-General of Police and Prisons of the Island of Jamaica; R. Darrell Darrell, Esq., Assistant-Justice of the Court of General Assize of the Bermuda Islands; Hon. W. K. Chandler, LL.D., Master in Chancery and Senior Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal of the Island of Barbados and J. M. Farquharson, Esq., Custos of the Parish of St. Elizabeth in the Island of Jamaica.

Special Notice.

A large number of subscriptions from Members resident in the Colonies are still in arrears. Much inconvenience is caused by what we can only believe to be the oversight of these gentlemen, and we earnestly request them to forward a remittance or instruct their agents to do so at their early convenience, as it is hoped that all subscriptions may be paid by the end of the current month.

Analysis of Volcanic Dust.

Professor Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S., Government Analyst of Trinidad, has made an interesting analysis of Volcanic Dust from St. Vincent and Martinique. The samples analysed were collected at sea off St. Vincent by Captain Edwards, s.s. "Louisianian," at Barbados and St. Pierre, Martinique, and we think that the following comparative table of the results cannot fail to be of interest to Members:—

| | S.S. "Louisianian." | Barbados. | St. Pierre, Martinique. |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| SOLUBLE IN WATER: | | | |
| Chlorine | 0.05 per cent. | 0.09 per cent. | 0.05 per cent. |
| Soda | | .. (large) | .. (large). |
| Lime | (large) | .. (large) | .. (large). |
| Sulphates | (large) | .. (large) | trace. |
| Total | 0.45 per cent. | 0.45 per cent. | 0.30 per cent. |
| SOLUBLE IN ACIDS (TWO HOURS): | | | |
| Iron oxide as FeO | 5.60 per cent. | 5.01 per cent. | 3.59 per cent. |
| Silica, Alumina, etc. | 11.81 .. | 6.89 .. | 2.01 .. |
| Lime | 2.94 .. | 3.36 .. | 1.13 .. |
| Magnesia | trace | .40 .. | .22 .. |
| Potash | — | .05 .. | .05 .. |
| Potash | trace | trace | trace. |
| Soda | — | .44 .. | .22 .. |
| Sulphates | traces | .23 .. | .02 .. |
| Phosphates | traces | traces | .11 .. |
| Total | 20.35 per cent. | 16.38 per cent. | 7.35 per cent. |

INSOLUBLE IN ACIDS :

| | | | | | |
|--|----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Silica and Silicates of Iron, Lime, &c. | .. | .. | 78.10 per cent. | 83.30 per cent. | 92.23 per cent. |
| Loss on ignition | .. | .. | .50 " | .40 " | .40 " |
| Total .. | .. | .. | 99.40 " | 100.53 " | 100.28 " |
| The insoluble in acids was fused and found then to consist of— | | | | | |
| Silica .. | .. | 42.90 per cent. | 48.48 per cent. | 59.80 per cent. | |
| Iron Silicates, etc. | .. | 28.35 " | 31.57 " | 27.73 " | |
| Lime .. | .. | 6.85 " | 3.25 " | 4.70 " | |
| Total .. | .. | .. | 78.10 per cent. | 83.30 per cent. | 92.23 per cent. |

FINENESS.

The following proportions remained on sieves of the following sizes :—

| Meshes per inch. | S. S. "Louisianian." | Barbados. | St. Pierre, Martinique. |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 30 | Nil | Nil | 2 per cent. |
| 40 | Nil | 1 per cent. | 12 " |
| 50 | 1 per cent. | 1 " | 10 " |
| 60 | 3 " | 2 " | 7 " |
| 70 | 7 " | 6 " | 11 " |
| 80 | 28 " | 41 " | 8 " |
| 90 | 25 " | 12 " | 7 " |
| 100 | 10 " | 6 " | 4 " |
| Passed through 100 | 26 " | 31 " | 39 " |

REMARKS. — There is practically the same amount soluble in water, and volatile on heating in all three samples.

The proportion soluble in acids differs very considerably. The amount of Lime is greatest in the dust of lowest specific gravity.

As regards fineness the St. Pierre dust contains, as might be expected, coarser particles than the other two.

The St. Pierre dust contains a reddish mineral in the form of short cylinders which is not present in the other two, and there is also a slight difference when viewed by polarised Light.

In his report, which has been published by the Government of Trinidad, the learned Professor expresses his opinion that the manurial value of the ash is very low. Potash and phosphoric acid are present only in traces, while nitrogen is altogether absent. But he adds that nearly 10 per cent. of lime must have a beneficial effect on clay soil, and this probably accounts for the local belief in the high manurial value of the ashes. The Mechanical advantages of the ashes, however, in loosening and drying heavy clay soils are appreciable.

The West India Club.

In view of the satisfactory nature of the bulletins regarding the health of His Majesty the King, it was not deemed necessary to postpone the usual Fortnightly Dinner of the West India Club, which was held on June 25th last. The Dinner Committee consisted of A. N. Lubbock, Esq., Chairman, and G. H. Pile, Esq., and among those present were :—Hon. F. M. Alleyne, A. E. Aspinall, Esq., H. E. Boyle, Esq., T. Braham, Esq., Capt. Burke, — Dewar, Esq., J. Folds, Esq., A. C. Grant, Esq., S. Henderson, Esq., G. H. Jackson, Esq., C. King, Esq., Capt. Lange, C. Hope Levy, Esq., Dr. E. C. Machay, Dr. Mason, L. de Mercado, Esq., T. E. Mitchell, Esq., A. McD. Nathan, Esq., — O'Hara, Esq., Capt. Ogilvy, G. H. Pile, Esq., and Guest, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, H. Powell Rees, Esq., T. Powell Rees, Esq., J. Rippon, Esq., R. Rutherford, Esq., — Sanguinetti, Esq., F. I. Scard, Esq., R. Schult, Esq., W. M. Smith, Esq., Gilbertson Smith, Esq., — Smythe, Esq., A. Strachan, Esq., — Wainewright, Esq., T. Worthington, Esq.

The following resolution was passed *nem. con.*, all present standing :—

"That the Members of the West India Club have received with the greatest regret the news of the serious illness of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, and it is the earnest prayer of all that it may please the Almighty to grant to His Majesty a quick and perfect recovery."

A reply in the following terms was subsequently received by Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Hon. Secretary, of the West India Club:—"Many thanks for your kind telegram which shall be laid before the King. His Majesty is progressing satisfactorily.—Knollys."

Beet Sowings.

The United States Consul-General in Berlin, who has given a great deal of attention to the beet-sugar question, and whose estimates have always turned out to be pretty correct, has made a report under date of May 23, on the effect produced on the planting of beets for sugar by the Conference recently held. He emphasises the fact that the area of sugar-beet planting throughout Germany and the other continental countries is one of the most interesting features of the industrial situation. When the Brussels Conference abolishing export bounties had concluded its work, the syndicate of German sugar producers held a meeting and sent out an earnest demand that beet growers should reduce as far as possible their beet planting for 1902. This policy was adopted in order "to make headway against the enormous surplus of sugar that now overloads and depresses the European market." He now gives the result of this appeal. The returns show that Germany has planted, this spring, 1,046,396 acres, which is a decrease of 11.2 per cent. from the area planted last year. Every province shows a decrease, the reduction of acreage ranging from 1.2 per cent. in Pomerania to 36 per cent. in Baden, 45 per cent. in Bavaria, and 54.1 per cent. in Hesse-Nassau. Four large factories have been shut down and will remain closed during the coming campaign against over-production of beet sugar. He also gives returns from other sugar-producing countries on the Continent, the following table showing the variations of beet area as compared with last year:—

| Country. | Area. Acres. | Increase. Per cent. | Decrease. Per cent. |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Austria-Hungary | 751,011 | — | 16.2 |
| France | 551,774 | — | 23.8 |
| Russia | 1,470,566 | 1 | — |
| Belgium | 130,516 | — | 24 |
| Holland | 77,009 | — | 35 |
| Sweden | 59,887 | — | 16.4 |
| Denmark | 35,830 | 4.8 | — |

Four factories in Belgium and eight in Holland will suspend operations during 1902-3, and the mean acreage reduction in area of beet cultivation in these eight sugar-growing countries will be a reduction by 11.34 per cent. of the total acreage of the year 1901.—The *Times*, June 24th.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," July 3rd, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Capt. and Mrs. Chancellor, Dr. Deans, Mrs. Griffith, Mr. Jules Berta, Mère de l'Enfant Jesus, Mère Marguerita Marie, Mr. W. G. Griffith, Mr. Oswald Child. DEMERARA.—Mrs. Scurfield, Mr. C. A. Massiah, Mr. and Mrs. Le Poer Power, Captain Baker, Miss Baker, two Misses Gillespie, Dr. F. Sloman, Mrs. Etheridge, Mr. Jas. Gillespie, Mr. R. Driver, Mr. J. W. Dorman, Mr. A. W. Ord, Mr. A. S. McEwan. JAMAICA.—Mr. C. P. Douglas, Mr. T. A. Ashman, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Harding, Brigadier Gale and Wife, Miss Nora Mumm, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Lindo, Master C. P. Lindo, Mr. L. Gibson, Hon. Geo. McGrath, Mr. Langdon Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Muir, Miss Muir, Mr. Eustace Greg. TRINIDAD.—Mr. Wm. Haddon, Dr. and Mrs. Scharfferworth, Mrs. John Grant, Mr. I. W. Gordon, Mrs. Pogson, Mrs. Marwood, Mr. and Mrs. Lechoisne, Mrs. Abrams, Dr. H. Alston, Mrs. and Miss Stollmeyer, Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer, Mrs. Lambie, Mr. W. Sanderson, Mr. L. H. de Gannes, Mr. Jas. W. Wink. DOMINICA.—Mr. J. Cox Tillan, Rev. Father Vergne, Mr. and Mrs. Mends. ST. KITTS.—Mrs. Horsford, Miss Ada Boxall. ST. LUCIA.—Dr. Galgey and Daughter, Lieut. W. I. Westlake, 2nd-Lieut. W. R. Hayes.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," July 9th, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Miss Hodgkinson, Miss M. E. Williams, Miss Murray, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hoad. DEMERARA.—Dr. Shaw, Mr. W. Whale, Miss Wilson. JAMAICA.—Mr. C. W. Banks, Mr. J. Few. TRINIDAD.—Mr. C. Ferricelli, Mr. J. Cipriani. ST. LUCIA.—Miss Buckingham.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," June 23rd, 1902:—

JAMAICA.—Mr. Anderson, Miss L. E. Allwood, Mrs. R. J. Benning, Miss M. Benning, Miss S. Benning, Mrs. B. S. Gossett, Master C. M. Hutton, Master P. M. Hutton, Miss M. L. Holden, Miss Ida Henderson, Mrs. Lumb, Miss Lance, Mrs. Kelly Lawson, Mr. T. B. Lawrence, Mrs. and Miss Morais, Mr. C. E. Mellish, Master Percy Nash, Hon. and Mrs. Philip Stern, Mr. C. S. Sherlock, Master L. Sloan, Mr. C. S. Sanguinetti, Rev. Dr. Turner, Major and Mrs. Townshend, Rev. and Miss Williams, Mr. Wm. Caldwell, Mr. John Caldwell, Mr. Wm. Farquhar, Mr. E. A. Hodge, Mr. S. Jones, Mr. D. McPhail.

Advance Homeward Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," Sailing June 25th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Dewar, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gardner, Mrs. A. H. Pinnock, Miss Edith Vaughan.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," July 5th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. S. C. Barham, Mr. W. Charley, Mr. A. Dixon, Mr. F. Dixon, Mr. E. Eden, Mr. and Mrs. Freear, Mr. P. A. Jacobsen, Mr. Spicer, Miss Williamson, Mr. Jolly, Mr. R. J. Poulton.

Rum.

Continued dulness prevails in this market, and business is extremely difficult to effect. In proof descriptions only moderate transactions can be recorded amounting to 700 Puns. Demerara at 9½d. to 11¼d. In Jamaica there is only a limited business to report, and previous values are not readily obtainable, fine marks, however, have realised high prices. Total stocks continue to increase, and now stand as follows:—28,059 Puns. against 25,340 last year, and 16,417 in 1900.

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| United Kingdom, 28th June | 203,598 | 185,662 | 48,265 | 61,109 | 84,007 |
| France, 1st June | 443,796 | 283,564 | 349,144 | 400,000 | 331,483 |
| Germany, 1st June | 864,331 | 512,315 | 402,153 | 479,069 | 619,354 |
| Hamburg, 2nd July | 191,800 | 72,900 | 73,100 | 140,500 | 140,600 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st June | 411,521 | 324,021 | 331,817 | 293,765 | 325,219 |
| Holland, 15th June | 90,876 | 39,524 | 29,630 | 22,304 | 56,139 |
| Belgium, 15th June | 117,430 | 30,469 | 62,327 | 63,821 | 86,758 |
| United States, 2nd July, Total Stocks | 2,323,402 | 1,448,455 | 1,206,436 | 1,460,568 | 1,643,560 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 2nd July, Total Stocks | 133,000 | 280,705 | 151,456 | 289,728 | 325,894 |
| Cargoes afloat, 3rd July | 407,000 | 130,000 | 40,000 | 61,500 | 77,417 |
| Cargoes afloat, 3rd July | 52,728 | -87,645 | -63,382 | 86,311 | 35,381 |
| Total | 2,916,130 | 1,955,805 | 1,551,274 | 1,898,107 | 2,082,252 |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Hhds. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nnts. | Molasses. Puns. |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------|
| BARBADOS— | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to June 19th, 1902 | 29,118 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jan. 1st to June 19th, 1901 | 43,875 | — | — | — | — | — | 35,470 |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to June 17th, 1902 | 40,464 | 13,460 | 42,392 | — | 43,401 | 3,100 | 845 |
| Jan. 1st to June 19th, 1901 | 32,494 | 10,834 | 29,400 | — | 43,583 | 76,250 | 417 |
| JAMAICA— | | | | | | | |
| April 1st to June 7th, 1902 | 6,397 | 620,031 | 4,126 | 23,128 | 3,233,485 | 5,152,275 | 3,850,300 |
| April 1st to June 30th, 1901 | 9,042 | 919,079 | 6,915 | 8,005 | 3,224,767 | 3,496,492 | 912,300 |
| TRINIDAD— | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to June 18th, 1902 | 422,136 | 1,232 | 19,707,760 | 32,160 | 61,555 | 6,532,877 | 2,176 |
| Jan. 1st to June 18th, 1901 | 433,753 | 105 | 13,181,810 | 15,040 | 88,687 | 5,067,857 | 2,344 |
| | | | | | | | Molasses Tons. Brs. |
| | | | | | | | 111 191 |
| | | | | | | | 143 41 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), June 25th, "Weather all that can be desired."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) July 5th, "Too much rain for present requirements, more sunshine wanted." (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), July 7th, "Heavy rain, cultivation beginning to suffer."

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.,

Monday, July 21st, 1902.

The Ratification of the Sugar Convention.

The Australian Federal Government have resolved not to join the Sugar Bounties Convention. It has, however, been approved by the Belgian Chambers and on July 11th President Loubet signed the Bill regarding the adhesion of France, which will shortly be brought before the Legislature. The Russian Government has issued a note to all the Powers that participated in the Conference declaring that Russia gives no direct or indirect Bounties, but merely regulates the quantity of sugar put on the home market for the sake of preventing an excess of production, and this being so, Russia will have to consider any raising of import duties on Russian Sugar an infringement of commercial treaties. The Russian note is the chief subject of discussion at the meeting of Austro-Hungarian Board of Trade and Customs which is to be held at Vienna immediately. Regarding the ratification of the Convention by England, Mr. Balfour, on July 14th inst., in reply to Mr. Stevenson, intimated that the steps to secure the ratification by the House of the Brussels Sugar Convention would have to be taken before the conclusion of the Session, though not, he thought, before the conclusion of the present part of the Session. He added that he would make no announcement at present.

Earthquake in St. Vincent.

We regret to state that the recent volcanic disturbances in St. Vincent have been followed by a severe earthquake, which was experienced on the morning of July 17th. Some buildings were damaged, and the greatest consternation prevailed among the people.

The King's Recovery.

The announcement made on July 7th that the King was out of danger has been followed by a succession of favourable bulletins, and now that His Majesty has been removed to his yacht at Cowes his progress towards recovery may be expected to be still more rapid. It has been officially announced that the Coronation will take place on Saturday, August 9th. On July 7th we received the following reply to our message of sympathy, which appeared in our last Circular :—

"The Private Secretary is commanded to thank the West India Committee of Planters and Merchants for their kind message of sympathy forwarded by Mr. Algernon Aspinall on the 30th ult. for submission to the Queen."

Mr. Chamberlain.

The following telegram was sent to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, upon the news reaching us that Mr. Chamberlain had been thrown out of a cab in Whitehall, on July 7th, and received a wound from broken glass, over his right temple.

"West India Committee have learnt with genuine regret of the accident to Mr. Chamberlain who has done so much for the West Indies and request you to convey to him their heartfelt wishes for his speedy recovery."

We are happy to be able to record that Mr. Chamberlain, who suffered a severe shaking, has now completely recovered. On July 19th the Secretary received the following reply to our telegram :—

"Sir,—Mr. Chamberlain desires me to thank you for the kind telegram you sent to him on behalf of the West India Committee expressing regret at his accident; and to request you to be so good as to take an early opportunity of conveying to the Members of the Committee his appreciation and thanks for their good wishes for his recovery."

Yours truly, ROBERT BURNBY.

The Bermuda Floating Dock.

A letter has been addressed by the Committee to Mr. Chamberlain, urging the desirability of the transfer of the old Bermuda Floating Dock to Jamaica.

West Indian Affairs.

The R.M. Steam Packet Company's steamer "Trent" anchored off Plymouth at 12 o'clock noon Tuesday, July 15th, and the Mails were delivered by first post Wednesday, July 16th. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's steamer "Port Royal" anchored at Avonmouth, on Tuesday, July 8th, at 4 p.m. The proposals for the distribution of the relief to assist the sugar industry to tide over the period until the Brussels Convention, if ratified, becomes effective had been communicated to the different Colonies, but pending the official statement of Mr. Chamberlain in Parliament next week we defer setting out the various schemes in the Circular. We regret that they are not such as commend themselves to the planting community as a whole, being characterised in most cases as altogether inadequate.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), July 2nd. The weather had given the finishing touch to hopes of a big crop as the incessant rains besides preventing sugar manufacture had rotted so many old canes, and put a fresh growth into the rest, so that the yield had gone up from an average of 1,600 gallons to the ton to over 2,000 gallons. As the labourers were paid by the 100 gallons the cost of manufacture had been materially increased. On the whole the outlook was black indeed, and the method of distribution of the proposed grant in aid was very adversely commented upon. An unnatural impetus had been given to trade by the preparations for the reception of the Boer prisoners, and now that all arrangements had been cancelled a reaction was to be feared. The troops were to leave for South Africa on July 22nd, and the Island would be left with what would shortly become a second English Harbour at the head of St. John's. The need of the erection of Central Factories was becoming every day more apparent.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), July 5th. Numerous applications for loans under the Plantation Aids Bill had been received, but some of the Estates had pledged their crops for 1903 to such an extent, under the Agricultural Aids Act, that they were not likely to obtain a loan under the Government Scheme. A test application was to be put in by the proprietors of an estate already pledged up to the hilt. If such estates could not obtain money to carry on, it would be a serious thing for the labouring population. It was found that this was by no means a solitary instance. The weather was all that could be wished for, the average rainfall for June was about six inches, and for July to date 3 inches. Crops were responding to the favourable condition, but want of funds necessitated the curtailment of the proper application of manures. This would mean a shortage of exports next year, in fact many hundred acres which would in ordinary circumstances have been planted with canes, have been thrown out so as to save labour as much as possible. The market declined to 80 cents per 100 lbs. for hhd's., and 1 dollar for bags, but it had recovered itself, and on July 4th 1 dollar and \$1.20 were offered respectively.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), July 3rd. The weather had been much too wet. Practically nothing was being done in refining crystals, neither buyers or sellers being disposed to do any business at the nominal quotation of the day \$1.50.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), July 3rd. A fairly large quantity of green limes were now being shipped to New York. The quality was on the whole better than that exported previously. The telephone line from Roseau to Portsmouth was complete, though it had not been opened formally.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd), July 5th. Showers continued to fall daily, but in spite of this, sugar was good and crops were turning out well.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), July 4th. The Governor who was back in Grenada had given no information as to what his intentions were with respect to Government assistance for the rehabilitation of the Estates which suffered by the eruption.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick), July 3rd. A Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was to be called directly the Mail left to protest against the inadequacy of the proposed relief for the sugar industry, and we have since learnt by cable that a deputation is now on its way to this Country to represent the views of the Planters of the Island to the Secretary of State.

The Recent Honours List.

In our last Circular we omitted to include the name of Sir Henry Bergue among the recipients of Coronation Honours. Sir Henry, who is Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, was one of the British Delegates at the Brussels Conferences of 1898 and 1902, and we feel sure that all

West Indians will endorse the hearty congratulation which we now tender to him. While on this subject we cannot but express surprise at the non-inclusion of the name of Mr. George Martineau in the Honours List. For 25 years Mr. Martineau has done valiant service for the cause of Free Trade, and as expert adviser to the British Delegates at the Conferences of 1898 and 1902 he merited, we feel, some recognition from the Government.

An Analysis of "Molascuit."

With reference to our note in *Circular 71* (page 7) on the subject of Molascuit, the new cattle food composed of Molasses and Megass, the following analysis of this compound, made at Carrington Estate, Barbados, will, doubtless, be of interest to those contemplating its manufacture.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Moisture | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14.40 |
| Oil | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5.53 |
| Albuminoid | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.13 |
| *Mucilage, Sugar, Digestible Fibre, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 74.21 |
| Indigestible woody Fibre | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.50 |
| Mineral Matter (ash) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5.23 |
| | | | | | 100.00 |

* Including Sugar 58 per cent.

New Member.

The Hon. George Seton Seton-Browne of Grenada, proposed by Mr. H. A. Trotter, seconded by Mr. G. McGregor Frame, was elected a Member of the West India Committee on July 10th inst.

The West Indian Club.

In honour of the first West Indian Rifle Team which is visiting this country, under its auspices, the West Indian Club is giving an "at home" at Bisley, on Wednesday, July 23rd, from 4 to 7 p.m. The Fortnightly Club Dinners continue to be well attended. On July 16th, the following gentlemen were present:—W. A. M. Goode, Esq., in the Chair, The Hon. A. C. Ponsouby, G. B. Baker, Esq., J. F. Braham, Esq., Dr. J. L. Cox, R. T. A. Daly, Esq., Dr. J. F. S. Fowler, J. Hinkson, Esq., George Hughes, Esq., Chas. Hope Levy, Esq., G. B. Mason, Esq., L.R.C.P., L. De Mercado, Esq., A. P. O'Hara, Esq., G. Hope Pearse, Esq., H. Powell Rees, Esq., J. Rippon, Esq., C. S. Sanguinetti, Esq., R. Schult, Esq., G. B. Strachan, Esq., A. L. Taylor, Esq., and Dr. Waite.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," July 16th, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Capt. Wade, Mrs. Buckle, Mr. J. R. Leigh Thomas, Major and Mrs. Dobson, Dr. and Mrs. C. Phillips, Miss Parkinson, Master L. Johnson, Mr. Attelio Mantelli, Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. T. W. S. Barklie, Mr. De Courcy Hamilton, Mr. E. R. Naysmith, Mr. Brierley, Lieutenant H. C. Sterling, R.N., DEMERARA.—Mrs. F. Boyd, Miss M. Cox, Mrs. Anson, Mrs. W. S. Smith, Mrs. S. Melling, Miss Wreford, Mr. E. R. Anson, Mr. Cecil Morris, Mr. C. Wieting, Mr. J. J. Chapman. JAMAICA.—Mrs. J. Lyons, Mrs. and Miss Anderson, Miss A. Branday, His Ex. Sir A. Hemming, G.C.M.G., Mr. R. F. Hammond, Dr. H. F. Malabre, Miss Gadpaille. TRINIDAD.—His Ex. Sir Alfred and Lady Maloney, Mr. M. Drury, A.D.C., His Grace Archbishop Flood, Rev. Father Sutherland, Miss E. Brown, Mrs. J. W. Arbuckle, Hon. and Mrs. Gordon-Gordon, Miss Gordon-Gordon, Mrs. Hugh McLelland, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Maingot, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hamlyn, Miss A. Agostini, Miss Isolt Guppy, Miss J. Edinburgh, Mr. J. A. Rapsey, Mr. John Smith, Mrs. B. Smith, Mrs. J. H. Archer, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. W. J. Tucker, Mr. T. H. P. Heriot, Dr. and Mrs. J. F. de Boissière, Rev. Father M. Maloney. ANTIGUA.—Mr. W. J. Maginley, Mrs. Freeland. DOMINICA.—Mrs. Owen Lewis, Mr. G. W. Penrice, Mr. D. Tannock, Mr. C. Foulker. ST. KITTS.—Mr. W. Williams, Mr. J. D. Adamson, Rev. and Mrs. F. Thomas, Miss and Master Thomas. ST. LUCIA.—Captain and Mrs. Hardinge, Lieutenant H. R. Brancker, Rev. Father Dugast.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," July 23rd, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Major A. C. Atkins, Mrs. Gordon. DEMERARA.—Mr. W. F. Bye. TRINIDAD.—Mr. W. Todd.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," July 8th, 1902:—General Tancrede Auguste, Mr. E. Bassadona, Nurse Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Dewar, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gardner, Miss Gwen Gardner, Rev. C. T. Husband, Mr. H. S. Hoskins, Mrs. D. Henderson, Mrs. A. H. Pimnock, Mr. S. P. Smeeton, Miss Smeeton, Miss Edith Vaughan, Mr. A. E. Vine, Mr. W. J. Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Wright.

Advance Homeward Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Maria," Sailing June 25th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Miss Winter, Miss Cox, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. G. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Clarke, Mr. L. Walker, Mr. King.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," July 19th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. H. H. R. Bailey, Mr. Thomas Barlow, Mr. Louis Becke, Mrs. Bundy Cole, Miss Maud Cover, Master J. C. M. Douet, Mr. A. Dreyfus, Mr. E. W. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. H. Haggart, Lieut. Ibbetson, Mr. A. O. R. King, Mr. C. J. Levy, Mr. R. J. Miller, Master F. N. Moseley, Master — Moseley, Messrs. B., K., O. and W. Pfeiderer, Miss C. Ramadge, Mr. S. Rogers, Mr. Saunders, Mrs. M. B. Steer, Mr. B. Vossen, Col. Ward, Mr. R. J. Yarr, Mr. Emil Kahl.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—During the last six weeks Public Sales have been held on three occasions only, and during this period not more than 3,000 bags have been disposed of. The market opened quietly, but subsequently the tone became firm, and although at the last auctions the demand was rather dull, at the close the market is strong and prices have in some cases favoured the sellers. Quotations do not show much alteration since the date of our last report, the value of middling being 60s. to 64s.; good middling 65s. to 67s.; and fine to superior 68s. to 85s. per cwt.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, 1st Jan. to 12th July .. | 33,305 bags against | 23,116 bags. |
| DELIVERED " " .. | 29,014 " " | 26,316 " " |
| STOCK, 12th July .. | 17,221 " " | 22,827 " " |

GRENADA.—There has been a good demand during the last six weeks, and with supplies limited to 3,100 bags, the whole quantity was disposed of at and since the sales. Prices show some advance for all descriptions, the improvement being most noticeable for fair quality; quotations at the close being 57s. 6d. to 59s. 6d. for ordinary to good fair, and 60s. to 65s. for middling to fine.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, 1st Jan. to 12th July .. | 39,014 bags against | 34,969 bags. |
| DELIVERED " " .. | 38,342 " " | 30,495 " " |
| STOCK, 12th July .. | 9,194 " " | 13,007 " " |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 12th July | 195,482 | 174,148 | 48,571 | 62,493 | 86,281 |
| France, 1st July | 402,000 | 245,915 | 275,608 | 330,000 | 303,594 |
| Germany, 1st July | 731,898 | 370,493 | 282,159 | 342,091 | 436,630 |
| Hamburg, 16th July | 190,840 | 58,400 | 62,800 | 142,800 | 131,000 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st July | 331,972 | 251,758 | 255,338 | 230,014 | 268,481 |
| Holland, 1st July | 84,511 | 33,699 | 22,782 | 16,282 | 49,225 |
| Belgium, 1st July | 113,732 | 15,959 | 44,889 | 57,668 | 77,884 |
| United States, 16th July, Total Stocks | 2,050,435 | 1,150,372 | 992,147 | 1,181,348 | 1,353,095 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 16th July, Total Stocks | 140,000 | 296,913 | 146,023 | 284,587 | 335,179 |
| Cargoes afloat, 17th July | 382,000 | 123,925 | 23,622 | 51,000 | 72,500 |
| Total | 52,713 | 92,810 | 63,352 | 79,386 | 31,693 |
| Total | 2,625,148 | 1,661,020 | 7,225,144 | 1,596,321 | 1,792,467 |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Hhds. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| BARBADOS — | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to July 3rd, 1902 | 34,602 | — | — | — | — | — | 37,472 |
| Jan. 1st to July 3rd, 1901 | 52,895 | — | — | — | — | — | 38,822 |
| BRITISH GUIANA — | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to July 1st, 1902 | 46,788 | 14,725 | 55,477 | — | 47,072 | 3,200 | 966 |
| Jan. 1st to July 3rd, 1901 | 33,031 | 11,260 | 43,113 | — | 45,647 | 76,250 | 417 |
| JAMAICA — | | Gallons. | Cwts. | Coffee. Cwts. | Banana. Bunches. | | Oranges. |
| April 1st to June 14th, 1902 | 8,156 | 733,277 | 4,266 | 23,333 | 3,614,675 | 5,517,528 | 3,869,800 |
| April 1st to June 30th, 1901 | 9,942 | 919,079 | 6,915 | 8,005 | 3,224,767 | 3,496,492 | 912,300 |
| TRINIDAD — | Bags & Brs. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | | Molasses Puns. |
| Jan. 1st to July 3rd, 1902 | 430,227 | 1,232 | 21,341,290 | 33,600 | 65,235 | 6,807,877 | 2,413 |
| Jan. 1st to July 3rd, 1901 | 442,770 | 106 | 14,775,564 | 15,040 | 100,413 | 5,069,357 | 2,402 |
| | | | | | | | Trcs. Brs. |
| | | | | | | | 111 191 |
| | | | | | | | 143 245 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), July 9th. "Seasonable weather." BRITISH GUIANA. (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), July 10th. "Heavy rains, cultivation suffering." July 16th. "There is a favourable change in the weather." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), July 10th. "Finer weather in last few days." TRINIDAD.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), July 15th. "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation."

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

West India Committee.

No. 76.

Telegrams :
"CARIB" LONDON.

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4th Edition.

Telephone :
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

Saturday, August 2nd, 1902.

The Grant in Aid.

In the House of Commons on July 31st last the Vote for £250,000, as a grant in aid of the sugar industry in the West Indian Colonies, was agreed to by a majority of 97 (for the Vote 183, against 86). Members have been fully informed through the Circular as to the steps which have led to this result, and though the sum is not a large one, it must be borne in mind that the object of the Government has not been primarily the compensation of individual proprietors and merchants, but the prevention of public distress by encouragement to the continuance of cultivation. The remarks made by Mr. Chamberlain in introducing the Vote, thoroughly made out the case for which the West India Committee have been contending for the past thirty years. He said that, in his opinion, the Government had refused too long to give the assurance that they would prohibit or countervail bounty-fed sugar. They had made a great mistake, and one result of the delay had been that the evil was now much greater than it was and much more difficult to deal with. Sir Edward Grey strongly supported Mr. Chamberlain. People might differ, he said, as to whether countervailing duties were the best method of getting rid of Bounties, but they might be agreed that Bounties themselves were very bad. "But when an hon. friend said that Bounties had conferred great benefits on us at home by giving us cheap sugar he affirmed that Bounties had artificially lowered the price. That was putting a very strong card into the hands of the sugar industry of the West India Islands, for their contention was that they had suffered by the operation of the Bounties. If it were admitted that Bounties had had a great effect on the price of sugar, the West Indian sugar industry could urge with considerable force that the Bounties had done them a great deal of harm."

The Brussels Convention.—"We mean Business."

On the subject of the Brussels Convention, the remarks made by Mr. Chamberlain confirm in a striking manner the belief which we so often expressed in the Circular while the Conference was sitting, that the Government are at last in earnest in their determination to fight the Bounty Question to a finish. "The Bounties will," he said, "come to end under the Convention, and the different parties to the Convention have agreed to a penal clause, so as to make it effective. If any of the parties to the Convention should break it, or should restore the Bounties which they have undertaken to abandon, then the penal clause would come into effect and such countries would be excluded from business in all the markets of the other countries concerned, and the markets of the United Kingdom, therefore, among others. I believe that that will be effective, and that this time, at any rate, I may say, to use the words of my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that we mean business. I fancy that this is fully understood abroad. It is perfectly understood that we will not again be put off as we have been in the past, and that the agreement which has now been come to by all the principal sugar producers must be carried out both in the spirit and in the letter. This is what the industry has asked for. All they have said to us is, 'Give us fair play.' They asked for nothing more. All they have said is, 'Put us in the same position as other Countries and we believe that our natural advantages of climate and soil will enable us to hold our own.'" On the whole the trend of the debate must be considered satisfactory, inasmuch as the speeches of Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Edward Grey were a practical admission of our case. Whether or not the object of the grant in aid will be attained, remains to be seen, but on this point it is well to sound a note of warning. The condition of the West Indies is still serious, and if no improvement in the price

of sugar takes place between now and then, further assistance will be necessary before the death blow is struck at Bounties and Cartels by the Convention, the taking effect of which in September 1903 is so eagerly awaited.

The Recent Volcanic Eruption in St. Vincent.

The following letter was addressed to Mr. Chamberlain on the 28th ult. upon the above subject:—

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, LONDON.

SIR,

I have the honour to address you upon the subject of the recent volcanic disturbances in the Island of St. Vincent.

At the outset, I am directed to express to you the appreciation of my Committee at the prompt manner in which you, in co-operation with the Governor of the Windward Islands and the Right Hon. The Lord Mayor, have taken steps to cope with the immediate distress caused by this appalling calamity.

But it is to the losses of Estates Proprietors that my Committee desire to call your attention in the present letter. My Committee have hesitated to do so before, feeling—as I think you agree rightly—that the immediate necessities of the starving population should be dealt with before its consideration.

Now, however, that the immediate distress has been relieved, they venture to think the question of the compensation of individual proprietors may very fairly be opened.

Though my Committee hesitate to give an accurate estimate of the losses incurred, they have good reason to believe that they amount to fully £40,000, but as to this you have doubtless been fully informed through Official sources.

As we understand at present the cost of feeding the people for at least six months, providing houses and land for 500 families, and also land for the owners of Crown lands and other small proprietors, as well as compensating those who lost their personal effects, and relief works, will amount to £35,000. This would leave a considerable balance out of the amount so generously subscribed by the British Public in response to the Lord Mayor's appeal, and available from other sources, and my Committee feel that this balance might very fairly be distributed among Estates Proprietors, *pro rata*, to compensate them for the loss of Works, Buildings, Machinery, Growing Crops, Live Stock, and produce in Estates Stores awaiting shipment at the time of eruption.

Trusting that you, Sir, will give our suggestions your most favourable consideration.

I have etc.,

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

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

Mr. George Martineau.

In the paragraph in our last Circular expressing surprise at the non-inclusion of Mr. Martineau's name in the recent Coronation Honours list, the services of this gentleman on behalf of the Sugar Industry were, we find, greatly underestimated. We omitted to mention that Mr. Martineau acted in the capacity of Adviser to the British Delegates at no less than five Conferences on the Sugar Bounty Question, namely at Brussels in 1875, and at Paris in 1876 and 1877, and Brussels again in 1898 and 1902. It was at the earlier Conferences that the foundations, on which all subsequent Conventions have been based, were laid.

The West India Association of Liverpool.

At the Annual Meeting of this Association held on July 24th last, Mr. Evelyn S. Parker was elected Chairman, and Mr. S. Sandbach Parker, Deputy-Chairman for the ensuing three years.

Beet Crop Prospects.

The crop prospects have not changed; the fields everywhere seem to look well, as the leaves anyhow are in a fair state of development, and with warm sunshine later on, this is a long step towards an average crop. The Roots are still backward in weight, but the weekly progress is good, considering that small Roots cannot increase as much (except in percentage) as Roots already double the size. Regarding their polarization, it is not of much account yet. Dry heat last year unduly favoured it, and it receded enormously in the following week. It is really in the Autumn months that the fate of the crop is decided. The visible supplies this week show about one million tons excess, which is likely to get larger in August/September, if Java ships her total crop.—*C. Czarnikow.*

West Indian Affairs.—A Dispiriting Outlook.

We have again experienced an aggravating delay in the arrival of the Mail. On the present occasion it was due to the breakdown of the R.M.S. Packet Company's s.s. "La Plata," which left Jamaica 34 hours late. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's Steamer "Port Maria," anchored at Avonmouth on Wednesday, July 23rd at 8.45 a.m. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents, which—with the exception of those from Jamaica, which arrived punctually by the I. D. W. I. Mail Service—only reached us this morning.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), July 16th. Few, if any, of the Estates would be able to finish crop by the end of July, as the reaping had been so delayed by the incessant rains and the fresh growth in the canes had so weakened the juice that the density had fallen from 10° (Beaume) to 7°, and the yield had increased from 1,600 gallons to 2,300 gallons per ton of sugar. Meanwhile the market held out no hope of improvement, so that it was felt that circumstances had conspired to hasten the ruin of the Island. Sir Gerald Strickland, the new Governor, was expected to arrive before October 1st. The Boer encampment was in process of demolition, and the materials it was composed of were being transported to St. Lucia.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), July 19th. A large number of estates were being forced into Chancery by senior mortgagees refusing to allow owners to borrow under the Plantation in Aids Act. Some estates already in Chancery had been refused loans under the same Act, which meant their being thrown out of cultivation. The weather for the fortnight had been nice and showery, and rain still continued to fall, and the growing crops looked promising. Nearly all sugar and molasses had been shipped, and the out-put of the former would reach nearly 50,000 tons.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), July 16th. The Attorney-General had reported that there were no valid objections to the patent being granted for Mr. G. Hughes' "Molascuit." The Governor had gone on a visit to the North-West District and was to be away a fortnight. The "Clyde," the first return coolie ship of the year sailed on July 5th, with 660 adults, who remitted \$31,530.63 and took jewellery with them valued at \$5,250. Sales of sugar had recently been made at \$1.60. The weather had changed in the last few days and they were getting good sunshine, which was needed to help on cultivation. The incessant rain of the previous two or three weeks did considerable damage to the young plants, besides retarding the growth of the older canes.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), July 17th.—At a meeting of the Legislative Council a comparatively large sum was voted for permanent improvements, among others, retaining walls on the Roseau River, which had for some time threatened to carry away a small portion of the Town, and improvement to the jetty. Drs. Anderson and Hett, who had come to the West Indies to investigate the Volcanic Eruptions, were now in the Island. They reported that the Boiling Lake was not a crater but a geyser, and that consequently no disturbance was to be feared from it. When the Mail left they were visiting the various sulphur springs. Heavy and incessant rains had fallen during the fortnight. The lime crop, which was coming in freely, was rather short, but this might be made up by the now usual second crop towards Christmas. It would, however, be later than last year.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd), July 15th. Crop was nearly reaped. It was a good one in its productiveness, but the prices of sugar made those in England who made advances naturally indisposed to continue them. All this would be avoided with reasonable treatment from the Imperial Government.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), July 18th. Government Action with regard to the Compensation of Estates proprietors was anxiously awaited. The want of the Canal in the Carib Country which was the means of draining the districts had caused great havoc to the land during the recent heavy rains. Since the preceding day the whole town had been in a state of alarm, owing to unexpected shocks of earthquake of a very severe type, doing damage to several buildings and quite unnerving most people again.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. T. Fenwick), July 17th. Our correspondent returned by the Mail, leaving Mr. E. Tripp to act in his place. On Friday, July 11th a public meeting, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce appointed a deputation, composed of Hon. G. T. Fenwick, Hon. W. S. Robertson, Hon. William Gordon Gordon, Mr. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Robert Wilson, and Mr. George Christal, to lay the following resolution before the

Secretary of State for the Colonies.—“That this meeting views with regret and disappointment the inadequacy of the assistance offered by the Imperial Government to the sugar planters in the present alarming condition of their industry. That following upon previous failure to realise profit, the loss incurred upon the crop just reaped amounts to at least £150,000, and the amount proposed to be given in aid of 13s. 6½d. per ton of sugar exported, represents little more than one-fourth of the loss of crop 1902. That the crop of 1903, for which the cultivation is already in an advanced stage threatens a still more serious loss, prices having risen about £1 per ton since the agreement arrived at by the Brussels Conference in March last was made public, and the loan authorised be raised from colonial funds not to exceed £50,000 or about £1 per ton, more particularly when the conditions attached can be of little if any service.”

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. “La Plata,” August 1st, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Capt. Buckle, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Morris, Mr. F. Harford, Mr. H. L. Johnson, Mr. C. Vlies, Mr. C. McNeill, Mr. E. Hargreave. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. I. Wilson, Mr. R. Farnum, Mr. C. W. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Fairburn, Mr. T. H. Wilton, Mr. E. Sanford, Mr. E. Stables. **JAMAICA.**—Mrs. Sidgwick, Mrs. Ross, Mr. A. C. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Thompson. **ANTIGUA.**—His Honour J. S. Udal, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. G. Sprankling, Capt. Lethbridge. **DOMINICA.**—Dr. Flett, Dr. T. Anderson. **GRENADA.**—Hon. and Mrs. C. M. Browne, C.M.G., Miss O. J. Smith.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. “Trent,” August 6th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. F. W. G. Austin, Miss Seedorf, Miss M. Stroud. **DEMERARA.**—Dr. I. Welch, Sir S. C. and Lady Rayner, Mr. W. E. Lewis, Miss J. Ross. **JAMAICA.**—Mrs. Strachan, Miss M. Kitchener, Mrs. T. Burke, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pearson, Miss A. Smythe, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pearson. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. J. W. Gordon, Professor H. Louis, Miss Buncke, Dr. E. J. Reid, Mr. A. Holler, Mr. W. Durrant, Mr. G. Bayliss, Major Clarke. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. St. John Branch. **GRENADA.**—Mrs. Slinger. **ST. LUCIA.**—Mr. and Mrs. G. Williams.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. “Port Maria,” July 23rd, 1902:—**Jamaica.**—Miss V. Coke, Miss M. Coke, Miss Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. G. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Griffiths, Miss Jacquet, Lieut. T. J. Lynch, Dr. Nicols, Miss Richards, Miss Ronaldsou, Mr. C. Sadler, Mr. I. E. Sherlock, Miss F. E. Winter, Mr. C. L. Walker, Miss Johnstone, Mr. J. L. King, Mr. G. W. Rothery, Mr. William Spence.

Advance Homeward Bookings per R.M.S. “Port Antonio,” Sailing July 24th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Miss Johnstone, Mrs. C. J. Hamilton, Mr. W. H. Plant, Miss Salmond.

Sailings per R.M.S. “Port Morant,” August 2nd, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. T. N. Aguillar, Miss A. W. Hay, Dr. McPhail, Capt. O’Neil, Mr. A. C. Robinson, Lieut. C. S. Sanguinetti, Mr. B. L. Verley, Mr. G. Totesan, Mr. A. Evelyn, Mr. Warren, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Arthur, Master R. B. Clarke, Hon. W. W. Fisher, Mrs. Fisher, Mr. W. H. Grieve, Mr. J. P. Hawarth, Mr. W. W. Hitching, Mr. Landale, Mr. C. Hope Levy, Mr. McSweeney, Miss K. A. Nash, Miss O. Nash, Miss Edith Vaughan.

Rum.

With stocks of rum increasing and the customary dulness of the article at this time of the year, there is little or no change to report, business in all descriptions being difficult to effect. In proof kinds only 300 puns. are reported as sold at 9d. to 10d., being slightly easier. In Jamaica both as regards ordinary and fine qualities there is practically nothing to record. The trade being well supplied. Total Stocks are as follows:—29,375 puns. against 26,296 in 1901, and 17,614 in 1900.

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Hhds. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Carats. | Gold, ozs. | Co’nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| BARBADOS— | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to July 17th, 1902 | 42,654 | — | — | — | — | — | 41,479 | |
| Jan. 1st to July 17th, 1901 | 57,456 | — | — | — | — | — | 42,331 | |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | Tons. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to July 15th, 1902 | 48,169 | 15,814 | 70,623 | — | 52,374 | 3,200 | 1,215 | |
| Jan. 1st to July 17th, 1901 | 33,046 | 11,540 | 52,013 | — | 50,331 | 76,250 | 432 | |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brls. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | | Puns. | Molasses Tons. Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to July 16th, 1902 | 539,527 | 1,254 | 22,348,370 | 39,680 | 85,179 | 7,173,943 | 3,010 | 141 236 |
| Jan. 1st to July 16th, 1901 | 454,940 | 106 | 16,001,190 | 15,040 | 107,312 | 5,621,487 | 2,589 | 143 245 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), July 23rd, “Seasonable weather.”

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), July 26th, “Weather all that can be desired.”

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

West India Committee.

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

Monday, August 18th, 1902.

The Sugar Crisis.

An Important Statement by Mr. Chamberlain.

The Deputation appointed in Trinidad at a Public Meeting on July 11th last, to lay certain representations before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, regarding the sugar crisis, waited upon Mr. Chamberlain at the Colonial Office on Monday, August 11th inst. The Deputation, which was introduced by the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, comprised the Hon. W. S. Robertson, Mr. Robert Wilson, and Mr. W. Sanderson. Messrs. W. G. Gordon, L. Bert de Lamarre and George Christall were prevented by indisposition from attending. Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., the Governor of Trinidad, was present at the interview which lasted for an hour-and-a-quarter. The Deputation represented to Mr. Chamberlain the inadequacy of the relief offered by the Imperial Government to the sugar industry, but took account of the fact that since the deputation was appointed the situation had changed, inasmuch as the proposed relief had been actually voted by Parliament, and it was realised that there was no possibility of getting an increase of the assistance for the current year, but it was urged that in all probability the needs of the planters would be equally great next year and that further aid would be required if the industry was to be carried on until the effects of the Brussels Convention were felt.

Attention was called by the Deputation, *inter alia*, to the condition of the grant and loan enacted in the Trinidad ordinance which requires that not less than one-fifth of the total acreage in cultivation on any estate must be replanted during the current season, and it was shown that with the best of intentions the replanting of such a proportion of the acreage was not always practicable—the weather and the supply of labour not being under control.

Mr. Chamberlain in reply said that any increase of the assistance voted by Parliament was out of the question, and that he could hold out no hope whatever that any similar grant would be made next year, but should it be made clear to him next year that the industry did require further aid, he would be prepared to favourably consider proposals to raise in the Colonies sums to be advanced on loan to the planters on easy terms. Asked by the Deputation if there was any reason to fear that, owing to objections said to have been raised by Russia and other Powers, the Convention would not be ratified, Mr. Chamberlain said he had no fears on the subject, and he added that, if through any unforeseen cause the Convention was not ratified, effective measures would be taken to safeguard the interests of the sugar industry of the British West Indies.

Some Significant Figures from Austria.

The latest figures to hand regarding the production of Beetroot Sugar in Austria-Hungary, make it abundantly clear that beetroot manufacturers are making hay while the sun shines and are determined to make as much use of the English market as they can while it remains open to them. The production during 1901-1902 was by far the largest on record, being 12,880,000 metrical centres, as against 10,895,000 in 1900-1901, an increase of 20% ; two-thirds of the production were exported, being an increase of 1,223,000 over the exports for 1900-1901. Small wonder then indeed that the immediate outlook for the sugar industry of the British West Indies is gloomy in the extreme.

West Indian Affairs.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's s.s. "Para" anchored off Plymouth at 2.30 a.m. on Thursday, August 14th, and the Mails were delivered at 12.15 p.m. on the same day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's s.s. "Port Antonio" arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, August 6th. We extract the following items from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents:—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), July 30th. The Secretary of State had been notified that the Island had accepted the proffered assistance. It was hoped that the acceptance of this assistance would not imply the abandon-

ment of the Central Factory Scheme, as there could be no doubt that unless they were placed in a position to manufacture better class of sugar and to obtain the highest percentage of extracts from the canes, the prospects of the Island would be in no way improved. There had been a spell of dry weather, which had enabled them to push on reaping operations. There are still, however, a large acreage of canes belonging to this year's crop standing, some of which would probably be left until after the hurricane season. The troops introduced to guard the Boer prisoners had left.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), August 2nd. Nothing of importance had happened during the fortnight. Though a few light showers had fallen there had not been enough rain for the crop at this time, and more would be appreciated, though the canes were not suffering.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), July 30th. At a meeting of the British Guiana Planters' Association, held on July 25th, the accounts for the year were passed and the retiring office holders re-elected, viz: Mr. R. G. Duncan, Chairman, and Mr. A. P. Mackey, Hon. B. Howell Jones, and Mr. J. Monkhouse, Members of Council. The Governor returned from the North-West and Essequibo districts on July 26th. The "Elbe," the second return Coolie Ship, was to sail for Calcutta on August 5th. The weather had been dry, with an occasional shower, favourable for cultivation generally. There was nothing doing in refining Crystals, and the quotation \$1.55 to \$1.60 was merely nominal. A meeting of the Council of the Planters' Association was held on July 30th, and a resolution was passed thanking the Imperial Government for the grant in aid of the sugar industry. The resolution expressed a hope that "further help may be forthcoming if no early and satisfactory improvement takes place in the sugar market, as such further aid will be absolutely necessary to enable the industry (sugar) to tide over the period that must elapse before the benefits which we trust will accrue from the final abolition of bounties are felt."

The Annual General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held on July 25th. Messrs. A. K. F. Duncan and C. G. A. Wyatt were re-elected Members of the Council, and Mr. Richter was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Wieting. At a meeting of the Council held subsequently the following Officers were elected: President, Mr. A. Summerson; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. T. Garnett and A. K. F. Duncan; Secretary, Mr. J. H. De Jonge; Treasurer, Mr. G. H. Richter.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), July 31st. Dominica was sending a very good representative collection of exhibits to the Toronto Exhibition to be opened shortly. Extensive repairs were being undertaken to the Roseau sea wall which for some time had been in a dangerous condition. The weather for the fortnight had been less wet.

Grenada.—Henry Charles Morgan, Esq., the Attorney-General of the Island had been appointed Chief Justice of Fiji and Chief Judicial Commissioner of the Western Pacific.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), July 29th. The Council of the Merchants' Exchange were taking up the question of a sea wall for Kingston. They also had under their consideration the question of the acquisition of the Bermuda Dock which the Admiralty apparently now wanted them to buy. No damage had as yet been done to growing crops through want of rain. The Pimento crop might fairly be assessed at 70,000 bags.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd), July 29th. Much sympathy was felt for Mr. Chamberlain, whose illness appears to be of a more serious nature than was at first supposed. There was no question that his powerful influence had always been exerted in favour of the interests of these colonies, and his disappearance—even temporary disappearance—from public life at this juncture would be little short of a disaster. All hoped that his restoration to health would be speedy. Except that they were still absolutely in the dark as to the intentions of the Government in the matter of relief to the sugar industry, there was nothing of consequence to report, except as to the weather and the progress of the crop, which had not been at all disappointing, and with the abundance of rain which they had had, the young crop was looking splendid, indeed the two crops had kissed each other. On Wednesday, July 23rd, at the ripe old age of 84 years, Lieutenant-Colonel Berridge, a typical West Indian of the old school, passed away. Colonel Berridge held many public appointments of importance, and was, from its establishment in 1858, until its disbandment some ten or twelve years ago, Commanding Officer of the old Island Militia. He was also, from the time that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company first established an agency there, until a few months ago, the St. Kitts agent for that Company, and was universally respected by all classes.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay), August 1st. The weather was sultry and showery.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), August 1st. The recommendation of the Governor with regard to Compensation for losses incurred through the volcanic disturbances had been sent home. On the Sunday following the departure of the last mail, further terrific earthquakes were experienced, causing many of the respectable families to leave the island. The weather, however, had since been bright and clear, and it was hoped that the worst had passed.

Trinidad.—(Edgar Tripp, Esq.), August 1st. The whole of the extensive plantations of Messrs. Gregor Turnbull & Co., were to be offered for sale at public auction by Messrs. F. J. Scott & Sons on September 4th. They comprised I.—Couva Group: (1) Brechin Castle and Sevilla; (2) Milton; (3) Rivulet; (4) Spring, Caracas and Susannah. II.—Caroni Group: (1) Frederick; (2) McLeod Plain and Santa Maria; (3) Washington; (4) Carsallah; (5) Retreat; (6) St. Helena; (7) Belle Vue; (8) Two parcels of land purchased from the Government; (9) Curepe. III.—South

Naparima : Lothians : nearly 20,000 acres in all. This would be one more link with well-known and honoured names, and with the past prosperity of the sugar industry to be broken on the wheel of the Bounties. On July 28th an ordinance was passed for raising a loan for roads, &c. Part of the money authorised had already been provided and expended from general revenue and would be refunded from the loan. The additional loan of £40,000 for sewerage works, was for the extension of the system to the suburb of Belmont, &c., not included in the original estimate. There was much difference of opinion regarding the proper location for the slipway provided for in the loan by the sum of £25,000, and a proviso was inserted that no money in respect of that item was to be spent without a special vote of the Legislature, unless the full harbour scheme, viz., one which will permit of large steamers coming alongside the wharf was carried out.

The comparative Statement of Receipts and Payments for year ending 31st March, as compared with the estimates, had been published, with the following result:—

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|----|----|
| Estimated Revenue, 1901-2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £723,180 | 15 | 0 |
| Actual | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 712,394 | 10 | 0 |
| Revenue Less than Estimates | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £10,786 | 5 | 0 |
| Estimated Expenditure | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £748,852 | 14 | 8½ |
| Actual | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 731,160 | 9 | 9½ |
| Expenditure Less than Estimates... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £17,692 | 4 | 11 |

The surplus on 31st March, 1902, was £53,341 15s. 7½d. against £71,107 15s. 5d. at same date previous year.

Further developments of the petroleum oil field recently discovered at Guayaquayari, were awaited with interest. The Acting-Governor and party had visited the place and were much struck with what they saw. The extensive boring operations of the Government for coal at Cunapo continued, but the exact results were not commonly known. In a recent report, Professor Carmody said of this coal that "it is the most promising here, as the quality is fairly good, and the quantity is expected to be very large." Another interesting mineral development was to be found in the Vistabella Manjak Mine, which was now in full working order. The mineral was being extracted from different galleries of which the lowest was at a depth of 140 feet. The stuff got better and brighter in proportion to the depth at which it was won. Prospecting on the neighbouring properties, Union and Marabella, indicated the continuation there of the Vistabella Manjak seam for a considerable distance, and in the search for Manjak, the parties interested had come upon veins of a liquid asphalt, which tested very highly in Bitumen. Trinidad's mineral possibilities were therefore not being neglected at present. Reports from the agricultural districts agreed as to the weather being most favourable for products of all kinds. There was to be noted an unusually light season and low temperature, the latter having been frequently, as reported from the Usine St. Madeleine, 10° under the normal during the day. Provisions were replacing canes over large proportions of the areas held by small growers, and unfortunately thieves were much in evidence.

Sugar Industry of Queensland.

According to the report of the Registrar-General of Queensland the yield of sugar for the whole State for 1901 was 120,858 tons, being an increase on the previous year of 28,304 tons. The average yield of sugar per acre for the past five years was 1.55 tons, exceeding that for 1900 by 0.27 tons per acre. From the large increase in both yield of cane and yield of sugar in the southern and central divisions it will be seen that the season has been much more favourable during the past year than during the previous one, and that, although the quantity produced has not equalled that of the northern cane fields, it shows a much better return than was obtained from these districts for the previous year. The cane fields of the northern divisions of Queensland have yielded a higher percentage of sugar per acre than they have done for the previous three years. For the whole State the average weight of cane required to produce a ton of sugar was 9.76 tons. Last year the quantity of molasses produced was 3,679,952 gallons, and although a large quantity is in many cases allowed to run to waste, yet in other cases it is used for distillation. During the year 171,625 gallons of proof spirit were obtained.

Trade of Porto Rico.

Since the island of Porto Rico has been under American administration, and particularly since the removal of all Customs obstacles in July last year, the goods traffic between Porto Rico and the United States has, says the *New Yorker Handels Zeitung*, made remarkable progress. The increase in the purchases of goods is indeed phenomenal; the importation from Porto Rico being three times

and the exportation to the island being five times as large as the average of the five last years of the Spanish Government there. The New York entries of Porto Rico productions attain at present a value of 5 to 6 million dollars annually, and the goods shipped thither, which in the last fiscal year reached 7,000,000 dollars, will probably amount to 10,000,000 dollars in this fiscal year. During the first eight months of the fiscal year, 1902, Porto Rico has exported produce of the value of 5,787,619 dollars, of which 3,016,258 dollars, or 52 per cent. went to the United States. On the other hand, the importation into the island during the same time represented a value of 8,418,078 dollars, and 82 per cent., that is 6,887,072 dollars' worth of goods came from the United States. Some of the most important articles of export from the United States to Porto Rico are rice, woven and other cotton goods, wheaten flour, pork, &c., and machinery.—*The Chamber of Commerce Journal*, August, 1902.

British Guiana Gold.

Through the courtesy of the Hon. B. Howell Jones we have received a copy of the annual report of the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana. On the subject of the Gold Industry the report says: "The production of alluvial gold may be said to have kept up fairly well when one considers that business generally in the Colony has been dull and that the cloud of depression has not lifted. Even alluvial washing requires a certain amount of capital initially, and if this be not forthcoming, it can scarcely be expected that much progress will be made. Indeed, the Colony has been fortunate in that, under the circumstances, there has not been a considerable decrease in its gold output for the past year. What decrease there is can be safely accounted for by the fact that a considerable proportion of the available local capital and labour has been diverted by the more alluring prospects of the diamond fields. Although it is perfectly true that the richer parts of the regions already prospected no longer offer large profits to unskilled workers and wasteful methods of working, it is equally true that up to this we have barely scratched the surface of the gold-bearing deposit of the colony. Lack of capital and initiative have been responsible for an almost entire cessation of properly conducted prospectings, and those now engaged in the industry have settled down to take out the gold at something like half the cost per ounce that was expended, and largely wasted ten years ago."

Coolie Immigration.

Correspondence has taken place between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office on the subject of the rumoured resumption of Coolie Immigration from India to the French West India Islands. It would appear that Mr. Chamberlain communicated with the India Office on the subject in May last, and was informed that there was then no present prospect of the resumption of recruiting labour in India for the French Colonies, and that such resumption depended upon the Government of India being satisfied with the arrangements made in those Colonies for the protection of Indian Immigrants.

New Members.

At the Fortnightly Meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 7th inst., the following gentlemen were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

| Name. | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| FRED BROWNE, Esq. | S. Browne, Esq. | T. W. Wilkinson, Esq. |
| H. KINGSLEY JACOBSEN, Esq. | W. Gillespie, Esq. | R. Rutherford, Esq. |
| DONALD M. SIMPSON, Esq. | S. Browne, Esq. | T. W. Wilkinson, Esq. |

The number of new Members elected during the current year now amounts to 31. We trust that Members will endeavour to strengthen the Committee by bringing forward Candidates for election.

The Recent Volcanic Eruption.

In reply to our letter of the 28th ult., regarding the compensation of Estate proprietors for losses sustained through the recent eruption of the Soufrière in St. Vincent, we have received an assurance from Mr. Chamberlain that the matter has received and will continue to receive attention.

Special Notice.—The Holidays.

In view of the holidays, the regular fortnightly meetings of the Executive Committee will not be held during the month of September, unless exceptional circumstances arise. The Committee Room will, however, remain open daily between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Saturdays excepted, and the Fortnightly Circular will be issued as usual.

Official Appointment.

Mr. Richard Haynes, who was recently elected a Member of the West India Committee, has been appointed a Member of the Legislative Council of Barbados.

The West Indian Club.

Sir Walter Sendall, K.C.M.G., the representative of British Guiana and the West Indies at the recent Coronation Festivities and the West India Bisley Team were entertained at a complimentary dinner by the Members of the West Indian Club, on Wednesday August 13th last. Among those present at this agreeable function were the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, Lieut.-Col. Aslam Khan, C.I.E. Major Lange, Major Collins, Captain Fielden, A.D.C., Mr. C. Morris, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. T. B. Younger, Mr. Woodruffe, Mr. G. B. Mason, L.R.C.P., Mr. O'Hara, Mr. J. Braham, Mr. Godfrey, Mr. A. W. Laing, Mr. W. J. Marr, Mr. R. J. Innes Taylor, and Mr. A. N. Lubbock, kindly undertook the arrangement for the Banquet. Besides the Loyal Toasts the guests of the evening were honoured and replied in suitable terms, a special feature being the reception accorded to Private A. W. Laing, of the Trinidad Coronation Contingent, the Winner of the £20 cup, generously given by Sir Walter Sendall for the best score amongst competitors from the West Indies shooting for the Coronation prizes.

Codrington College.

We are glad to be in a position to state that a sufficient sum of money has been set aside by the S.P.G. from their Bicentenary Fund for the sustentation of the College for the next two years which will make it quite independent of the income from the estates.

Address Register.

OUTWARD AND HOMEWARD PASSENGERS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNICATE THEIR ADDRESSES TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C., AT WHOSE ROOM A REGISTER OF ADDRESSES IS KEPT. FOR THIS PURPOSE SPECIALLY PREPARED POST-CARDS MAY BE OBTAINED UPON APPLICATION TO THE PURSERS OF THE STEAMERS OF THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY, THE IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE, AND SCRUTTONS, SONS & CO.

LETTERS FOR MEMBERS MAY BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMITTEE ROOM "TO BE FORWARDED."

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," August 14th, 1902.—BARBADOS.— Mr. E. F. O. Swan, Mr. R. M. Jones, Mr. C. H. Bovell, Capt. H. L. Fox, Mr. J. Murphy, Mr. C. P. H. Carbin, Mr. F. A. Robinson. **DEMERARA.—**Capt. Smith, Mr. J. M. Hunter, Mr. E. P. Austin, Dr. and Mrs. Veendam, Mr. Karl de Veer. **JAMAICA.—**Hon. and Mrs. O. Marescaux, Justice and Mrs. Thornton, Mr. and Mrs. L. Verley, Miss H. M. Reid, Mr. H. Spicer, Mr. A. H. Scott, Mr. G. Hogg. **TRINIDAD.—**Mr. F. W. Thorburn, Mr. P. Porry, Mr. E. Selway. **ANTIGUA.—** Mr. N. Scott Johnson, Mr. H. E. Humphreys. **DOMINICA.—**Mr. J. T. Greg. **GRENADA.—**Mr. D. R. Dyce, Miss E. Rachley. **ST. LUCIA.—**Mr. and Mrs. J. Salmon, Mrs. Barlow.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," August 20th, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Perry, Miss Borman, Miss Leacock. **DEMERARA.—**Rev. Canon and Mrs. Elliott, Mr. J. R. Syme, Col. and Mrs. Lushington. **JAMAICA.—**Miss K. Pearman. **TRINIDAD.—**Mr. E. Johnstone, Rev. Canon and Mrs. Doorby. **GRENADA.—**Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Langdon. **ST. KITTS.—**Mr. E. Giles. **ST. LUCIA.—**Mr. and Mrs. G. Williams.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," August 6th, 1902:— **JAMAICA.—**Mr. W. W. Arnott, Mr. and Mrs. T. Alexander, Capt. C. Brough, Mr. and Mrs. B. Daniel, Mrs. George, Mrs. F. E. Glanvill, Mrs. C. J. Hamilton, Miss Johnstone, Dr. C. F. Lumb, Mr. N. G. Mumford, Mr. E. J. Morales, Mr. J. Morison, Master J. M. O'Connor, Mr. W. H. Plant, Miss Salmond, Mr. F. C. Tomlinson, Mr. A. N. Watney, Mr. G. H. Whiting, Mr. C. Vorbe, Mr. H. Villedrouin, Mr. W. G. Rackham.

Advance Homeward Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," Sailing August 7th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mrs. W. R. Browne, Miss Vi Browne, Mr. Percy Box, Mr. B. S. Grossett, Major Loveband, Mrs. J. Daly Lewis, Miss Elise Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. H. Nichols, Mrs. Pearce, Miss Beatrice Pearce, Mr. J. A. Stephens, Dr. and Mrs. Turton, Col. F. B. P. White, Mrs. White.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," August 16th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. C. Don, Mr. Gerwin, Mr. W. R. Gillies, Mr. Hurcomb, Mr. and Mrs. L. Isaacs, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Smith, Mr. H. M. Inglis, Mr. A. Gow, Mr. C. Harrison, Miss Harvey, Mr. D. D. C. Henriques, Miss Hook, Mr. James, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Pollard, Mr. Anderson, Mr. W. Rowe.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—Since the date of our last report 3,026 bags have been offered at the Public Sales, but there was scarcely any bidding and nearly the whole quantity was withdrawn. At the close the tone of the market is flat, but the total transactions during the past month were so limited as hardly to enable us to make any change in quotations which must however be regarded as very nominal. We quote middling at 60s. to 63s., good middling at 63s. 6d. to 66s., and fine and superior 67s. to 85s. per cwt.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, 1st Jan. to 9th Aug. .. | 35,347 bags against | 27,735 bags. |
| DELIVERED " " .. | 30,319 " " | 27,395 " " |
| Stock, 9th Aug. .. | 17,958 " " | 21,056 " " |

GRENADA.—The tone of the market has been very quiet during the past month, and prices have declined about 1s. per cwt. At the auctions held on the 22nd ultimo, 2,873 bags were offered and met with a slow demand, but a fair quantity was disposed of at 56s. 6d. to 59s. for ordinary to good fair, and 59s. 6d. to 64s. for middling to fine. Since then only 193 bags have been offered at the sales and were partly sold at unaltered rates.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, 1st Jan. to 9th Aug. .. | 41,087 bags against | 37,078 bags. |
| DELIVERED " " .. | 39,164 " " | 31,733 " " |
| Stock, 9th Aug. .. | 10,441 " " | 11,811 " " |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 9th August | 180,004 | 141,966 | 51,328 | 49,332 | 87,407 |
| France, 1st July | 402,090 | 248,305 | 275,608 | 330,000 | 303,594 |
| Germany, 1st August | 583,347 | 258,293 | 183,270 | 205,300 | 286,673 |
| Hamburg, 13th August..... | 213,260 | 63,880 | 38,200 | 145,200 | 129,800 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st August | 260,877 | 175,009 | 168,415 | 139,945 | 207,522 |
| Holland, 1st August..... | 69,233 | 19,900 | 11,665 | 6,438 | 32,851 |
| Belgium, 1st August | 103,535 | 11,193 | 28,640 | 44,656 | 65,565 |
| United States, 13th August, Total Stocks..... | 1,812,346 | 918,546 | 757,126 | 920,871 | 1,113,412 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 13th August, Total Stocks ... | 148,000 | 200,940 | 107,211 | 206,313 | 264,554 |
| Cargoes afloat, 14th August..... | 278,000 | 95,834 | 9,500 | 50,000 | 72,809 |
| Belgium, 1st August | 165,984 | 169,937 | 158,512 | 208,796 | 88,422 |
| Total..... | 2,404,330 | 1,385,257 | 1,032,349 | 1,385,980 | 1,539,197 |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Hds. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Coffee. Cwts. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. Tons. | Molasses. Puns. | Oranges. Puns. | Asphalt. Tons. | Molasses Tons. | Trcs. | Bcls. |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|
| BARBADOS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to July 31st, 1902 | 45,175 | — | — | — | — | — | 41,977 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jan. 1st to July 31st, 1901 | 58,244 | — | — | — | — | — | 44,147 | — | — | — | — | — |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to July 29th, 1902 | 54,314 | 17,032 | 84,653 | — | 55,306 | 3,200 | 1,215 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jan. 1st to July 31st, 1901 | 35,856 | 12,530 | 55,859 | — | 51,232 | 76,250 | 518 | — | — | — | — | — |
| JAMAICA— | | Gallons. | Cwts. | | Banana. Bunches. | | | | | | | |
| April 1st to July 19th, 1902 | 9,856 | 995,900 | 6,331 | 26,971 | 5,466,601 | 7,438,152 | 3,931,950 | — | — | — | — | — |
| April 1st to June 30th, 1901 | 9,042 | 919,079 | 6,915 | 8,005 | 3,224,767 | 3,496,492 | 912,300 | — | — | — | — | — |
| TRINIDAD— | | Bags & Brs. | Puns. | lbs. | lbs. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to July 30th, 1902 | 440,306 | 1,254 | 22,921,850 | 39,680 | 91,509 | 7,175,840 | 3,029 | 141 | 236 | — | — | — |
| Jan. 1st to July 30th, 1901 | 461,503 | 106 | 17,413,450 | 15,840 | 111,085 | 6,277,657 | 2,738 | 143 | 245 | — | — | — |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), August 7th, "Very dry, rain wanted."

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

West India Committee.

No. 78.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, September 1st, 1902.

The Sugar Question.

From the *Times* and *Standard* we extract the following:—

THE RUSSIAN SUGAR TRADE.

ODESSA, August 25th.

The manipulation of the Russian Sugar Market by producers, bankers, and others of the inside Russian sugar ring have become so intolerable that, according to the *Moscow Listok*, two test cases will shortly be tried before the Russian criminal Courts. In the first case, which will be heard shortly, proceedings are being taken by a group of Russian sugar producers against a well-known Kieff banking institution on a criminal charge of speculation with the object of artificially lowering the price of raw sugar. The parties to the second test case will be a leading Russian refiner and a well-known producer of raw sugar, the latter of whom will be charged with speculating with a view to interfering with the normal regulation of the refined reserve. Both cases promise to throw considerable light on the peculiar operations of individuals engaged in the Russian sugar trade, particularly of the Russian banking and loan advancing syndicates.—(*The Times*, August 28th, 1902.)

PROPOSED SUGAR TRUST.

The Madrid financial newspapers assert that preparations are now far advanced for the creation of a Sugar Trust in Spain. Managing Committees, it is stated, have obtained options for the purchase of almost all the sugar factories, both cane and beet root, including the house of Larios in Malaga. A powerful Company will be formed to buy up all the factories, and will pay for the same in money or Shares of the new concern.

The capital of the Trust will be provided by several of the most important banks and firms at Madrid, Barcelona, and Bilbao. It is evident, however, that the creation of the Trust will be much criticised in the Cortes, and it has already been censured in the Press, as the promoters of the scheme have admitted that their object is to keep up the remunerative price of sugar by checking over production, and by insisting upon the Government increasing the import duties on foreign sugars and granting a premium to native exporters of the article.—(*The Standard*, August 28th, 1902.)

OTTAWA, August 28th.

Mr. Spreckles, the American Sugar King, has incorporated a Company in Canada, with a capital of six million dollars, to acquire a Montreal refinery and to erect a new one in British Columbia.—(*The Standard*, August 29th, 1902.)

French Sugar Bounties.

The direct bounties in France, which were last season fcs. 1.56 on 88 per cent., fcs. 1.78 on Crystals, fcs. 2. on Refined, have been fixed for the 1902/3 crop at fcs. 1.11 on 88 per cent., fcs. 1.27 on Crystals, fcs. 1.43 on Refined.

Beet Crop Prospects.

Reliable crop reports from Germany and Austria show that the weight of Roots per acre is, on the average, at present but little below last season, whilst in France it seems to be up to last year, and in some cases even ahead of it. Of course, all crop conjectures are influenced to such an extent by the weather during September and October, that much importance cannot be attached to estimates of shortage or increase in the weight of Sugar per acre for the next six weeks, as one can see by comparing the tests in the last two issues of *Licht* what an effect one week of favourable weather has on the growing crop.—*C. Czarnikow*.

The Soil of Barbados

We have received the following interesting letter from Dr. D. Morris, C.M.G. :—

BARBADOS, 14th August, 1902.

DEAR SIR,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, acknowledging the further specimen of Volcanic ash and copies of the *Agricultural News*. In order to complete the file of the latter, two copies of No. 2 are being forwarded to you by this mail.

With reference to the enquiry whether Barbados is not indebted to successive eruptions of the St. Vincent Souffrière for her soil, I may mention that the derivation of the soils and surface deposits of this island are very clearly and fully described at pp. 50-56 of the *Geology of Barbados* by Harrison and Jukes-Brown, published by "authority of the Barbadian Legislature" in 1890. This work is no doubt in your library. If not, it may possibly be borrowed for reference from the library of the Royal Colonial Institute. There can be no doubt that the soils of four-fifths of the total area of Barbados, viz., the red clays and loams, as also, the black earths have, for the most part, been derived during the process of ages from the underlying coral rock. The competent authors of the work above referred to, state, "the basis of every soil is the subsoil or rock formation which underlies it, that is to say, the slow disintegration (or breaking up) of the underlying rock material by the various surface agencies to which it is exposed, gives rise to the loose earth which we call soil."

The traces of old volcanic ash and sand are confined to a very small portion of the island, and are interstratified with oceanic deposits showing the existence of active volcanoes somewhere in the Caribbean region during the period of the accumulation of these deposits. The amount of volcanic ash that has fallen on the island and been added to form the present soil is scarcely worthy of consideration. The amount of ash that fell in 1812 averaged only about three-eighths of an inch in depth, and the ash that fell this year was of about the same depth. The aggregate weight of ash that fell over all the Island was considerable, but it would not form probably more than one per cent. of the total weight of the soil of Barbados.

It is rather singular that in view of the very reliable account, given by Messrs. Harrison and Jukes-Brown, of the origin of the soils of Barbados, that the idea should have been adopted to suggest that the island as it now exists "is indebted to successive eruptions of the Souffrière in St. Vincent for her soil." As I have endeavoured to show above there is apparently little or no grounds for such an idea.

I have placed the matter in as simple and as intelligible a form as possible, in order that the subject may be clearly understood, but, to those who are deeply interested in the subject, I recommend that the work I have already referred to may be carefully read and studied.

I am, yours sincerely,

A. E. ASPINALL, ESQ.

(Signed) D. MORRIS.

West Indian Affairs.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's s.s. "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth at 4.30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 27th, and the Mails were delivered in London on the same day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's s.s. "Port Royal" arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, August 20th. We extract the following items from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents :—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), August 13th. Since July 30th the weather had continued dry until Coronation Day, when heavy showers caused considerable disappointment among the holiday-makers, and put an end to a good many of the festivities which, in the absence of the troops, fell very flat. Some estates had finished crop, but the majority were still in full swing, and it was probable that a considerable acreage of standovers would be left until October or November.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), August 16th. We very much regret to observe the nature of the Colonial Office reply to the letter of protest against the "Plantation in Aids Bill." We had some good showers during the past fortnight, but the crops required a continuance of them, and if anything heavier.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), August 13th. The Coronation festivities had passed off very well on the 9th inst., and the result was very creditable to the people, considering that, with the exception of the Municipal decorations, every cent. expended came out of individual pockets. We were very glad to learn by cable that His Majesty had recovered and that the ceremony had taken place on the 9th inst. The "Elbe," the second return ship of the season, had sailed on the 5th inst. with 397 adults, who remitted \$22,217, and took jewellery with them to the value of \$3,700. The Hon. A. H. Alexander, Immigration Agent-General, was returning by the Mail on furlough. The weather had been very favourable, hot suns with good showers alternately had been experienced during the fortnight.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), August 13th. Saturday's celebration of the Coronation was marred by heavy rains, the fireworks display on Monday evening was a great success and in good weather, while the illuminations of the town, both by public and private enterprise, were very effective. Yesterday evening a Ball was held at Government House.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas), August 14th. In June we had 14 inches and 21 parts of rain, in July 13 inches and 93 parts, and to date 6 inches and 26 parts: with such an abundant and evenly distributed rainfall the cocoa trees were doing very well. It was a matter of common remark that the temperature since July 1st had been extraordinarily cool for the period of the year; as a change from the terrific heat and ominous stillness of the air during the time of volcanic disturbance in St. Vincent and Martinique, one enjoyed the prevailing cool breezes with a sense of compensation. The health of the Island was good. In the promotion of our Attorney-General (Hon. Henry Charles Major) to the Chief Justiceship of Fiji, we shall lose a man who in a brief space had won a deep esteem in the Island.

We regret that in our last circular we quoted the Hon. Henry Charles Major as Henry Charles Morgan, Esq.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd), August 12th. There was nothing of special interest to report except as to the weather and the crops. The weather during the fortnight has been windy and blustering, but nothing to complain about, and the young crop for 1903 was looking splendid.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay), August 15th. The weather had been rainy and favourable to growing crops.

Trinidad.—(Edgar Tripp, Esq.), August 13th. In reference to a letter from the Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce, forwarding the principal recommendations of the Inter-departmental Committee on Cable Communications, the local Chamber had replied reiterating its previous resolutions in favour of an all-British cable. The programme of the Coronation Celebration was successfully carried through on the 9th, although somewhat interfered with by rain. The enthusiasm, although modified, necessarily, by the postponement, was still hearty and sincere. The trade of the colony with Bolivar and the upper reaches of the Orinoco remained at a standstill, owing to the blockade established, or said to be established, by President Castro; a number of steamers were waiting, loaded and ready, and the warehouses were blocked with transhipment goods. The first sitting of the Asphalt Commission was announced for the 21st inst. The Lake Asphalt Company had lately beaten its own record, having shipped an average of about 700 tons per day for some weeks. The weather was and had been all that could be desired.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," August 27th, 1902.—**BARBADOS.**—Capt. J. Puckle, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Haynes, Mr. Fredk. Martinez, Mr. H. J. Priestman, Mr. Darnley C. Da Costa, Mrs. M. Biaza, Mr. Hugh Tietz, Mr. Joseph Staal. **DEMERARA.**—The Hon. Arthur Alexander, Mr. Alexander Hicks-Bratt, Mr. Caion Hodge. **JAMAICA.**—Capt. Thomas Marrable, Miss Hazel Neish. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. and Mrs. John Blyth, Mr. Louis John Horwitz, Master Alexander Mendes, Mr. Feodor Konschner, Mr. B. Tomasi, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Verteuil, Mr. Thomas Bruce Marriott, Mr. Austin B. Savory. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. W. Hart, Dr. Alexander Rose. **GRENADA.**—His Hon. Chief Justice Tarring. **ST. LUCIA.**—Capt. Percival Suther, Mrs. Barbara Hunter, Mr. L. J. Patterson-Clavier.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," September 3rd, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Dr. G. B. Brown. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. G. F. Franks, Mr. R. Driver, Mr. J. W. Tucker, Mrs. and Miss Jackson, Miss Forshaw, Mr. W. H. Woodroffe, Dr. and Mrs. Barnes, Mr. W. G. Nicholson, Mr. S. Bayley. **JAMAICA.**—Miss M. Solomon, Miss M. King, Lieut. W. Noble, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Muir, Mrs. Cargill, Mrs. Kenney. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. F. Bidon. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. J. Coxfellow. **GRENADA.**—Mr. L. P. Alexis. **ST. LUCIA.**—Hon. and two Misses Plummer, Miss Parker, Miss Lastie, Mr. C. Laing, Mrs. and Miss Stollmeyer, Mr. A. H. Manlove.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," August 20th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mrs. and Miss Browne, Mrs. and Miss Bennett, Mrs. B. Cole, Capt. T. Constantine, Mr. R. W. Dodd, Mr. P. Fox, Mr. Fowler, Mr. B. S. Gossett, Mr. H. J. Kerr, Major F. R. Loveband, Mrs. and Miss Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. H. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Otto, Mrs. and Miss Pearce, Rev. T. Gordon-Somers, Mr. J. A. Stephens, Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Turton, Col. and Mrs. F. B. P. White, Mr. C. G. L. Wolf.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," August 30th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Miss R. Ansell, Sir W. G. Eell, Mr. J. F. Bolt, Rev. and Mrs. John Chinn, Mr. W. M. Cochran, Miss K. Cooper, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. Gedge, Mr. G. A. Hawkins, Mrs. D. Henderson, Mr. R. K. S. Jacobsen, Miss A. J. Johnstone, Mr. A. E. Motta, Mrs. Pinnock, Mr. C. R.

Relph, Mr. Sherlock, Miss Richards, Rev. Canon Simms, Miss Trench, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Wigglesworth, Mr. L. Anderson, Mr. H. Cunha, Mr. J. F. Davis, Miss Drever, Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. L. G. Gruchy, Mr. H. D. Haslewood, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hurst, Mrs. J. V. Leach, Mrs. and Miss MacGregor, Mr. J. McEwen, Mr. E. J. Morales, Mr. A. Munro, Mr. J. H. Roberts, Hon. P. Stern, Mr. T. F. Walker, Mr. E. W. Foster, Mr. J. P. Quinton.

Rum.

After a fair amount of business in proof rum during the earlier part of the fortnight under review, this market has again relapsed into a state of inactivity, the further arrivals of Demerara helping to check any improvement. The total sold since last mail is about 900 puns., including Trinidad and Demerara at 8½d. to 10½d. proof, the bulk at 9d., at the close little disposition is shown to go on at the latter price.

With the low prices ruling for proof rums, Jamaica of ordinary quality is difficult to sell, and buyers of fine and choice qualities keep out of the market.

Total stocks are as follows;—31,694 puns., against 26,272 last year, and 18,889 in 1900.

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 23rd August..... | 170,419 | 133,135 | 46,769 | 46,673 | 102,236 |
| France, 1st August | 354,850 | 189,898 | 215,110 | 289,000 | 253,139 |
| Germany, 1st August | 583,347 | 258,293 | 183,270 | 205,300 | 286,673 |
| Hamburg, 27th August..... | 215,230 | 64,470 | 37,300 | 140,000 | 125,300 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st August | 260,863 | 175,009 | 168,415 | 139,945 | 207,522 |
| Holland, 15th August | 63,328 | 13,902 | 7,177 | 3,913 | 26,217 |
| Belgium, 1st August | 103,535 | 11,193 | 28,640 | 44,656 | 65,565 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| United States, 27th August, Total Stocks..... | 1,751,572 | 845,900 | 686,681 | 869,487 | 1,066,652 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 27th August, Total Stocks ... | 143,000 | 196,842 | 89,744 | 175,674 | 239,192 |
| Cargoes afloat, 28th August..... | 210,000 | 85,698 | 6,377 | 32,000 | 68,002 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total..... | 2,260,157 | 1,258,418 | 915,274 | 1,262,707 | 1,453,116 |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Hbds. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----|-----|--|
| BARBADOS — | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Aug. 14th, 1902 | 45,204 | — | — | — | — | — | 42,433 | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Aug. 14th, 1901 | 62,573 | — | — | — | — | — | 45,248 | | | |
| BRITISH GUIANA — | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Aug. 12th, 1902 | 60,657 | 17,960 | 87,773 | 6,777 | 59,587 | 3,200 | 1,215 | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Aug. 14th, 1901 | 36,066 | 13,017 | 65,330 | 1,332 | 58,732 | 76,306 | 518 | | | |
| TRINIDAD — | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Aug. 14th, 1902 | 440,681 | 1,254 | 24,643,880 | 39,680 | 101,653 | 7,789,425 | 3,029 | 141 | 236 | |
| Jan. 1st to Aug. 14th, 1901 | 463,646 | 266 | 18,029,020 | 15,840 | 121,290 | 6,344,257 | 2,801 | 143 | 245 | |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), August 20th, "A few light showers have fallen but more rain would be acceptable." **BRITISH GUIANA**.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell and Co., Ltd.), August 25th, "Weather favourable for cultivation."

Publications Received.

General.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past month:—

The Financial News, *The Gold, Diamond, and Forest Industries of British Guiana*, *The Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, *The Louisiana Planter*, *The Plantation in Aid Act 1902, Barbados*, (Through the courtesy of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller.) *The Produce Markets Review*, *Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute, 1901-1902*, *The Monthly Magazine of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool*, Vol. 1, Nos. 1 & 2. *The Imperial Department of Agriculture:—Bulletin No. 2, Vol. 3*, *Report of Agricultural Work for 1899-1901, Screw Worm in Cattle at St. Lucia*, *Plain talk to small Owners, Hints on Onion Cultivation*, and *the Agricultural News*, Vol. 1, Nos. 2-9. *H. Prinsen Geerlig's, "On Cane Sugar in Java" 2nd Edition*, *Sugar Journal, Queensland*, *The International Sugar Journal*, Vol. 4, No. 44, August.

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

West India Committee.

Telegrams :
"CARIB" LONDON,
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Telephone :
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,

LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, September 15th, 1902.

The Volcanic Eruptions.

The following extract from a telegram from H.E. Sir R. Llewellyn (at Grenada) sent on the 4th and received at 5 p.m. on the 6th instant, represents all that the Colonial Office know as to St. Vincent :—

"Regret to report that Souffrière has been in eruption all last night after being quiescent since May 18th."

The Rum Surtax.

The following letter has been received from the Colonial Office upon the above subject :—

DOWNING STREET,

9th September, 1902.

SIR,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and to inform you that Mr. Steele has not yet sent in his Report upon Excise Restrictions in the West Indies, and that, until it is received, Mr. Chamberlain cannot give any undertaking as to its publication.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

The Secretary,
West India Committee.

West Indian Affairs.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's s.s. "Orinoco" anchored off Plymouth at 5.5 p.m. on Thursday, September 11th, and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on Friday, September 12th. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's s.s. "Port Morant" arrived at Avonmouth on Tuesday, September 2nd. We extract the following items from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents :—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), August 27th. Instructions had arrived to defer the demolition of the Camps and Boer Barracks until the arrival of the new Governor, but with what object in view was not known. On the 18th there had been a heavy fall of rain averaging from about 2½ to 4 inches, the young crop was materially benefited, although the manufacture of sugar was not accelerated. The Hon. John F. Foote and Mr. J. Maginley were returning by the Mail.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), August 30th. Smallpox was greatly on the increase, and the Doctors thought it would be some time before the disease would be stamped out, in the meantime those who were employed in the shipping had little or no work to do, as they were quarantined on all sides. The weather was not what was desired; a few showers fell during last week, but this week had been rather dry, they had been having hot suns along with high winds blowing from North-Eastward direction, which was rather unusual for that time of the year.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), August 27th. At a meeting of the Legislature on the 19th, a Bill legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister was read a third time and passed. Sir T. C. Rayner, the newly appointed Attorney-General, arrived by the mail. A continuance of the favourable weather reported in my last had been general during the fortnight and cultivation was looking well.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), August 27th. The Committee appointed by the Government to enquire into the subject of Prædial Larceny in this Island had begun to sit under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Pemberton. The weather for the past fortnight had been fine.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), August 26th. During the past four weeks they had very seasonable weather, just suited to the growing crops. The rains had come in time to save the coffee crops.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. E. G. Todd), August 26th. The grant in aid was, it was almost needless to say, so small that in itself it would hardly affect, one way or another, the determination of proprietors to continue cultivation or to abandon the estates. Although nothing definite was known, he heard that in the case of at least two local proprietors—one the largest Nevis proprietor—directions had been given to abandon.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay), August 28th. The grant in aid by the Imperial Government had at length been distributed, it was 10s. 5½d. per ton upon the average crops of the last two years, and not 15s. as at first stated.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs D. K. Porter & Co.), August 11th. There had been no disclosure by the Authorities however as to what compensation either labourers or proprietors were to receive for losses sustained. This was being taken advantage of by their French neighbours, who had agents there buying up all the available cattle. The weather had been all that could be desired, in fact the strong trade winds which had prevailed for some time past, reminded one more of the month of March than the usually sultry August.

Trinidad.—(Edgar Tripp, Esq.), August 29th. The Asphalt Commission was then sitting. Voluminous evidence was coming forward. Looking at the magnitude of the interests involved it was sincerely to be hoped that the decision would be one which, whilst doing justice to the various claimants, would secure to the Colony for all time the best returns from this great natural source of wealth. The weather continued good, and favourable for all kinds of produce.

New Members.

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 the following first of January.

Address Register.

OUTWARD AND HOMEWARD PASSENGERS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNICATE THEIR ADDRESSES TO THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS, LONDON, E.C., AT WHOSE ROOM A REGISTER OF ADDRESSES IS KEPT. FOR THIS PURPOSE SPECIALLY PREPARED POST-CARDS MAY BE OBTAINED UPON APPLICATION TO THE PURSERS OF THE STEAMERS OF THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY, THE IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE, AND SCRUTTONS, SONS & CO.

LETTERS FOR MEMBERS MAY BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMITTEE ROOM "TO BE FORWARDED."

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," September 12th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. A. Howard, Mrs. Benet, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Greenidge, Mr. and Mrs. H. Deighton, Mr. and Mrs. W. Burslem, Miss Simpson, Mr. F. Girdlestone, Mr. H. R. Brandon. **DEMARARA.**—Miss Bruce Mackey, Mr. F. de R. Barclay, Mr. A. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Brodie, Miss D. Francis, Mrs. Quick, Mrs. Ireland, Mr. H. J. Perkins, Bishop E. A. Parry, Mrs. Newcham, Miss Blanche Shaw. **JAMAICA.**—Rev. Joseph Valloggio, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Pilliner, Hon. Dr. Pringle, C.M.G., Mr. C. W. Wolf. **TRINIDAD.**—Miss Welsh, Mr. W. S. Dingley, Master R. Turner, Dr. E. J. Hammond, Mr. Cipriano Pujados, Mr. J. W. Meyer. **ANTIGUA.**—Miss Amy Foote, Mr. J. M. A. Maginley, Mr. R. H. Whittington, Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Lane. **DOMINICA.**—His Hon. H. Hesketh Bell, Miss McIntyre, Miss Corbould Warren, Miss M. S. Stedeman. **ST. KITTS.**—Hon. L. Horsford. **ST. LUCIA.**—Lient. and Mrs. Robinson.

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 6th September | 160,037 | 123,454 | 42,651 | 46,692 | 100,290 |
| France, 1st August | 354,850 | 189,898 | 215,110 | 289,000 | 253,139 |
| Germany, 1st August | 583,347 | 258,293 | 183,270 | 205,300 | 286,673 |
| Hamburg, 10th September | 224,790 | 67,510 | 28,300 | 135,624 | 98,900 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st September..... | 191,526 | 116,160 | 95,118 | 81,867 | 156,906 |
| Holland, 1st September..... | 55,405 | 9,345 | 4,400 | 2,735 | 17,717 |
| Belgium, 15th August..... | 105,115 | 12,747 | 29,631 | 39,923 | 64,014 |
| | 1,675,070 | 777,407 | 598,480 | 801,141 | 977,639 |
| United States, 10th September, Total Stocks | 165,000 | 187,232 | 61,416 | 174,745 | 204,624 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 10th September, Total Stocks | 176,000 | 82,984 | 6,342 | 24,000 | 64,549 |
| Cargoes afloat, 11th September | 229,701 | 179,189 | 201,399 | 256,315 | 160,434 |
| Total..... | 2,245,771 | 1,226,812 | 867,637 | 1,256,201 | 1,407,246 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), September 4th, "First part of the fortnight rainy; latter dry."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

General.

"The Agricultural News," Vol. 1, No. 10, "The Financial News," "International Sugar Journal," Vol. 4, No. 45, September, "Journal des Fabricants de Sucre," The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, August, "Louisiana Planter," "Product Markets Review," "West India," Vol. 1, No. 1, August (F. S. Turney, 29, Paternoster Row, E.C.).

Market Reports.

Barbados Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Gardiner, Austin & Co.).
 Barbados Prices Current (Messrs. J. R. Bancroft & Co.).
 Barbados Mercantile Intelligence (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
 Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.).
 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).
 Jamaica "Gleaner" Mercantile Intelligence (The "Gleaner" Co., Ltd.).
 Trinidad Market Report (Messrs. G. R. Alston & Co.).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.).
 Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (W. J. S. Tucker, Esq.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, 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 and 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.

West India Committee.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, September 29th, 1902.

Herr Licht's Sugar Crop Estimate for 1902-1903.

In his monthly report for September Herr Licht estimates the European Beet Sugar production for the season at from 5,400,000 to 5,900,000 tons against 6,843,038 tons in 1902. The following table gives the figures in detail compared with the five preceding campaigns :

| | 1902/03 | 1901/02 | 1900/01 | 1899/00 | 1898/99 | 1897/98 | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| GERMANY ... | 1,875,000 to 2,000,000 | 2,299,408 | 1,984,186 | 1,798,631 | 1,721,718 | 1,852,857 | tons. |
| AUSTRIA ... | 950,000 ,, 1,050,000 | 1,302,038 | 1,094,043 | 1,108,007 | 1,051,290 | 831,667 | „ |
| FRANCE ... | 800,000 ,, 900,000 | 1,183,420 | 1,170,332 | 977,850 | 830,132 | 821,235 | „ |
| RUSSIA ... | 1,100,000 ,, 1,200,000 | 1,110,000 | 918,838 | 905,737 | 776,066 | 738,715 | „ |
| BELGIUM ... | 220,000 ,, 250,000 | 350,000 | 333,110 | 302,865 | 244,017 | 265,397 | „ |
| HOLLAND ... | 115,000 ,, 125,000 | 203,172 | 178,081 | 171,029 | 149,763 | 125,658 | „ |
| OTHER COUNTRIES | 340,000 ,, 375,000 | 400,000 | 367,919 | 263,919 | 207,115 | 196,245 | „ |
| Total | 5,400,000 to 5,900,000 | 6,843,038 | 6,046,518 | 5,518,048 | 4,982,101 | 4,831,774 | tons. |

He anticipates an increase of 250,000 in cane sugar and deducting 350,000 as representing increase in consumption concludes the final stocks next season will only be 200,000 tons, less than our present excessive supplies.

Commenting on this statement, Mr. C. Czarnikow, in his circular dated September 25th, states:—There is an increase of about 50,000 tons production in America, and some moderate increase in Porto Rico and perhaps Philippines, against a decrease in Brazil and Argentine; in Cuba and Java we can hardly reckon on an increase; the West Indies must keep up production in terms of the Government grant, but are certainly not anticipating an increase, and where the 250,000 tons more Cane are to be produced is not quite clear. On the other hand, 1,200,000 tons shortage in Europe is a large figure, involving decrease of production in—

| | Germany. | Austria. | France. | Russia. | Belgium. | Holland. | Others. |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | —16 per cent. | —23 per cent. | —28 per cent. | +3½ per cent. | —32 per cent. | —41 per cent. | —10½ per cent. |
| Out of Sowings | —10 „ | —16 „ | —24 „ | +1 „ | —24 „ | —35 „ | |

Those figures of sowings are not considered quite reliable or complete, and as regards yield, the present figures are hardly fair comparisons; the crop is late, and weights of 15th September should be compared to last year's of beginning of September, and the action of temperature on unripe Roots must necessarily be more pronounced than on ripening Roots. But we have Summer weather just now only in England and France, in which latter country the crop must be benefiting largely, whilst in Magdeburg last week's temperature was only 12.3 against 14.9 degrees Celsius, and has not been much better since, either there or in Austria. Next week the comparison may be worse, as that was the hottest week last September; therefore it is not easy to fix upon approximate crop figures now already.

The Soil of Barbados.

With reference to Dr. D. Morris' letter on this subject which was published in Circular No. 78, we have received the following letter from Mr. George Hughes:—

Dear Sir,

I do not want to enter into any controversy on the soils of Barbados, but I should like to know why other Coral Islands in the West Indies, such for example as Barbuda and Tortuga, have little or no soil.

The decomposition of the coral by the action of Carbonic Acid from rainwater and atmosphere, forming the bi-carbonate of lime, and leaving the insoluble matter on the surface, would not account for all the soil of Barbados, seeing that in the last century they got $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch on Dr. Morris' statement, I still maintain that Barbados has to thank a series of these eruptions through ages for much of its soil. The question of the red and dark soils of the Island has to do with the amount of organic matter, and naturally there is a greater amount of organic matter in the low lands than in the "Above Cliff."

Why have the South Downs of England, on chalk, not got soil as deep as Barbados? Volcanic action you may depend has much to do with it.

I shall read the report of Prof. Harrison and Jukes Brown, and should have done so before expressing my humble opinion.

There is a reason for everything, and often it is far simpler than one imagines could be the case.

Yours truly,

(Signed) GEORGE HUGHES.

A. E. ASPINALL, Esq.,
Secretary,
WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

West Indian Affairs.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's s.s. "Trent" anchored off Plymouth at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23rd, and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's s.s. "Port Antonio" arrived at Avonmouth on Thursday, September 18th. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents:—

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), September 13th. The small-pox epidemic was unfortunately still maintaining a firm hold, and although the Government were doing all they could to check the advance of the disease, there appeared to be some friction between the Boards who had to deal with it. This state of affairs could only tend to prolong the period of quarantine against the Island. The result would be a serious loss of wages to a considerable portion of the labouring class, who, even if the Island was not quarantined, would have little to do, it being the dull season of the year. Mr. W. H. Stoker, the new Attorney-General, arrived on September 13th. The weather continued deplorably dry, scorching suns being the order of the day. Unless rain made its appearance shortly, both cane and provision crops would next year be materially curtailed.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), September 10th. The Governor recently spent a fortnight at the Penal Settlement at Massuruni, during which time he visited different places on the Cuyuni and Massuruni Rivers. After returning to Town for about the same time he had gone back to the Settlement, and was expected to be away another fortnight or three weeks. The Guiana Syndicate with German Capital had started work on their mines at Omai on the Essequibo River, and, so far, results had been satisfactory. A good deal of money had been spent in establishing the plant for these works, and on the result probably depended the future of the Gold Industry of the Colony as far as the outside capital and mining proper was concerned. "The Erne," the third and last Coolie ship of the season sailed on Sept. 4th, with 149 souls from Demerara. She also carried 359 return immigrants from Jamaica. Figures as to the money remitted, and the value of jewellery had not then been made up. No meetings of the Legislature or the Association had been held during the fortnight. The weather had been hot and dry but favourable generally. Showers were wanted, however, to bring out the Arrow in canes soon to be cut, as well as for the younger cultivation recently established. Sugar making will be started between 15th and 30th inst., and crop operations were expected to be in full swing by the first week in October. Refining crystals were quoted at \$1.65, a slight improvement on last advices.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), September 11th. It was hoped that no exaggerated accounts of the dust which had fallen in the Island from the last eruption in Martinique would be circulated. Though it was the heaviest fall they had yet had, it was not nearly so heavy as the first fall in Barbados. In some districts a considerable quantity had fallen, but near Roseau the dust was little worse than that which was on the hedgerows in the summer in England, but of course as

it was over the whole Island, it was more apparent, especially in Dominica which was generally entirely free from dust of any kind. Rain had since washed everything clean. The orange crop was early, and a fair quantity of early fruit was being exported in barrels. A few boxes of superior fruit were also being shipped. It was hoped that it would soon be recognised that Dominica could produce oranges of a high quality, and that such prices would be obtained as would induce shippers to wait till the fruit was properly ripe instead of forcing them to export immature fruit to catch the early market. The Praedial Larceny Committee was receiving evidence from Planters and others as to the extent of the evil and suggestions for its suppression. The weather during the fortnight had been fine.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), September 9th. The arrival of Sir Gerald Strickland was looked forward to with considerable interest, and hope was expressed that he would do something during his term of office to raise the Colony from the slough of despond into which it was rapidly falling. The weather was all that a planter could desire, and the yam crop, where the necessary attention to its health and growth had been considered, was not discouraging, and was rapidly being developed. The export of sugar for the crop was expected to exceed 16,000 tons.

St. Lucia.—An important Memorial, on the subject of greater wharf accommodation and the dredging of the harbour, has been addressed by the leading merchants of the Island to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It will be remembered that as the outcome of a former Memorial, which was strongly supported by the West India Committee in 1901 (see Circulars 39 and 40), Mr. Coode was sent out to the Colony, as an expert, to report on the matter. It was understood that the report was delayed owing to Mr. Coode requiring that borings should be taken in the harbour, and the boring instruments not reaching the Colony till many months after his visit. The borings however, have, it is pointed out, now been in Mr. Coode's hands for some months, and the report is urgently called for. The Memorial concludes in the following terms:—"Meanwhile, the expansion of the coaling business of Castries is coming on us more rapidly than was anticipated at the time we addressed our Memorial to you. Apart from the steady growth of the trade between the United States and South and Central America, for which St. Lucia, by its geographical position, as well as by reason of the accommodation provided for shipping, has been recognised as the most convenient port of call for orders or for replenishing bunkers; the cessation of hostilities in South Africa has thrown that rich market open to the competition of the World, and we are being approached by shipping firms and steamship companies in England, America, and other Countries to ascertain what facilities we could offer them in view of the contemplated establishment of regular lines on this route which, taking freight from Europe and America for South African Ports, and not finding return cargoes thence, could seek freight in United States Ports, orders for which they could call for here and at the same time take in coal and water.

"We can secure the business, which will greatly benefit the Colony generally, as well as other business in connection with the opening up of new commercial enterprises on the Ocean routes on which St. Lucia is situated, by losing no time in adapting our port to new requirements. And it is in the confidence that your marked interest in these Colonies, of which we take this opportunity of expressing our grateful sense, will move you to the exertion of your powerful influence to secure us the means of developing a trade which we laboriously worked up during many years, to the great benefit of the people of the Colony generally, that we venture to approach you with the prayer that the project of further improvement of the Harbour of Castries, may receive prompt consideration, so that we may be equipped to derive the fullest advantage from the expansion of trade in the Central and the South Atlantic which our position must attract."

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), September 12th. Though large sums were being spent weekly in feeding the people, nothing had so far been disclosed in the Island with regard to compensation to be paid to the sufferers by the eruption of last May. On the night of the 3rd inst. a further terrific eruption of the Soufrière was experienced, followed next night by a most severe thunderstorm.

Trinidad.—(Edgar Tripp, Esq.), September 12th. The Trinidad Contingent to the Coronation had returned fit and well by the last packet. Officers and men united in testifying to the extreme courtesy and kindness of their reception in the old Country. A hearty welcome awaited them in Trinidad and was accorded by everyone from the Acting Governor down. There had been considerable agitation during the fortnight in regard to the action of the Government towards the local telephone Companies. These had been in existence for some years, and, although without special legislative sanction, had received Government support and custom. The early introduction of an Electric Tram Car Service would render necessary the practical re-construction of much of the system. With a view of obtaining a really efficient service throughout the Colony the different Companies had arranged to dispose of all their interests to a local Merchant, with whom were associated some wealthy Capitalists abroad. They were prepared to give all necessary guarantees for an up-to-date service and to fully compensate, as per terms agreed on, all existing local interests, provided they could obtain an exclusive privilege for a term of years. But the Government, for some reason hitherto unexplained, had decided to give this concession to the recently established Trinidad Electric Company, notwithstanding the fact that this body declined to compensate the

existing interests to the extent of more than half the amount which the merchants above referred to had already offered. The Shareholders were indignant, and meetings had been held and opinions very freely expressed. After the usual course through the Legislative Chamber, the matter would probably find its way to the Secretary of State. In the meantime, with the advent of the electric cars the telephone "ground connection" would probably become useless, and immense inconvenience would result till some settlement was arrived at. Owing to the absence of some planters in England, it had not been possible so far to get out the Cane Farming Returns of last crop, but sufficient data were to hand to show a striking increase on the quantity returned in 1901. The exports of Cocoa to date showed an increase even over the record year of 1900, thus:—

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------|-----------------|
| 1st January to date | { | 1900 | 25,079,165 lbs. |
| | | 1901 | 18,727,550 .. |
| | | 1902 | 25,249,930 .. |

and there was promise of a yield for the balance of the year, which should be exceedingly "grateful and comforting" to the Planters. The ocean boats of the Royal Mail seemed to have had some difficulty hitherto in keeping time here from Jamaica, but the "Trent," which was coming up the harbour at the time of writing, would get away at the right hour. The Asphalte Commission was still sitting.

West Indian Section, Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.

A meeting of the Committee of this section was held on Monday, September 15th, Mr. J. E. Tinne, Chairman, presiding. On the Motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. R. A. Barker, Mr. J. W. Scholefield was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the Section. On the subject of the proposed transfer of the old Bermuda dry dock to Jamaica, letters were read from Sir Alfred Jones, Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., Sandbach, Tinne & Co., The Royal Jamaica Society and the West India Committee. It was resolved:—"That Jamaica being unable to buy the dock in question, and the cost of its maintenance being £5,000 to £6,000 per annum, an amount exceeding what the Island can afford, and Bermuda wishing to retain the Old Dock, the suggestion for its removal be abandoned for the present."

The Executive Committee.

The fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee will be resumed on Thursday next, October 2nd.

The West Indian Club.

The fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club will be resumed on Wednesday next, October 1st, when the Hon. H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator of Dominica, and Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., will be entertained as guests of the Club. The Dinner Committee upon this occasion is composed of J. Rippon, Esq., L. de Mercado, Esq., and W. A. M. Goode, Esq., the Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club. The Chair will be taken at 7.30 by Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," September 24th, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Miss Smith, Mr. Keith Nightengale, Lieut.-Col. L. E. B. Booth, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Miss Layne, Miss Miller, Mrs. W. G. Freeman, Mr. T. A. Airey. DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. Darrell-Hill, Rev. O. Haydock-Wilson, Mr. S. S. Jones, Dr. Widdup, Mrs. Pelham-Young, Mr. F. A. Edmonds. JAMAICA.—Colonel R. Egerton, Mr. H. T. Wilson, Master Oughton, Mr. J. C. Sharpe, Dr. James Ogilvie. TRINIDAD.—Miss Lynch, Mr. A. Stewart, Mrs. V. Plummer, Miss Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Fitzgerald, Mrs. N. T. McKenzie, Mr. H. Cross, Mr. B. S. Brown, Mr. G. Bruce-Austin, Miss A. Scott, Mr. E. M. Figaro, Mrs. Ernest May. ANTIGUA.—Mrs. F. Holborrow. DOMINICA.—Mr. A. P. Skeat. ST. LUCIA.—Hon. G. Ponsonby.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," October 1st, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Mrs. Barefoot, Major D. Grayfoot, Mrs. M. Williams, Mr. H. L. Johnson, Mr. W. Labby. DEMERARA.—Mrs. J. Sowden, Mrs. J. Stuart, Mr. F. P. Stubbs, Mr. and Mrs. N. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Mr. H. P. Christian, Mr. D. H. McGowan, Miss Newill, Mr. E. G. Woolford. JAMAICA.—Mrs. and Miss Caulfield, Hon. V. G. Bell, Hon. G. McGrath, Mr. and Mrs. Allhusen, Mr. and

Mrs. Muirhead, Company-Sergt.-Major R. Smith, Mr. C. Jackson, Colonel Egerton. TRINIDAD.—Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. A. Cipriani, Miss Cipriani, Mr. and Mrs. Thornton Warner, Master K. Harrigan, Miss O. Harrigan, His Grace the Archbishop of Trinidad, Rev. P. Bresnan, Rev. T. Bresnan, Rev. Long, Mr. and Mrs. Vasconcellos, Mr. A. B. Savory, Mr. W. Sanderson, Dr. G. Seccombe, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wink, Mr. L. H. de Gannes, Miss M. Wade, Mr. B. Stephens. ANTIGUA.—Miss Drinkwater, Mr. J. S. Udal. DOMINICA.—Mr. F. Everington. ST. KITTS.—Mrs. A. Edwards, Mr. E. de Lisle. ST. LUCIA.—Mr. G. Deavaux. ST. VINCENT.—Mrs. Dasent, Miss Findlay, Mr. Alex. Porter. TOBAGO.—Mr. H. Hamilton, two Misses Hamilton.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," September 18th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Arthur, Miss Hook, Miss Harvey, Mr. J. P. Haworth, Miss Moxsy, Mrs. R. E. Nunes, Lieut. and Mrs. E. W. Powell, Mr. Argent Saunders, Mr. G. R. Taylor, Mr. H. M. Vickers, Mr. Alfred Walder, Mr. Hertel, Mr. A. McNab, Mr. Ring.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," September 27th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. E. R. Browne, Mr. and Miss Conran, Dr. and Mrs. Cooke, Mr. P. H. Cooke, Mr. E. H. Cooke, Mr. W. Cork, Miss Cork, Mr. F. E. Enderby, Mr. J. C. Ford, Mr. R. M. Gardner, Mrs. and Miss Johnstone, Mrs. and Miss Johnson, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. W. W. Kenny, Mr. and Mrs. H. McGilchrist, Mrs. C. De Montagnac, Mrs. and Miss Morais, Mr. and Miss Radcliffe, Major and Mrs. Townshend, Mr. W. A. Thwaites, Miss E. V. Tyler, Mr. C. L. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. E. F. Dodsworth, Miss Ella Van Angle, Mr. Samuel Jones, Mr. Ring, Mrs. U. Warner.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," October 11th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. W. Beath, Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Clare, Mrs. M. C. Denniston, Miss A. Earle, Mr. A. F. G. Ellis, Mr. J. F. Gibson, Mr. H. S. Hoskins, Mr. H. N. Ives, Mrs. A. L. Jamieson, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. R. Monckton, Miss Rice, Mr. Sydney Sedgewick, Hon. H. and Mrs. Sewell, Mr. Percy Sewell, Mr. and Miss Stephens, Miss Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tillman, Mr. H. Tringham, Mr. E. J. Williamson, Mr. F. Fryer.

Rum.

A very dull tone continues to prevail in the proof market, which, considering the enormous stocks, is not to be wondered at. Business is confined to a few parcels of medium and good Demerara at 9d. per proof gallon, at which price there are more sellers than buyers. It is generally considered here, that, should the next Demerara crop prove as abundant as the last, the price will fall to 6d. proof, hardly sufficient to pay for the cask and charges.

Owing to the low price at which vatted can be bought, Jamaicas are quite neglected, and hardly a sale has occurred in home trade kinds. Really fine qualities, however, are steady, but the demand is anything but brisk.

We append the Board of Trade returns, together with Stocks in London:—

| | | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| LANDED | In Aug. | 564,131 | 494,655 | 699,961 | 884,808 |
| | 8 months | 6,268,193 | 5,261,870 | 4,441,172 | 3,962,933 |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. | In Aug. | 223,358 | 190,805 | 217,964 | 219,833 |
| | 8 months | 2,538,398 | 2,588,132 | 2,784,747 | 2,522,880 |
| EXPORT | In Aug. | 53,538 | 85,776 | 42,600 | 51,696 |
| | 8 months | 559,297 | 558,442 | 744,506 | 534,831 |
| STOCK (Gals.) | 31st Aug. | 9,609,000 | 8,153,000 | 7,157,000 | 8,052,000 |

STOCKS IN LONDON.

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| JAMAICA. PUNS.. .. | 12,078 | 11,157 | 9,781 | 14,051 |
| OTHER W. I. ISLANDS .. | 2,116 | 1,180 | 572 | 1,010 |
| DEMERARA | 9,386 | 5,660 | 3,978 | 3,557 |
| FOREIGN | 3,255 | 2,363 | 1,869 | 1,056 |
| BRITISH EAST INDIA .. | 1,415 | 2,147 | 643 | 1,181 |
| VATTED | 4,251 | 3,836 | 3,355 | 3,664 |
| TOTAL | 32,501 | 26,343 | 20,198 | 24,519 |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Hhds. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoa. lbs. | Diamonds Carats. | Gold. ozs. | Co'nuts. | Molasses. Puns. | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| BARBADOS. | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Sept. 11th, 1902 | 46,951 | — | — | — | — | — | 42,433 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Sept. 11th, 1901 | 62,683 | — | — | — | — | — | 45,317 | | |
| BRITISH GUIANA. | Tons. | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1st to Sept. 9th, 1902 | 63,656 | 18,418 | 95,933 | 8,684 | 66,479 | 3,360 | 1,215 | | |
| Jan. 1st to Sept. 11th, 1901 | 38,460 | 13,250 | 67,580 | 1,354 | 65,949 | 76,306 | 518 | | |
| TRINIDAD. | Bags & Brls. | Puns. | lbs. | Coffee. lbs. | Asphalt. Tons. | | Molasses. Puns. | Tons. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1st to Sept. 11th, 1902 | 442,870 | 1,259 | 25,528,900 | 39,840 | 124,080 | 8,336,025 | 3,314 | 141 | 236 |
| Jan. 1st to Sept. 11th, 1901 | 469,143 | 1,605 | 18,727,550 | 15,840 | 135,551 | 7,060,709 | 3,347 | 158 | 348 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 20th September | 155,091 | 113,437 | 42,625 | 40,702 | 90,775 |
| France, 1st September | 312,413 | 126,910 | 159,091 | 245,095 | 165,605 |
| Germany, 1st September | 388,200 | 137,402 | 76,365 | 62,296 | 156,534 |
| Hamburg, 24th September | 211,140 | 55,740 | 18,100 | 109,400 | 83,900 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st September..... | 189,524 | 116,160 | 95,118 | 81,867 | 156,906 |
| Holland, 1st September..... | 55,405 | 9,345 | 4,400 | 2,735 | 17,717 |
| Belgium, 1st September | 93,225 | 10,712 | 14,432 | 29,442 | 54,573 |
| United States, 24th September, Total Stocks | 1,404,998 | 569,706 | 410,131 | 571,537 | 726,010 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 24th September, Total Stocks | 170,000 | 172,205 | 38,699 | 179,317 | 183,024 |
| Cargoes afloat, 25th September | 144,000 | 79,970 | 5,905 | 18,500 | 42,920 |
| Total..... | 1,901,022 | 963,640 | 614,905 | 943,770 | 1,084,883 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), September 17th, "Very dry, rain wanted."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), September 15th, "Weather seasonable."

Publications Received.

The West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications during the past fortnight:—

General.

"The Agricultural News," Vol. 1, No. 11, Barbados Blue Book, 1901-02, Barbados Cricketers' Annual for 1901-02 (J. W. Gibbons), "The Financial News," "Journal des Fabricants de Sucre," The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, September, "Louisiana Planter," "Produce Markets Review."

Market Reports.

Barbados Mail Report and Prices Current (Messrs. Gardiner, Austin & Co.).
 Barbados Prices Current (Messrs. J. R. Bancroft & Co.).
 Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Jones & Swan).
 Barbados Mercantile Intelligencer (Messrs. J. A. Lynch & Co.).
 Barbados Market Report (Messrs. Leacock & Co.).
 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).
 Jamaica "Gleaner" Mercantile Intelligencer (The "Gleaner" Co., Ltd.).
 Trinidad Market Report (Messrs. G. R. Alston & Co.).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Gordon Grant & Co.).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. Smith, Robertson & Co.).
 Trinidad Prices Current (Messrs. E. Tripp & Co.).
 Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report (W. J. S. Tucker, Esq.), and circulars from C. Czarnikow, Gillespie Bros. & Co. (London and New York), E. Kynaston, F. O. Licht, E. D. & F. Man, Paines & Reid, 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 and 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.

West India Committee.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
 LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, October 13th, 1902.

West Indian Affairs.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's s.s. "La Plata" anchored off Plymouth at 3.30 a.m. on Friday, October 10th, and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's s.s. "Port Royal" arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, October 1st. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents :—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), September 24th. The weather had been dry and had enabled most Estates to close crop. Heavy rains would be acceptable. Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands had accepted the Administratorship of St. Lucia.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), September 27th. Small-pox was steadily increasing day by day, in spite of the strenuous efforts of the health authorities and doctors to keep it down. After much persuasion, a great number of people had consented to be vaccinated. Meanwhile, trade with the neighbouring islands had been completely stopped by the quarantine regulations. The result was, that those employed in the shipping were suffering very much from want of work. Since last mail a few light showers had fallen off and on, and although crops had benefited slightly from them, still it had not been enough for them at the present stage. On the whole they were keeping fairly well, but unless there was more rain the yield would be considerably lower next year.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), September 24th. A healthier tone had been shown in the sugar market during the past few days. Sales of refining crystals had been made at \$1.67½ to \$1.70, and the latter figure might be taken as the quotation of the day. A good many Estates had begun sugar-making, and grinding would be general in another fortnight. Excellent rains fell on the 21st and 22nd, and they were wanted badly. The fall was general and ranged from 1½ in. in Berbice to 4 in. in some places in Essequibo. There were no meetings of the Legislature or Planters' Association during the fortnight. The Immigration Expense Commission had finished their labours.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), September 24th. The weather continued dry and fine. The Cacao crop was just beginning to come in in a few localities. It appeared that the recent fall of Volcanic dust had done considerable damage to the oranges, and those shipped by last mail were likely to arrive in bad condition, though apparently quite sound when shipped. This was particularly unfortunate, as shippers were taking more care than formerly in picking and handling the fruit, and unless the reason were known a bad consignment might materially set back the trade. Those shipped by the current mail should be sounder.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas), September 25th. Frequent showers had been falling throughout the month strengthening the expectation of a good cocoa crop. The Cacao crop just ended yielded 61,000 bags, the highest total on record; the 1903-1904 crop with a total of 55,665 bags coming next. On the 22nd instant most of the Cacao estates began picking but relatively very little would be reaped before November. Thenceforward substantial pickings might be depended upon. Sugar which had been manufactured at a rate with which they could not compete in Grenada was coming in abundantly from the neighbouring islands, and local manufacturers were feeling the competition keenly, especially the peasant and small manufacturer. Such competition was arresting the determination of growers to make enough sugar locally to supply the requirements of the island. An Ordinance had been passed prohibiting, for the time being, all importations from Barbados, with the object of preserving this Island from the infection of small-pox. A timely and wise precaution.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), September 18th. The weather had been all that could be desired for the growing crops. The rains had been general with no damage done. The coming Cacao crop promised to be a large one. Things were decidedly quiet, but the general condition of the Island was decidedly better than it had been for some time past.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), September 23rd. The Government had at length passed the local legislation necessary to give effect to the Grant in aid of the Sugar Industry, voted by the House of Commons on the 31st of July last. The effect of the Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council on Wednesday last was to remit, from the 1st of January last until the 30th of September, 1903, the Export Tax of 4s. 8d. per ton on Sugar, and wharfage dues of 1s. 4d. per ton, besides the remission of the tax of 3s. per acre on "cultivated" land, *i.e.*, "cane" land, for the whole

of the current year and the whole of 1903. For reasons that could not be comprehended, or even guessed at, the Government had thought fit to retain the tax of 6d. per acre on "uncultivated" land, of which there were some 34,000 acres in St. Kitts Nevis, and this fell with special hardness on many estates. Assuming that the 1903 crop would equal the current year's crop, say 16,000 tons, he estimated that the aid afforded by the law just passed would be equal to a sum of 8s. 1½d. per ton. The rainfall on Saturday night and Sunday morning was a splendid downpour, and as all rainfalls between that period and December meant the development of crops, it was to be hoped that showers would continue between those periods.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), September 26th. Eruptions of the Soufrière continued, though happily without doing any serious injury.

Trinidad.—(Edgar Tripp, Esq.), September 26th. The Agricultural Society had lately had under consideration a letter from Mr. Chamberlain to the Governor forwarding a communication from Mr. J. Scott Turner enquiring as to the facilities for the cultivation of Bamboo in the West Indies, with a view to the manufacture of wood pulp. Mr. Turner had, it appeared, obtained a concession of certain territory and privileges in Upper Burma for the purpose, but the freight to London proved, it was feared, prohibitive, and he desired to know whether, in the event of the establishment of suitable works in Trinidad, the Government would grant similar privileges to those conceded in Burma. In that event, he desired to be informed (a) whether within a practical area 100,000 tons Bamboo would be immediately available, and (b) whether that supply could be annually maintained within two years? A Committee of the Society were unable to agree in their Report, two of them (including the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens) being doubtful whether the required supply could be immediately procured or annually maintained. The others were strongly of opinion that it could. Reference to a number of prominent and practical planters had resulted in similar difference of opinion.

The Return Coolie Ship "Mersey" arrived at Port of Spain on the 18th and was despatched on the 20th, in 28 working hours, a record upon which Commander Coombs, R.N., the Protector of Immigrants, whose administrative capacity was undoubted, and the Agents of the Ship, The Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company, might be congratulated.

The "Mersey" carried 371 men, 186 women, 69 boys, 87 girls, 37 infants = 653½ statute adults. The 557 adults remitted to India through the Treasury, £9,095 3s. 9d., besides depositing with the Surgeon £126 16s. 3d., and jewellery worth £578, a total of £9,800. There were eight individual remittances over \$500, viz:—\$1,600, \$520, \$520, \$960, \$1,000, \$800, \$2,031, and \$6,521! The Asphalt Commission had concluded its sittings. The Commissioners, Mr. John William Gordon and Professor Henry Louis left by the Mail boat that day. Their finding would be anxiously awaited, as very large interests were involved. The ability and courtesy with which they had conducted the enquiry was acknowledged by all.

He was pleased to say that the perilously insufficient nature of the precautions which, up to recently, obtained in regard to the arrival of vessels, passengers, and cargo from Barbados, where small pox continued to make rapid strides had been brought home to the authorities. At the last Meeting of the Legislative Council provision was made, it was hoped not too late, for the efficient system of quarantine, which ought to have been adopted immediately that the outbreak at Barbados was known.

Those who remembered all that Trinidad suffered in life and property during the small-pox epidemic of 1871-2, felt that no means of precaution could be too stringent to prevent a recurrence.

The Committee and the Circular.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held on October 2nd inst., Mr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, proposed by Mr. E. L. Marshall, and seconded by Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, was elected a Member of the West India Committee. We take the opportunity of reminding Members, that by virtue of Rule 4, "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." Thus, newly-elected Members, on paying their subscription, will not be requested to renew it until January 1st, 1904. We again appeal to our friends to strengthen our hands by bringing forward candidates for election. As we have previously pointed out, the cost of producing the *Circular* fortnightly, instead of monthly, is appreciable, and in this connection we would ask our Members, for obvious reasons, to consider the *Circular* within certain limits, non-transferable, and to induce their friends to whom they have been in the habit of lending it for perusal, to become Members of this old-established Association.

Castries Harbour, St. Lucia.

The following letter regarding the proposed improvements to Castries Harbour was addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 9th instant :—

SIR,

We had the honour to approach you on March 12th, 1901, regarding the need of improvements to the wharf accommodation and the enlargement by dredging operations of the water area of Castries Harbour, St. Lucia.

2. We fully endorsed a memorial upon this subject which was addressed to the Governor of the Windward Islands by the merchants of Castries, on January 21st, 1901, and in support of the representations contained therein we forwarded to you on March 12th, 1901, a letter dated February 18th, 1901, signed by Shipowners, owning a total of 214 Steamers, representing an aggregate net registered tonnage of about 360,000 tons.

3. Much to the satisfaction of your Memorialists you were subsequently pleased to commission Mr. Coode, of Messrs. Coode, Son, & Matthews to visit St. Lucia, as an expert, to report upon the proposed harbour improvements; but, owing to Mr. Coode requiring that borings should be taken in the harbour, and to the necessity of sending for suitable boring instruments, a considerable delay was experienced.

4. Some months have, however, now elapsed since these borings were completed, and we have received a copy of a further memorial addressed to you, and dated September 4th, from the merchants of St. Lucia, asking if Mr. Coode's report might be looked for shortly and adducing reasons why the improvement of the harbour at Castries is becoming increasingly desirable.

5. With the terms of this memorial the West India Committee of Planters and Merchants are in the fullest accord, and we trust that, in view of the importance of this matter to the welfare of St. Lucia, you will be pleased to inform us when the publication of Mr. Coode's report may be expected. We have, etc., (Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*; ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

Cable Communication Restored.

We are requested to state that through telegraphic communication, which was interrupted in May last, and for a second time on September 18th, by the Volcanic disturbances, has again been restored to St. Vincent, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and Demerara. There is now through communication to all stations, except Martinique.

The Approaching Tourist Season.

There is every prospect of the tourist season being an exceptionally busy one during the coming winter. Besides the usual influx of American visitors by the steamers of the United Fruit Company and the Hamburg-American Company, an increasing number of tourists from this Country are likely to visit the West Indies, and see for themselves the beauties of the Islands, which have of late years been brought into much greater prominence than formerly. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company announce their usual 65 days' tours for £65, and are issuing an attractively got-up pamphlet, compiled by Mr. C. E. Vezey, which will do much to advertise the Islands. Special arrangements are being made in Jamaica for the reception of visitors. The new portion of the Constant Spring Hotel is to opened on December 1st, with a garden party and other entertainments, and a first-class orchestra sailed from Bristol in the Imperial Direct West India Mail Services S.S. "Port Antonio" on September 27th last. A new departure will be the despatch of the Co-operative Cruising Company's (which is associated with the name of Dr. Henry S. Lunn) S. Yacht "Argonaut" on November 27th next from Cardiff for a cruise round the Islands, a 60 days' cruise for 40 guineas. She will visit Fayal, Nassau, Cuba, Jamaica, St. Kitts Nevis, Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia, the Ruins of St. Pierre Martinique and Madeira, and reach Marseilles on or about January 26th. Among the passengers who have already booked for the cruise are Mr. J. S. Randles, M.P., Sir H. Thynne, C.B., and Sir Roland

Fanning. We hope that as, has been known to happen before, many of the visitors to the Antilles will be so attracted by their charm that they will be induced to take up their residence there or embark capital in some of the many industries of the Islands.

The Colonial Bank.

The half-yearly General Meeting of the proprietors of the Colonial Bank was held on Thursday, October 9th inst., at 13, Bishopsgate Street, E.C. The Chairman (Mr. H. H. Dobree), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that, as compared with the corresponding half-year, the notes in circulation were £35,000 more and the bills payable and other liabilities £50,000 less, the deposits being practically the same; while, on the other side, specie stood at £71,000 less, cash at London bankers, &c., £177,000 more, investments (English and Colonial Government securities) £18,000 more, bills receivable £11,000 more, due to the Colonies £32,000 more, and bills discounted and bills in transit £73,000 less. The result was that the bank possessed liquid assets to the extent of £2,825,000 to meet total liabilities to the public of £3,153,000, or rather over 90 per cent. Expenses had gone down about £1,200, and the gross profits were slightly less; but they were able to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, and the carry-forward was £11,070, against £9,252 on the previous occasion. Shareholders were all aware of the terrible disasters which had occurred in St. Vincent and Martinique. In the former Island, though there had been a serious loss of life, particularly amongst the Caribs or indigenies, the pecuniary loss generally had not been a very serious one, and he thought he might say that the bank had lost nothing. In Martinique for some time past they had been practically liquidating the agency with a view to closing it, and the loss was not heavy, and had been made good out of the surplus profits of the half-year. With regard to the Convention the situation was very similar to that which prevailed in 1888, when a treaty with the Governments of the principal European beet-producing countries had been concluded, but was rendered abortive by the action of our own Government, which for party reasons withdrew the Bill which it had introduced for its ratification. He was unwilling to believe that the present Government would, under any circumstances, repeat the extraordinary volte-face performed by the Government of 1889. On the contrary, there was every reason to expect that the responsible Ministers were so satisfied that the future of the West Indies depended entirely upon the speedy ratification of the present Convention that immediately upon the reassembling of Parliament a Bill for the purpose would be introduced, and carried before the close of the session. One thing was certain, and that was that while any shadow of doubt existed as to the ratification of the Convention there could be no improvement in the situation, and no capital would be forthcoming to relieve the tension. Once the Convention was ratified, a rapid improvement would no doubt ensue, and in the course of a year or two a period of prosperity set in in the sugar-producing Colonies such as had not been seen for many years. The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Codrington College, Barbados.

An unofficial meeting with regard to the future of Codrington College was held at the S. P. G. House, on Friday, 10th instant. Lord Stamford occupied the Chair, and those present were Bishop Mitchinson (the Master of Pembroke), The Bishop of Guiana, Bishop Montgomery (Secretary of the S. P. G.), Professor Caldecott, Mr. R. Rutherford and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall. The statement that the Society had voted £2,000 for the Bi-centenary Fund as an emergency fund for the sustentation of the College was confirmed, and it was further announced that a capital sum, sufficient to bring in £100 per annum, had been applied from the Marriott Bequest as the nucleus of an endowment for the College. A letter having been read from the Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands, opinion was expressed that the College should continue to follow the lines of the Founder's will, but the feeling of the meeting was that so long as it did not interfere with that object

and the funds applied to it, the introduction of other studies might prove advantageous. It was generally felt that the outlook for the College was decidedly brighter, its maintenance for several years being assured.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Morris, the Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, we have received a sample of Sweet Potato Meal, prepared in the small Island of Anguilla, near Antigua, under the direction of Dr. J. Numa Rat, with the aid of slicing and grinding machines presented by the Imperial Department of Agriculture to the Community.

A full account of the earlier experiments in producing a meal from Sweet Potato has already appeared in the *West Indian Bulletin*, Vol. II., p. 297 *et seq.* The Meal is very palatable and nourishing, and has been proved to keep in a thoroughly sound condition for at any rate over a year. The importance of the successful issue of these experiments lies in the fact that the poor inhabitants of Anguilla, are enabled in this way to lay by a source of food for the long season of the year when no fresh supplies are available ; and many of them formerly obtained only a precarious living.

Dr. Rat, in forwarding this sample of meal to the Department, said :—"Prepared in Anguilla, April, 1902, from Dominique Potatoes, grown in Anguilla, by slicing and grinding with machines presented to Anguilla by the Imperial Agricultural Department. The dried slices were dried by exposure to the sun during three days in succession before grinding. Slicing and grinding one barrel of raw potatoes took about one hour for each process. One barrel of raw potatoes, unpeeled, gave 46 pounds of meal."

We have received by mail two further numbers (Nos. 17 and 18) of the useful pamphlet series lately issued by the Department. "The General Treatment of Fungoid Pests," and "West Indian Yams." The object of the former is to afford a simple and clear account of the life history of fungi, so that the injury done by them may be readily recognised, and suitable remedies applied before it is too late. Directions are given for the preparation of "Bordeaux Mixture," one of the most serviceable applications for fungoid diseases. The latter pamphlet includes recipes for cooking and preparing yams, in the hope that, if carefully carried out, those not already acquainted with this nutritious food may ensure that it is presented to them in an attractive and pleasant form.

West Indian Club Dinner.

His Honour H. Hesketh Bell and Sir Alfred L. Jones were the guests of the West Indian Club at the fortnightly dinner, on Wednesday, October 1st, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., occupied the chair, and those present included :— — Bailey, Esq., T. H. Barker, Esp., F. S. Bellamy, Esq., H. Berger, Esq., C. T. Berthon, Esq., F. Bond, Esq., J. F. Braham, Esq., H. Cave-Orme, Esq., J. J. Christian, Esq., H. Cotterell, Esq., L. Couper, Esq., H. A. Hood Daniel, Esq., K. Hood Daniel, Esq., Capt. Davson, R.H.A., Henry K. Davson, Esq., Sir W. T. Dyer, W. C. Dyett, Esq., E. B. Ellis, Esq., W. P. Eversley, Esq., W. Goodwin, Esq., F. Hardy, Esq., J. Hinkson, Esq., A. T. Hirsch, Esq., G. Hughes, Esq., Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., Hon. D. A. Macdonald, G. Maconochie, Esq., T. A. McRae, Esq., G. B. Mason, Esq., L.R.C.P., L. de Mercado, Esq., A. E. Messer, Esq., T. E. Mitchell, Esq., W. Monnington, Esq., A. McD. Nathan, Esq., G. W. Neville, Esq., Dr. R. D. O'Neale, E. A. de Pass, Esq., G. Hope Pearse, Esq., G. H. Pile, Esq., Hon. A. Ponsonby, H. J. Read, Esq., H. Powell Rees, Esq., W. Rhodes, Esq., J. Rippon, Esq., R. Rutherford, Esq., R. Schult, Esq., W. Seddon, Esq., W. A. T. Shephard, Esq., W. P. B. Shephard, Esq., A. Sinclair, Esq., A. H. Stockley, Esq., Sir Simeon Stuart, Bart., Col. Swan, — Swan, Esq., A. H. Toogood, Esq., H. B. Tourtel, Esq., Capt. Voules, Sir E. Noël Walker, K.C.M.G., Col. Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., Col. White, P. H. Williams, Esq., Gen. Wilsone, T. B. Younger, Esq., and W. A. M. Goode, Esq., Honorary Secretary.

Cane Sugar in Java. *

We are indebted to the Editor of the *Sugar Cane* for a copy of Mr. H. C. Prinsen Geerligs' book "On Cane Sugar and the Process of its Manufacture in Java" a second edition of which has just made its appearance. Every planter should obtain a copy of this work, which has been revised and brought up to date. The chapters on "Constituents of the Cane," "Juice Extraction," "Clarification" "Boiling," "After Products," and "Molasses" have been re-written, causing the treatise to exactly represent the present state of knowledge and manufacture of cane sugar in Java. Mr. Geerligs' book is well expressed and is full of sound knowledge.

Obituary.

With deep regret we have to record the death of Lady Jerningham, wife of Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, K.C.M.G., which took place from an affection of the heart at Longridge Towers, Berwick, on Tuesday, October 9th instant. As at home, so in Trinidad where Lady Jerningham enjoyed a well deserved popularity will the news of her death be received with sincere regret. Much sympathy will be felt with Sir Hubert Jerningham at the loss which he has sustained.

We also have with deep regret to announce the death, on the 8th inst., of one of our oldest Members, Mr. H. A. Porter, of Cranbourne Court, Windsor Forest. Mr. Porter was proprietor of Plantation "Enmore," in Demerara, and though an invalid for the last three years, took a lively interest in the work of the West India Committee.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," October 10th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. O'Neil. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. E. Stripp, Dr. A. T. Ozzard, Mr. E. R. Greene, Mr. C. Richter, Mr. A. Richter. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. W. O'Brien. **TRINIDAD.**—Miss Mabel Stroud, Mr. J. W. Gordon, Professor H. Louis, Mr. H. Branch. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. H. B. Saxby. **DOMINICA.**—Rev. F. Kirby, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Carew. **ST. KITTS.**—Mr. S. Abbott.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," October 15th, 1902:—BARBADOS.—Mr. R. D. Anstead, Mr. T. B. Nicholson. **DEMERARA.**—Miss Wyatt, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Smellie, Miss C. Paddenburg, Mr. G. Perch, Venerable Archdeacon and Mrs. Heard, Mrs. and Miss Darnell Davis, Hon. N. Darnell Davis, C.M.G., Mr. J. Chapman, Mrs. E. Tengelly, Mr. J. Gillespie, Miss E. Gillespie, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Williams, Miss A. Burton, Miss H. Wyatt, Mrs. H. Smellie. **JAMAICA.**—Mrs. J. Whitting, Mrs. E. Verley and Miss Schloss, His Honour Justice and Mrs. Northcote, Major-Gen. and Mrs. Black, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pearce, Col. Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., Mr. F. Lyons. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. J. McIntosh, Mrs. A. Thabenot, Mrs. McLelland, Mr. and Miss Frustuck, Mr. W. C. Jardine, Mr. D. K. Jardine. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. W. Lance, Mr. D. Lannock, Mrs. Roden.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," October 1st, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. H. H. R. Bayley, Mr. Louis Douet, Mrs. and Miss Grant, Miss Garland, Mr. A. C. Gow, Mr. E. G. Ingrams, Mr. C. Harrison, Mr. C. M. Hall, Mr. J. M. Hall, Dr. D. H. McPhail, Messrs. B., K., R., and W. Pfeleiderer, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Pollard, Mr. J. Pope, Mr. H. C. R. Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Withers, Mrs. Grinter, Mr. and Mrs. H. Warne.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," October 11th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. W. Beath, Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Clare, Mrs. M. C. Denniston, Miss A. Earle, Mr. A. F. G. Ellis, Mr. J. F. Gibson, Mr. H. S. Hoskins, Mr. H. N. Ives, Mrs. A. L. Jamieson, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. R. Monckton, Miss Rice, Mr. Sydney Sedgewick, Hon. H. and Mrs. Sewell, Mr. Percy Sewell, Mr. and Miss Stephens, Miss Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tillman, Mr. H. Tringham, Mr. E. J. Williamson, Mr. F. Fryer, Mr. E. R. Browne, Mr. K. Hood Daniel, Mr. and Mrs. C. Dixon, Mr. R. B. Dods, Mr. R. Johnson, Mr. J. B. Lawrence, Mr. G. E. R. Pearce, Mr. E. Pratt, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. C. Vorbe, Rev. J. D. Beresford, Mr. Simeon Campbell, Mr. A. C. Couldery, Mr. T. S. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hall, Miss Jewell, Miss —, Jewell, Mr. Justin, Mr. G. Robinson, Mr. Samuel Shaw, Rev. —, Thompson.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," October 25th, 1902:—JAMAICA.—Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Browne, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gardner, Miss Gwen Gardner, Mrs. Hamilton, Miss M. Mellows, Mr. H. J. Spear, Mrs. and Miss Birchell.

* "On Cane Sugar, and the process of its Manufacture in Java," by H. C. Prinsen Geerligs; Office of the *Sugar Cane*, Altrincham, Manchester.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—After the date of our last report continued dulness prevailed in this market, and for some time business was confined to hand to mouth transaction, although importers showed a decided disposition to meet buyers, who, however, were still unwilling to come forward. Later, there was an inquiry for exports, and a fair business was done at prices showing a decline of fully 2s. per cwt. from the previous nominal rates; there has also been a little demand from the home trade, but it is by no means general. Sales amount to about 3,000 bags, the latest quotations being 60s. to 61s. for middling, 61s. 6d. to 64s. for good middling, 64s. 6d. to 85s. for fine to superior. According to the Board of Trade Returns for September, the home consumption of all descriptions for the month exhibit some improvement, and from the 1st January it is 36,065,866 lbs. against 32,749,077 lbs. last year.

| | 1st Jan. to 4th Oct. | 1902 | 1901 |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, .. | .. | 41,790 bags against | 36,553 bags. |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. | .. | 24,709 .. | 25,916 .. |
| EXPORTED .. | .. | 11,165 .. | 7,593 .. |
| STOCK, 4th October .. | .. | 18,846 .. | 23,219 .. |

GRENADA.—The public auctions have again been very limited in extent, but the smallness of the quantity on offer has not led to any improvement in the demand. Fair quality is without appreciable change in value, but good to fine sold rather in favour of buyers.

| | 1st Jan. to 4th Oct. | 1902 | 1901 |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, .. | .. | 42,692 bags against | 40,228 bags. |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. | .. | 30,464 .. | 28,517 .. |
| EXPORTED .. | .. | 12,202 .. | 5,931 .. |
| STOCK, 4th October .. | .. | 8,544 .. | 10,811 .. |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. | Cocoa. | Coffee. | Rum. | Cocoanuts. | Molasses. | Gold. | Diamonds. | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | Hhds. | lbs. | lbs. | Puns. | | Puns. | Ozs. | Carats. | |
| BARBADOS— | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1 to Sept. 11, 1902 | 46,951 | — | — | — | — | 42,443 | — | — | |
| " " 11, 1901 | 62,683 | — | — | — | — | 45,317 | — | — | |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | Tons. | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1 to Sept. 23, 1902 | 67,110 | 95,933 | — | 18,987 | 3,360 | 1,215 | 70,643 | 9,038 | |
| " " 25, 1901 | 38,647 | 72,761 | — | 13,290 | 76,366 | 518 | 69,840 | 1,902 | |
| JAMAICA— | | Cwts. | Cwts. | Galls. | | | Bananas. | Oranges. | |
| Apr. 1 to Aug. 30, 1902 | 10,993 | 7,282 | 30,946 | 1,313,662 | 10,128,776 | — | Bunches. | Bunches. | |
| " " 31, 1901 | 10,593 | 9,434 | 10,717 | 1,150,350 | 5,879,485 | — | 7,324,067 | 4,787,374 | |
| | | | | | | | 5,285,636 | 3,643,990 | |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brls. | | | Puns. | | Puns. | Trcs. | Brls. | Asphalt. |
| Jan. 1 to Sept. 24, 1902 | 445,340 | 25,674,590 | 39,840 | 1,259 | 8,502,525 | 3,314 | 141 | 236 | Tons. |
| " " 24, 1901 | 469,453 | 18,769,200 | 15,840 | 1,605 | 7,562,499 | 3,360 | 153 | 438 | 129,520 |
| | | | | | | | | | 140,262 |

Exports from Grenada and the Grenadines.

Our thanks are due to Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son for the following comparative figures of the exports from Grenada and the Grenadines for the past five years :—

| CROPS. | CACAO. | SPICE. | COTTON. | COTTON SEED. |
|--------------------|--------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| 1 Oct. to 30 Sept. | Bags. | Packages. | Bales. | Bags. |
| 1901-1902 | 61,279 | 4,770 | 951 | 5,799 |
| 1900-1901 | 53,387 | 4,406 | 838 | 4,724 |
| 1899-1900 | 53,388 | 5,633 | 925 | 5,816 |
| 1898-1899 | 52,141 | 3,976 | 641 | 4,281 |
| 1897-1898 | 53,441 | 3,451 | 783 | 5,254 |

Of the above the following were shipped to North America, and the balance to Europe :—

| CROPS. | CACAO. | SPICE. | COTTON. | COTTON SEED. |
|--------------------|--------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| 1 Oct. to 30 Sept. | Bags. | Packages. | Bales. | Bags. |
| 1901-1902 | 4,552 | 749 | — | — |
| 1900-1901 | 5,440 | 1,727 | — | — |
| 1899-1900 | 4,180 | 1,673 | — | — |
| 1898-1899 | 1,713 | 819 | — | — |
| 1897-1898 | 1,390 | 525 | — | — |

Beet Prospects.

Mr. Licht's analysis for the week ending October 10th shows weight of roots without leaves in the Magdeburg district to be 582 grammes, against 631 grammes last year, and Saccharine 18.16 per cent., against 14.18 per cent. a year ago. Mr. Licht wires: "The weather is exactly what is required for the crop. The yield continues good."—*Public Ledger*, October 13th, 1902.

Four Centigrades of frost in Germany and snow in many parts of the Continent caused a further temporary rise of 3d. per cwt., which was followed by a decline of 4d. on Saturday, when Licht's figures showed that up to the advent of such weather the Roots had improved in quality quite contrary to expectation. The question may well be asked whether nothing will affect this hardy plant, but we ventured to point out some weeks ago that the effect of temperature on unripe (and we might add strong leafy) Roots must be more pronounced than on ripening Roots. Anyhow, the

lower temperature of this season seems to have left its mark on the size of the Roots; there are rumours of certain factories having begun with extraordinarily short weights, which statements should be accepted with caution. Though one would imagine that the best and most advanced fields would be harvested first, it seems that in many districts the contrary practice prevails; the good fields are left to improve, and the bad ones are taken up first, when a start must be made. Those weights are then compared to the total of last season and give extraordinary comparisons, especially with seasons of October/November weather favourable to weights.

If the weather this week has done no harm, the situation at present is that the quality seems satisfactory, and in France even better than the moderate figure of last year, whilst the weight shows a deficiency that evidently cannot be made good. But taking the sowings as somewhat under-estimated, there will, with average weather, be no scarcity this season yet, and the real anxiety should be about the sufficiency of next Spring sowings. It is not a burning question now, but closely connected with the extent of the present deficiency, and which we have repeatedly stated as requiring serious consideration. However, when prices had reached 8s. 4½d. for October-December, 1903, which is the full equivalent of prices paid for Roots last Spring, it was rather hasty last Friday to get up a further excitement before even a ton of the previous sowings had been tendered and 1½ million tons of old Sugar remained to be sold. No doubt hard frost and snow early in October rendered fabricants rather nervous about their final production and extremely cautious as sellers; since then the temperature is less unfavourable, but much below last year, and though a further rise may be premature as long as harvesting can proceed under normal conditions, yet the present level cannot be considered high if the Brussels Convention is adopted everywhere, and raises the cost of production by about 4s. in France and 2s. 6d. in other countries. If the present crop at 16s. per ton Roots only costs 6s. for 88 per cent. to produce, the next sowings at the same price of Roots will cost 8s. 3d. or 8s. 6d., which is the present quotation, and if that price of Roots is lowered we may, with increasing consumption, have scarcity in 1904, leading to even higher prices. In France various small old-fashioned factories may not work at all next year, and the others will certainly lower their limits for Roots, so that we shall want full sowings elsewhere.

Licht thinks that the maximum crop figures given three weeks ago may be nearest the mark, and may be even exceeded, but since then he reports increasing complaints about small roots. His maximum figure for Germany was 2,000,000 against 2,300,000 tons, Austria 1,050,000 against 1,300,000 tons, and France 900,000 against 1,183,500 tons, whilst Russia may give 1,250,000 against 1,110,000 tons. In France a fair number of factories expect to receive 17½ per cent. less roots, but with better quality to produce only 12½ per cent. less Sugar, which, if the others had similar prospects, would give a total production of over 1,000,000 tons Raw, subject to fair weather. In Germany the weather was rainy for some days, which would deteriorate the quality, though it might improve the weight a little. In Belgium various factories expect about 20 per cent. less Roots, Licht's highest figure being 250,000 against 345,000 tons. Altogether, including the corrected Russian figure, 5,900,000 to 6,000,000 tons for Europe seems a maximum, which may vary if the weather is bad.—CZARNIKOW, October 9th, 1902.

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 4th October | 143,767 | 99,393 | 39,480 | 39,072 | 83,635 |
| France, 1st September | 312,413 | 126,910 | 159,091 | 245,095 | 165,605 |
| Germany, 1st September | 388,200 | 137,402 | 76,365 | 62,296 | 156,534 |
| Hamburg, 8th October | 182,600 | 48,100 | 18,900 | 87,500 | 69,000 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st September..... | 124,000* | 85,920 | 63,981 | 61,631 | 120,329 |
| Holland, 15th September..... | 47,795 | 7,020 | 3,318 | 1,737 | 12,881 |
| Belgium, 15th September..... | 88,228 | 8,789 | 11,041 | 19,244 | 47,934 |
| United States, 8th October, Total Stocks..... | 1,287,003 | 513,534 | 372,176 | 516,575 | 655,918 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 8th October, Total Stocks..... | 118,000 | 163,615 | 46,790 | 158,957 | 175,650 |
| Cargoes afloat, 9th October | 196,310 | 76,856 | 4,929 | 14,960 | 40,508 |
| Total..... | 1,765,313 | 112,131 | 134,119 | 195,218 | 143,675 |
| | | 866,136 | 558,014 | 885,710 | 1,015,751 |

* Estimated.

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), October 3rd, "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." October 13th, "Seasonable weather, but rain still wanted."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), September 25th, "Rain has fallen heavily." October 2nd, "Weather favourable for cultivation and grinding." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), October 8th, "Weather dry."

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, October 27th, 1902.

The Brussels Convention.

Mr. Balfour announced in the House of Commons, on the 16th inst., that a resolution would be introduced during the present Session in connection with the Sugar Bounties Convention, and in a printed reply to Mr. Gibson Bowles, on October 21st, he stated that effect could not be given to the provisions of the Convention without an Act of Parliament. The Convention, however, did not come into force until 1st September, 1903, although it had to be ratified by the 1st February next. The Government proposed to ask for the sanction of Parliament by way of resolution, which would enable them to ratify before the latter date.

On October 21st, a so-called "Public Meeting" organised by the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, to oppose the ratification of the Convention. We say "so-called," inasmuch as the meeting was in reality a private ticket meeting, as is shown by the following letter received by our Chairman on the preceding day :

Dear Sir,

In reference to your request to-day to be allowed to speak at the public meeting to-morrow, we would point out to you respectfully, that this meeting has been convened with the object of protesting against the Brussels Sugar Convention, and not for the purpose of discussing the pros and cons of the question.

It seems to us, that having regard to the attitude which you have taken up on this matter, any speech you might make would be a direct negative of the resolution to be submitted to the meeting, and consequently we feel it impossible for us to accede to your request.

Yours faithfully,

For THE MANUFACTURING CONFECTIONERS' ALLIANCE,
R. JUST BOYD, *Hon. Secretary.*

No importance need be attached to this colourless meeting, which attracted little or no public attention in the press. It is satisfactory to note the view of the *Times*, expressed in a leading article this morning, that there is nothing in the vote necessary to carry out the provisions of the Convention which can reasonably give rise to prolonged debate.

The West Indies and West Africa.

Mr. Chamberlain has transmitted for the information of the West India Committee, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Barbados, on the subject of the establishment of a trade in sugar, rum and molasses, between the West Indies and West Africa. Mr. Chamberlain is addressing a despatch on the subject to the Governors of the Gold Coast, Lagos, Sierra Leone and the Gambia, and to the High Commissioners of Northern and Southern Nigeria, as desired by Sir F. Hodgson, but not to the Governor of Natal; Natal being itself a sugar producing Colony. The following is the text of Sir Frederic Hodgson's despatch, which will be considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the West India Committee on the 30th inst. :—

SIR,

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, *Sept. 2nd, 1902.*

I have the honour to inform you that in May last I received a letter from a Mr. Alfred Isaacs, a merchant doing business in St. Louis, Senegal, suggesting the shipment of sugar to West Africa, where, he said, it would find a ready market. From my knowledge of the country and of the people I believe that it would, if it could be shipped in packages suitable for the purposes of sale.

2. The matter has been under the consideration of the Barbados Agricultural Society, and as the outcome of their deliberations it has been decided to make up samples of Sugar Molasses and Rum

made in Barbados, and to transmit them to the Governors of Natal, the Gold Coast, Lagos and Sierra Leone, the High Commissioners of Northern and Southern Nigeria, and the Administrator of the Gambia.

3. If you concur I beg leave to ask that you will do me the favour of sending a Circular despatch to the Governors and High Commissioners of the Colonies in question, requesting them to submit the samples to the Chambers of Commerce, or in the absence of such Chambers to the principal merchants, and that the following information be obtained, namely :—

- (a) Whether there is likely to be a demand for any of the articles represented by the samples sent, and, if so, what would be the probable quantities :
- (b) In the event of there being the likelihood of a demand, what merchants will undertake to receive shipments :
- (c) In what kind of packages the articles should be shipped and the weight of each package :
- (d) Whether it would be possible to obtain from each person willing to buy any of the articles a *pro forma* sale for, say 10 tons of Sugar and 100 gallons of Molasses or Rum :
- (e) What is the rate of exchange between each Colony and Protectorate and England :

4. It would, I think, be very useful to create a new market for Sugar in West Africa and I shall be glad to learn that you will assist the Government of Barbados in this matter.

5. I propose, with your consent, that the samples properly packed and addressed be sent to the Crown Agents for the Colonies for shipment to each Colony.

The Right Honourable

J. CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., &c., &c., &c.,

I have, etc.,

(Signed) F. M. HODGSON.

P.S.—I transmit 12 copies of the correspondence relating to possible direct trade communication between the West Indies and West Africa which has been compiled by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and which Dr. Morris has just sent to me.

13th September, 1902.

(Signed) F. M. HODGSON.

The correspondence referred to in the postscript of Sir Frederic Hodgson's letter has been laid on the table of the West India Committee for the information of Members. The correspondence comprises an extract from Sir Robert Baxter Llewellyn's "Report on the Gambia (West Africa) Blue Book." In this he stated that no Muscovado sugar was imported, but he felt sure it would be much appreciated by the natives to mix with their "pap"—a preparation of pounded corn—if it could be obtained in handy packages at a dollar or two dollars each. Sugar packed in bagging got moist in the damp climate in lightly constructed native huts. He asked, could 10 lbs. of good clean muscavado sugar be packed in tins or small kegs, and delivered in the Colony for 1s. 8d.?

Salt was also wanted in the Colony. The Salt at present imported was made by solar evaporation in the Cape Verde Islands, and could not be compared with Turks Island salt for purity, and, he believed, cheapness. A direct line of steamers was wanted between the West Indies and West Africa, many common articles of food in the West Indies such as salt fish and cornmeal would, if introduced, to the West Coast, be as popular there as in the West Indies. He suggested that all the West Indian Colonies as well as those in the West Coast of Africa might, for a few years, contribute a small subsidy to a steamship company. Mr. Alfred Isaacs letter referred to in the Governor of Barbados' despatch follow, and a report of several meetings of the Barbados Agricultural Society on the subject. On July 26th the following were appointed a Committee to go into the matter, Messrs. J. R. Bovell, T. W. B. O'Neal, H. E. Boyle, T. B. Evelyn, Junr. and J. P. Mason, and as the outcome of the recommendations the above despatch was written.

Coolie Immigration.

The following letter was addressed to the Secretary of State for India on the 7th instant:
MY LORD,

We have the honour to call your Lordship's attention to the question of emigration from India to British Guiana and the British West Indies.

2. We would respectfully point out to your Lordship, that though the Indian Government has for many years past sanctioned such emigration, it has done nothing to encourage or assist it in any way.

3. This question was fully discussed on January 25th, 1875, at a Conference at the India Office between the West India Committee and the Marquis of Salisbury—the then Secretary of State for India—and a perusal of the copy of the proceedings upon that occasion,* and of the report of a debate on the subject in the House of Lords on July 20th, 1877,† which we have the honour to transmit herewith, will show that both the Marquis of Salisbury and Lord Carnarvon, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, were in favour of Coolie emigration.

4. In 1891 Surgeon-Major D. W. D. Comins visited British Guiana and the West Indies at the instance of the Indian Government to enquire into the working of the system of Coolie Emigration and his exhaustive report, published in 1893, fully confirms the fact that the Coolie Emigrants from India are well treated, and do better in the West Indies than they can ever hope to do in India.

5. On November 28th, 1898, we addressed a letter, ‡ a copy of which we also have the honour to transmit herewith, on this subject to Lord Curzon of Kedleston upon his appointment as Viceroy of India, and received a reply to the effect that the matter should receive his attention upon his arrival in India.

6. In these circumstances we venture respectfully to request that the Indian Government may afford some encouragement and assistance to this system of Coolie Emigration.

Trusting that your Lordship will be pleased to support our representations in this direction.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) N. LURBOCK,

Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALI,

Secretary.

The Right Honourable

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, M.P., &c., &c., &c.,

Secretary of State for India.

The West Indian Club.

Sir Courtenay Knollys, K.C.M.G., the Vice-President of the Trinidad Rifle Association, has addressed a letter to Mr. J. Rippon, conveying to the President and Members of the West Indian Club their high appreciation of the kindness and courtesy extended to the representatives of the West Indies at the recent Bisley Meeting, which was the first at which the West Indies had been represented. He thanked the Members of the West Indian Club for their liberality in partly defraying the expenses of the West Indian Team. He added that though the success of the team had not been very great, better things might be hoped for in future, as a help towards which the Governor of British Guiana had presented a cup for annual competition between the West Indian Colonies.

* See Report of the Acting Committee to the Half-yearly Meeting of the West India Committee, April 6th, 1875, page 22.

† See Report of the Acting Committee to the Half-yearly Meeting of the West India Committee, November 29th, 1877, page 18.

‡ See West India Committee Circular (new series), No. 11, page 3.

On November 12th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., will be entertained by the Club, the Chair upon this occasion being taken by Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G., the Governor of Newfoundland, and late Colonial Secretary of British Guiana. The dinner Committee will be Messrs. G. Bruce Austin, Edward R. Davson and Algernon E. Aspinall.

At the Club Dinner on the 22nd inst. there was an exceptionally large attendance, to do honour to H.E. Sir Augustus Hemming, K.C.M.G. Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., occupied the chair, and those present included:—C. F. Barker, Esq., T. H. Barker, Esq., Capt. Bateman, F. Berger, Esq., H. Berger, Esq., C. T. Berthon, Esq., C. H. Bovell, Esq., Lieut. C. W. K. Bovell, J. F. Braham, Esq., W. C. Broadbridge, Esq., E. B. Caarten, Esq., G. Carrington, Esq., J. J. Christian, Esq., F. C. Cole, Esq., Prof. J. P. D'Albuquerque, E. R. Davson, Esq., H. K. Davson, Sir W. Thiselton Dyer, W. C. L. Dyett, Esq., J. Elliott, Esq., E. B. Ellis, Esq., E. C. Evans, Esq., F. W. Fawcett, Esq., F. Forster, Esq., C. K. Gibbons, Esq., A. H. Godfrey, Esq., W. A. M. Goode, Esq., J. Hinkson, Esq., A. Hirsch, Esq., A. Johnson, Esq., Lawrence Jones, Esq., Hon. D. A. Macdonald, G. Maconochie, Esq., H. Maddick, Esq., G. B. Mason, Esq., L.R.C.P., L. de Mercado, Esq., W. Mercer, Esq., J. E. Mitchell, Esq., J. K. Morrison, Esq., E. C. Myring, Esq., A. E. Aspinall, Esq., A. Mc D. Nathan, Esq., G. W. Neville, Esq., Col. A. H. Nourse, A. P. O'Hara, Esq., Col. Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., A. A. Pearson, Esq., C.M.G., H. Pennington, Esq., J. H. Phillips, Esq., G. H. Pile, Esq., The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, J. Pullan, Esq., J. Rippon, Esq., R. Rutherford, Esq., R. B. Sanderson, Esq., G. Sandford, Esq., W. Schuller, Esq., F. Shelford, Esq., A. Sinclair, Esq., F. Smith, Esq., H. K. Smith, Esq., Lord Stamford, Sir Simeon Stuart, Bart., W. R. Thursfield, Esq., and J. P. Wilson, Esq.

The Chairman, in proposing the health of "Our Guest," referred to the success which had been achieved by Jamaica in connection with the export of bananas, of which, he said, his company had carried about a million bunches to this country, in addition to which they had carried about 32,000 tons of general produce and 3,000 passengers to and from the colony. The finances of Jamaica too, were improving. It had been reported in *The Times* that his company had sold the Constant Spring and Myrtle Bank Hotels, and on that report appearing he telegraphed to Liverpool to ask if it were true, because he was unaware of it. He found that there was not a word of truth in the statement, but that on the contrary, his company had just spent £10,000 upon the hotels. Altogether they had expended about £30,000 or £40,000 upon them, because they expected a large influx of visitors, and would not be satisfied until they had 10,000 American visitors per annum.

Sir Augustus Hemming, in reply, said that when he assumed the government of the colony he found it a very difficult position to fulfil. Jamaica was suffering from severe financial and commercial depression, and everything was at the lowest ebb. Unfortunately, that state of things had lasted for a considerable time, and during the four and a half years that he had been the Governor they had had very great difficulties to contend with. But he had never despaired of the future of Jamaica, and he was glad to think that now they had not only reached the bottom of the depression, but had begun to rise. When he left, in July last, he found that during the first three months of the financial year the revenue was considerably in excess of the estimate which had been formed, and of that which had been received in the preceding year. He had every reason to believe that that advantage had been maintained, and that when he returned to the colony he would find that they were really now on the high road to a return to prosperity. By the introduction of severe measures of retrenchment he was enabled, with the assistance of his able advisers and officers, to reduce the expenditure of the ordinary administration of the colony after three years by £100,000 per annum. The total expenditure had not, however, been reduced, but that was a matter for which the Government could not be held responsible. They had done their best to diminish expenditure and taxation, but circumstances over which they had no control had compelled them to maintain the expenditure at the same rate as before.

He believed they were on the high road to better things, and for that they had to a great extent to thank Sir Alfred Jones. The total export of bananas from Jamaica during the past year amounted to something like 10,000,000 bunches, the very large proportion of which went to the United States, but he had every reason to believe that this year the total exports would be about 15,000,000 bunches. What they wanted in Jamaica was the establishment of new lines of trade. He could imagine that it would be quite possible to cultivate the growing of cotton, and there was room for the establishment of large factories for the manufacture of marmalade, oranges being an absolute drug in the market. With regard to the sugar bounties, he expressed the hope that the convention which had been entered into by His Majesty's Government for the abolition of the bounties would be ratified. He expressed deep sympathy with the island of St. Vincent, and the other colonies which had suffered so severely from the recent eruptions, and remarked in conclusion, that there was no doubt that sugar must be looked upon as the main industry of Jamaica.

Sir Joseph Lawrence, M.P., in replying for the visitors, expressed the hope that the country would remain firm to the arrangement which had been made by the Government with respect to the sugar bounties. The last toast—the health of the Chairman was proposed by Lord Stamford.

The Medical Service in Nevis.

The following letter was addressed to Mr. Chamberlain on the 20th inst., 1902.

SIR,

We have the honour to call to your notice the inadequacy of the existing medical service in the Island of Nevis.

2. It appears that for a population of 13,000 there is only one doctor available, though the Basseterre district of St. Kitts has three doctors to attend to the requirements of a similar number of people.

3. We are informed that deaths have occurred in the Island, and death certificates granted without the doctor having seen the parties, either during their illness or after death, a course which you will, Sir, we think, agree is most undesirable.

4. It might be argued that one of these doctors might visit Nevis when occasion arose, but we would point out that communication between Basseterre and Charlestown, Nevis—now that there is no frequent steamer service between the two—is extremely uncertain, for though the distance is only 12 miles, the roughness of the sea often prevents it, while sudden and dangerous squalls frequently occur.

Trusting that you will be pleased to give this matter your attention.

We have, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

The St. Vincent Eruptions.

Once more the Soufrière has been in a violent state of activity. On the 16th inst. the Volcano was in full eruption between midnight and 5 a.m. No loss of life has been reported, but there was a heavy fall of sand and stones, principally on the Windward side as far as Union. On the Leeward Coast and at Kingston, the gale was slight. On the same day Sir Frederick Hodgson, Governor of Barbados, telegraphed to the Colonial Office, that between 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning loud reports were heard from St. Vincent. At 7 o'clock the air was quite still, and there was inky blackness in the direction of St. Vincent. At 9.30 o'clock Volcanic dust began to fall, and there was a strong smell of sulphur. This fall which amounted to an eighth of an inch, and was composed of fine particles,

practically ceased at one o'clock. We understand that Captain A. H. Young, C.M.G., Chief Secretary of Cyprus, proceeds to St. Vincent, on the 29th inst., commissioned to enquire into and report on the administration of the relief funds.

The Cane Sugar Movement.

Since the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, repeated efforts have been made to stimulate the popularity of cane sugars.

In 1886, the Members of the West Indian Section of that Exhibition secured the co-operation of the refreshment contractors in placing cane sugar prominently before the public. In 1890, the Cane Sugar Union was formed for the purpose of collecting funds by a trade rate on sugar imports, to be applied in advertising cane sugars. The Trustees were most successful in securing, through their organising agent, Mr. Walter K. Taunton, the friendly co-operation of a large number of grocers in London and Provincial centres, and in Scotland. In 1900, the West Indian and British Guiana Sugar Planters' Trust was constituted to carry on the work of the Cane Sugar Union in a modified form. The funds subscribed, were not, in the opinion of the Trustees, sufficient to start advertising with, and were returned to the donors, who applied them in taking up shares in the Monocane Sugar Company, so as to carry on the cane sugar movement on business lines. The difficulty experienced by non-trading bodies like the Cane Sugar Union and the West Indian and British Guiana Sugar Planters' Trust, was the legal inability to hold any trade mark. Consequently, the only protection against fraudulent imitations of cane sugars sold under erroneous trade descriptions, was the prosecution of offenders by the public authorities under the Merchandise Marks Act, or the Food and Drugs Act. The Monocane Sugar Company, Limited, was the outcome of the cane sugar movement, hitherto conducted by non-trading bodies. This Company being a trading body can hold trade marks, and thus guarantee the identity of the cane sugars they place before the public. The Directors are Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. Rutherford, and Mr. Edward R. Davson. The objects of the Company, by its Articles of Association, are to stimulate, promote, and specialise the demand for the raw cane sugars of the British West Indies and British Guiana. The shareholders must be personally interested in the cane sugar production of the West Indies, as owners, mortgagees, or merchant consignees.

The sugars are packed into sealed packages bearing the registered trade marks of the Company. This effective guarantee secures both buyers and sellers against all difficulties arising from false trade descriptions. In this connection we must not omit to mention the name of Messrs. James Philip & Co. of Fenchurch Buildings, who are doing so much to popularise the cane sugar and other products of the British West Indies.

The Demerara Railway.

The report of the Demerara Railway Company for the half-year ended 30th June last, shows receipts on capital account amounting to £662,500 and expenditure to £659,016, leaving a credit balance of £3,483. The gross revenue was £21,582 and gross expenditure £18,883, leaving a net revenue of £2,699, which, less debenture interest, £1,400, leaves £1,299. To this must be added Government Subsidy, £6,250, and balance from half-year to 31st December, 1901, £2,016, giving amount available for dividend, £9,565. This will admit of the payment of the full dividend of 4 per cent. on the extension preference shares for the half-year, amounting to £6,250, leaving a balance of £3,315. The recommendation of the Directors that this balance be carried forward in view of the necessary expenditure on renewals of buildings, rolling stock, machinery and sleepers, was adopted at a Meeting of the Company on the 24th inst. The number of passengers carried during the six months under notice shows an increase of 15,814, and goods an increase of 6,231 tons.

Resolutions of Sympathy.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on October 16th instant, present, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., in the Chair, Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, Mr. Henry K. Davson, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. Edward G. Barr, Mr. G. McGregor Frame, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

"That this Committee have heard with deep regret of the death on October 9th, of Lady Jerningham, who, as at home so in Trinidad, enjoyed a well deserved popularity, the Secretary be instructed to convey to Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, the expression of their sincere sympathy at the loss which he has sustained."

"That this Committee have heard with deep regret of the death on October 8th, of Mr. H. A. Porter, one of the oldest Members of the West India Committee, and recognising the interest he always took in the welfare of this Organisation, desire to convey to Mrs. Porter and his family the expression of their sincere sympathy and condolence."

Castries Harbour, St. Lucia.

In reply to our letter of the 9th instant on the subject of the improvements to Castries Harbour, St. Lucia, we were informed by Mr. Chamberlain on October 22nd that Messrs. Coode, Son & Matthews report had just been received, and that a copy of it would be communicated to the Governor of the Windward Islands by the mail leaving on October 29th.

West Indian Affairs.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's s.s. "Para" anchored off Plymouth at 11.50 a.m. on Wednesday, October 22nd, and the Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's s.s. "Port Morant" arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, October 15th. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents:—

Antigua.—His Excellency Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., Lady Strickland and her three Daughters, arrived on the 2nd October, and was sworn in on the next day. His Excellency was received by a deputation nominated by the Government from Members of the Executive Council.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), October 11th. During the fortnight a few nice showers had fallen, but as the earth was very dry they could easily take a great deal more rain. Small-pox was still on the increase, and in consequence, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had arranged to make Trinidad their port of transhipment for inter-colonial cargo, beginning with the next mail.* The number of cases of Small-pox to date was 1,072, of which 40 had died, 205 discharged as cured, and 827 remained under treatment. The first meeting of a new organisation, the "Planters' Guild" or "Barbados Sugar Guild," was held on the 7th instant. Its objects were to institute and promote measures calculated to advance the interests of the sugar industry and improve the condition of the Island in general; to deal with all causes inimical to the interests of the sugar producer, and to do all that was possible to restore the credit of the planter to enable him to keep up cultivation and general management of the estate in his possession, and a maximum standard, etc.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), October 8th. The Governor who had been on a trip to the interior returned to Massuruni about 10 days before with fever. He was better, however, and had returned to Georgetown. The "Arno," the first immigrant ship of the season arrived on the 4th inst. with 638 adults. The weather during the fortnight had been dry, but favourable for reaping and grinding operations which were then general. Moderate rains would do no harm. The feeling in produce had been stronger during the fortnight, and sales of refining crystals had taken place at \$1.72 to \$1.77½. The quotation on the 8th was \$1.76.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), October 9th. The Cacao crop was beginning to come in—a month earlier than usual. It was reported to be fair in quantity. During the past fortnight heavy rains had fallen.

* Reuter's Barbados Correspondent cabled on Saturday that there were sixty cases of Small-pox in Trinidad. Up to the time of going to press we have received no confirmation of this message. Should it be confirmed it is probable that the R. M. S. P. Co. will reconsider their decision.—A.E.A.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), October 8th. Except in a few favoured spots, rain was very much wanted. Vere and St. Mary seemed to be suffering most for want of the regular seasons which were much needed. The "Para" carried 1,620 packages of fruit, chiefly oranges to Southampton.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), October 7th. The small relief granted to the estates was about to be distributed at last, and though it was trifling in amount it would still be gratefully accepted. The weather had been fairly good. Showers continued to fall, and to the present, so far as they were concerned, there was no cause to be alarmed. Of course to those who knew best, September, October, November, and also December rains had the most important effects on the coming crop, but a week's absence of moisture ought not to cause alarm.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay), October 10th. Great indignation had been aroused locally by the action of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in boycotting St. Lucia. An enquiry at the agents as to the shipment of cargo and booking of passengers for Europe by that day's mail, the public were informed that strict injunctions had been received from the Company's General Superintendent, in Barbados, that no passengers or cargo were to be taken. He was informed that this prohibition had been extended to the shipment of cargo from the other Islands to St. Lucia, thus cutting the Island off from commercial intercourse with Europe and the sister Islands. Very strong representations on the subject had been made to the administration, who, had, it was believed, cabled to the Secretary of State a vigorous protest.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), October 10th. Much disappointment was felt at the cable news announcing that Mr. Ashmore's Commission, to proceed from Demerara to the Island to investigate the system of relief, had been cancelled by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [NOTE.—Mr. Ashmore's Commission was cancelled in view of the Governor's of British Guiana indisposition. Capt. A. H. Young, C.M.G., Chief Secretary of Cyprus has been appointed Commissioner in his place.—A.E.A.] It was generally understood that Sir Robert Llewelyn was returning to St. Vincent by the steamer that evening, when it was thought he might be prepared to disclose the Government's intentions with regard to compensation to sufferers by the eruptions of May 7th. They had since learnt that it was not the Governor's intention to visit the Island immediately, and much dissatisfaction was felt at the publication in the Gazette of a minute from the Governor to the Administrator that in view of the inability of the Government to acquire small pieces of estates on the windward side, arrangements were to be at once undertaken for the transfer of such labourers as might be willing to Jamaica. The weather had lately been very hot and heavy rains had been prevalent. 2'64" fell in Kingston on the 9th.

Trinidad.—(Edgar Tripp, Esq.), October 10th. Lieut-Col. E. J. Brake arrived by last mail and had assumed his duties as Inspector General of the Police and Commandant of the local forces.

In view of the strange disinclination of the majority of the people of Barbados to be vaccinated (the unhappy results of which were now being so severely felt in that Colony) and of the continued exodus from Barbados to Trinidad, notwithstanding the rigors of quarantine, an ordinance had been passed to provide for the compulsory vaccination of persons arriving in Trinidad from places infected with small pox. The German gun-boat "Panther" had given practical proof that Germany ignored the blockade established by President Castro. She arrived off Port of Spain from Jamaica on the 5th, and left on the 7th for the "Orinoco," her destination being Ciudad Bolivar, whither, it is said, she was conveying certain provisions and goods urgently needed by German subjects. Some very heavy floods had occurred especially amongst the northern valleys. Some large trees were swept away at "Maracas" and becoming blocked at the railway bridge at St. Joseph caused the stream to rise very high. No very serious damage was, however, reported. In Port of Spain, on the 7th, the stores in the lower part of the town were gutted with water, and some of the streets were like rivers for a short time. Reports of cultivation were generally favourable.

New Members—A satisfactory increase.

To date, 35 new Members have been elected to the West India Committee during the current year, and we hope that this number may be added to considerably before December 31st, in view of the fact that subscriptions paid by Members elected during the last three months of the current year will not be renewable until January 1st, 1904. At the Fortnightly Meeting of the Executive Committee held on October 16th, the following new Members were elected :—

| Name. | Proposer. | Secunder. |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| GIDEON POTT, Esq. | J. E. Tinne, Esq. | Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. |
| EUGENE R. BROWNE, Esq. (Jamaica). | E. A. De Pass, Esq. | W. A. Wolseley, Esq. |
| JOSHUA BAEZA, Esq. (Barbados). | R. Rutherford, Esq. | W. Gillespie, Esq. |

The next election of Candidates will be held on Thursday the 30th instant.

Beet Prospects.

Since our last Circular, Mr. Gieseke's crop estimates have been published. He estimated that the total crop for 1902/03 would be 5,350,000 tons, a deficiency of 1,450,000 tons. Last year Mr. Gieseke's estimate was 550,000 tons below actual results, and the market was inclined to add this figure to his estimate. On October 18th Mr. Licht published his revised estimate, as follows:—

| | 1902/03 Estimate. | 1901/02 Yield. | 1900/01 Yield. | 1899/00 Yield. | 1898/99 Yield. | 1897/98 Yield. | 1896/97 Yield. | 1895/96 Yield. |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| GERMANY ... | 1,950,000 | 2,299,408 | 1,984,186 | 1,798,631 | 1,721,718 | 1,852,857 | 1,836,536 | 1,615,111 |
| AUSTRIA ... | 1,025,000 | 1,302,038 | 1,094,043 | 1,108,007 | 1,051,290 | 831,667 | 934,007 | 791,405 |
| FRANCE ... | 880,000 | 1,183,420 | 1,170,332 | 977,850 | 830,132 | 821,235 | 752,081 | 667,853 |
| RUSSIA ... | 1,275,000 | 1,110,000 | 918,838 | 905,737 | 776,066 | 738,715 | 728,667 | 712,096 |
| BELGIUM ... | 240,000 | 350,000 | 333,119 | 302,865 | 244,017 | 265,397 | 288,009 | 235,795 |
| HOLLAND ... | 125,000 | 203,172 | 178,081 | 171,029 | 149,763 | 125,658 | 174,206 | 106,829 |
| SUNDRIES ... | 355,000 | 400,000 | 367,919 | 263,919 | 207,115 | 196,245 | 202,990 | 156,340 |
| Total ... | 5,850,000 | 6,848,038 | 6,046,518 | 5,518,038 | 4,982,101 | 4,831,774 | 4,916,496 | 4,285,429 |

According to Mr. Czarnikow, this estimate was considered fair, except as to France where estimates were nearer 950,000 to 880,000 tons. Regarding the world's position, Mr. Licht arrived at the conclusion that with 170,000 tons more Cubas, no increase in Javas, and only 100,000 tons more consumption, we should have 150,000 tons less stocks on August 31st next.

As we go to press the following estimate of the Committee of Fabricants has come to hand:—

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Germany | 1,701,000 tons. | Belgium | 219,000 tons. |
| Austria | 1,020,000 " | Holland | 102,000 " |
| France | 814,000 " | *Denmark and Sweden | 120,000 " |
| Russia | 1,143,000 " | | |
| | | | 5,119,000 tons. |

*Licht in his estimate includes under "sundries" 355,000 tons, Denmark, Sweden, Roumania, Italy, Spain, etc., so probably 200,000 tons at least should be added to the Fabricants' figures to cover the latter countries.

The present quotations of 88% Beet are Oct., $7/6\frac{3}{4}$, $7/8\frac{1}{2}$; Nov., $7/6\frac{1}{2}$, $7/6\frac{3}{4}$; Dec., $7/7\frac{3}{4}$, $7/8$. 1903.—May, $7/11\frac{1}{2}$, $8/-$; August, $8/2\frac{1}{2}$, $8/2\frac{1}{2}$.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," October 23rd, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Miss C. E. Belfield, Mrs. Wills, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. E. Roche, Mr. John Wallen. **DEMERARA.**—Mrs. Cooper, Master F. Wright. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. Shee, Mr. C. W. Banks, Surgeon J. C. Wood, R.N. **GRENADA.**—Miss Alexander, Miss M. Alexander. **ST. LUCIA.**—Mrs. Barnard.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," October 29th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. and Mrs. F. Newton, Miss R. Pile, Mr. J. Baeza. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. and Mrs. C. Wieting, Miss Wieting, Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Fairbairn, Miss F. Fairbairn, Miss Hohenkerk, Mr. S. Jones, Mr. P. Andrews. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. T. Murphy, Mrs. J. G. Kemp, Mr. and Mrs. Richards, Two Masters Richards, Captain and Mrs. Constantine and daughter, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Busutill and child, Mr. T. Sowter, Mr. S. C. Ashton, Mr. G. N. Challice. **TRINIDAD.**—Captain J. B. and Mrs. Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ross, Two Misses Ross, Mrs. A. Greathead and Miss Choc, Mr. Miller, Mrs. E. Read and two children, Mr. E. Selway, Miss Aked, Mr. and Mrs. Briberg, Mr. C. Bizzell, Dr. H. Alston, Miss Bushe, Hon. G. T. Fenwick, Mr. L. Siegert, Mr. Bankhead. **DOMINICA.**—Mrs. A. Roden. **ST. KITTS.**—Mr. S. Branch. **ST. LUCIA.**—Mrs. Hudson.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," October 15th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Rev. James Davidson, Mr. F. Delaney, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Isaacs, Mr. J. Williamson, Mrs. J. Young, Mr. G. Anderson, Mr. T. W. Clarke, Mrs. E. Fitzgerald.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," October 25th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Browne, Mr. and Mrs. H. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gardner, Mrs. Hamilton, Miss M. Mellows, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Cameron, Mr. C. Cowlin, Mr. H. C. Quinn, Mr. H. Ramsden, Mr. J. H. Wyke, Mrs. J. E. Birchell, Mr. H. Day, Mrs. Jeffries, Mr. E. N. M. Vernon.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," November 8th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Miss Alicia Brown, Miss Pullen-Burry, Mr. C. J. Earl, Mrs. R. Gibb, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Hamilton, His Excellency Sir Augustus W. L. Hemming, G.C.M.G., Lady Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Heyliger, Rev. and Mrs. John Hunter, Mr. and Miss Hutchinson, Rev. H. B. Macartney, Mr. H. Maddick, Rev. and Mrs. F. B. Meyer, Miss A. L. Munro, Mrs. L. A. Nankivell, Mrs. R. E. Nunes, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Otto, Mr. W. H. Plant, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Rust, Dr. and Mrs. Shackleton, Miss F. C. A. Steen, Mr. G. R. Taylor, Mr. S. Valentine, Col. and Mrs. White, Mr. W. G. Chandler, Mr. S. H. Justin, Mr. J. A. Pinkney, Mr. A. Robinson.

Weather Telegram.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), October 27th, "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable."

Rum.

This market has evinced extreme dulness. For Demeraras there is a lack of demand even at the low prices ruling, and with the new crop close at hand, buyers are acting with caution. The quantity sold since our last report is about 500 puns. Trinidad and Demerara at 8d. to 9½d. proof.

Owing to the low parity of proofs, it is very difficult to make sales of Jamaica, and fair home trade descriptions are offering at 1s. 9d. without attracting buyers, while the export demand is very meagre.

We append the Board of Trade returns.

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| LANDED | In Sept. 396,075 .. | 399,275 .. | 458,933 .. | 365,312 |
| | 9 months 6,576,180 .. | 5,655,696 .. | 4,841,807 .. | 4,328,245 |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. | In Sept. 260,072 .. | 257,753 .. | 235,239 .. | 272,069 |
| | 9 months 2,798,470 .. | 2,845,885 .. | 3,019,986 .. | 2,794,969 |
| EXPORT | In Sept. 89,407 .. | 101,808 .. | 41,262 .. | 87,903 |
| | 9 months 648,704 .. | 660,250 .. | 785,768 .. | 622,734 |
| STOCK (Gals.) | 30th Sept. 9,338,000 .. | 8,115,000 .. | 7,224,000 .. | 7,979,000 |

STOCKS IN LONDON.

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| JAMAICA. PUNS. . . . | 11,847 .. | 10,519 .. | 9,957 .. | 13,448 |
| OTHER W. I. ISLANDS .. | 2,030 .. | 2,190 .. | 489 .. | 746 |
| DEMERARA | 8,218 .. | 4,919 .. | 3,866 .. | 3,295 |
| FOREIGN | 3,504 .. | 2,407 .. | 1,679 .. | 1,682 |
| BRITISH EAST INDIA .. | 1,313 .. | 2,093 .. | 1,054 .. | 1,472 |
| VATTED | 4,246 .. | 3,923 .. | 3,398 .. | 3,628 |
| TOTAL | 31,158 .. | 26,051 .. | 20,443 .. | 24,271 |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. | Cocoa. | Coffee. | Rum. | Cocoanuts. | Molasses. | Gold. | Diamonds. |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Hhds. | lbs. | lbs. | Puns. | | Puns. | Ozs. | Carats. |
| BARBADOS— | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1 to Oct. 10, 1902 | 46,951 | — | — | — | — | 42,433 | — | — |
| " " 10, 1901 | 62,683 | — | — | — | — | 45,317 | — | — |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | Tons. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1 to Oct. 7, 1902 | 68,110 | 95,933 | — | 18,999 | 3,360 | 1,215 | 74,199 | 9,714 |
| " " 9, 1901 | 39,159 | 72,761 | — | 13,329 | 76,566 | 518 | 73,746 | 2,226 |
| JAMAICA— | | Cwts. | Cwts. | Galls. | | | Bananas. | Oranges. |
| Apr. 1 to Sept. 20, 1902 | 11,270 | 7,537 | 32,126 | 1,395,423 | 11,721,176 | — | Bunches. | |
| " " Aug. 31, 1901 | 10,593 | 9,434 | 10,717 | 1,150,350 | 5,879,845 | — | 8,239,239 | 12,297,303 |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brls. | lbs. | lbs. | Puns. | | Puns. | Trcs. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1 to Oct. 9, 1902 | 449,071 | 25,865,330 | 39,840 | 1,259 | 8,880,625 | 3,314 | 141 | 236 |
| " " 9, 1901 | 470,041 | 19,010,940 | 15,840 | 1,605 | 8,209,674 | 3,481 | 158 | 566 |
| | | | | | | | | 134,447 |
| | | | | | | | | 146,420 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 | 1901 | 1900 | 1899 | 1898 |
|--|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. |
| United Kingdom, 18th October | 131,748 | 85,079 | 41,213 | 41,045 | 77,784 |
| France, 1st October | 200,692 | 104,600 | 97,810 | 206,563 | 100,595 |
| Germany, 1st October | 243,044 | 126,954 | 41,366 | 14,730 | 84,356 |
| Hamburg, 22nd October | 171,250 | 49,400 | 15,100 | 83,500 | 71,000 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st October | 129,054 | 85,920 | 63,081 | 61,631 | 120,329 |
| Holland, 1st October | 41,837 | 3,283 | 2,130 | 876 | 6,356 |
| Belgium, 1st October | 73,947 | 4,824 | 5,096 | 12,381 | 39,308 |
| United States, 22nd October, Total Stocks | 1,951,572 | 460,079 | 266,696 | 420,726 | 508,728 |
| France, 1st October, Total Stocks | 174,000 | 175,305 | 50,982 | 183,529 | 144,162 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 22nd October, Total Stocks .. | 103,000 | 66,465 | 3,892 | 13,865 | 37,500 |
| Cargoes afloat, 23rd October | 133,860 | 53,024 | 88,777 | 149,447 | 115,534 |
| Total | 1,462,432 | 754,873 | 410,347 | 767,567 | 805,924 |

Publications Received.

Colonial Reports, *Annual*, British Honduras, 1901; Turks and Caicos Islands 1901; Bahamas 1901-2; Barbados 1901-2; *Miscellaneous*, Report on the Caribs of Dominica. Charts of the Coast Line of British Guiana, giving the names of all estates (Hon. B. Howell Jones). Publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture: "Agricultural News," Vol. 1, 11, 12, 13; Pamphlets, 17, General Treatment of Fungoid Pests; 18, West Indian Yams; The Official Gazette and Papers of all the West Indian Colonies; The Barbados Agricultural Gazette and Planters' Journal, Vol. 8, No. 10; The International Sugar Journal, No. 46, Vol. 4; The British Guiana, Trinidad and Jamaica Market Reports, and the usual West Indian Newspapers.

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

West India Committee.

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BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, November 10th, 1902.

The Sugar Convention.

We have good reason to believe that the resolution regarding the Sugar Convention will be brought forward in Parliament towards the end of the current month, before the departure of Mr. Chamberlain for South Africa. Mr. Balfour replying to Mr. Lough in the House of Commons on October 27th said, that adequate time would be found for its discussion. It would bind Parliament to give legislative sanction to the Treaty. He could not, he said, anticipate that Parliament would decline the obligation. On November 3rd he stated further, that he would have preferred to bring in legislation to give effect to it in the course of the present Session, but that was quite out of the question, and, therefore, legislation would have to be deferred to a more convenient season. A resolution would be introduced, but it would not be a financial resolution in the sense of being required to be brought as in the Committee of the House. Lord Cranborne stated in reply to the same Member: "The Belgian Government have communicated to us the announcement that the ratification of his Majesty the King of the Belgians has been deposited. No Power has declined to ratify, and we have no reason for anticipating that any of the Powers who signed will refuse to do so."

The West Indies and West Africa.

The following letter was addressed to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 5th inst., regarding the question of trade between the West Indies and West Africa (*see Circular 82, p. 1*).

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th ultimo, 39842/1902, transmitting by direction of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, for the information of the West India Committee, copies of a despatch from the Governor of Barbados, with enclosures on the subject of the establishment of a trade in Sugar, Rum and Molasses, between the West Indies and West Africa.

2. We note that Mr. Chamberlain is addressing a despatch on the subject to the Governors of the Gold Coast, Lagos, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia, and to the High Commissioner of Northern and Southern Nigeria as desired by Sir F. Hodgson.

3. From such information as we have been able to gather on the subject, it would seem that the demand for imported sugar in West Africa is extremely limited, and that even one small cargo a year would amply meet the requirements of the West African Colonies, and it is doubtful whether consumption can be stimulated to such an extent as to make it worth while to begin operations in the direction indicated.

4. But pending the receipt of the replies of the West African Governors and High Commissioners, it would be premature to express any definite views on this subject, which will continue to receive the careful attention of my Committee, who appreciate fully the efforts being made to find new markets for the produce of the British West Indian Colonies.

5. In conclusion we would beg you to convey to Mr. Chamberlain our thanks for his courtesy for submitting to the West India Committee these important papers for their consideration, and to request that you will be pleased to favour us with copies of the replies to his despatch, when they are received from the West African Colonies.

We have the honour to be, &c.,

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

The Committee and the Rum Trade.

The following correspondence has passed between the leading Rum Dealers and the West India Committee upon the subject of the terms upon which Rum is sold in London.

The Rum Dealers to the West India Committee.

Dear Sir,

October 15th, 1902.

We, the undersigned dealers in Rum, request that you will establish the following modification of the terms upon which Rum has hitherto been sold in London. It is desired by us that from and after 1st January, 1903, we may be able to purchase Rum through you, which shall carry 12 months free rent, instead of 16 weeks as at present.

As this matter of Rent is of great importance, and the concession of same will place the trade in a position that may enable the Port of London to successfully compete for an enlargement of the Rum business, we beg that you will at once give the subject your prompt attention.

We remain,

Yours obediently,

PORTAL, DINGWALL & NORRIS.

C. W. EYES & Co.

TROWER SONS,

Per pro. Jos. Robinson.

Per pro. Arthur H. Robinson.

HENRY FABER & Co.

SPACKMAN & DENT.

BROWNE, ROSENHEIM & Co.

HENRY WHITE & Co.

JOHN J. ANDERSON & Co., LTD.

ALFRED LAMB & SON.

A. C. Thompson, *Director.*

THOS. LOWNDES & Co.

West India Committee to the Rum Dealers.

November 5th, 1902.

DEAR SIR,

I have the honour to inform you that your letter of the 15th ult., requesting the establishment of a certain modification of the terms upon which Rum has hitherto been sold in London, was duly considered at a meeting of my Executive Committee on the 30th ult.

2. I am to inform you that while anxious in every way to meet the wishes of the leading Rum dealers, whose signatures were appended to your letter, my Committee do not see their way to agree to your proposal that from and after 1st January, 1903, Rum may be purchased carrying 12 months free rent instead of 16 weeks as at present.

3. I am to point out that if your proposal were agreed to, the expense of 12 months rent for every parcel of Rum brought to this market would fall on the importers, and inasmuch as the average duration of Rum in warehouse is not more than 16 weeks, it is obvious that the concession asked for would involve a heavy expense to importers and convey but little advantage to the buyers.

4. I am further to point out that the present prices of Rum are so low that it no longer pays to manufacture it, and any further expense thrown on importers at the present moment would obviously tend to aggravate the situation.

5. In conclusion, I may remind you that in consequence of the manufacture of Rum being so unprofitable, considerable attention is now being given to the conversion of Molasses into Cattle food, and my Committee feel that it would be contrary to your best interests that Sugar Estates should give up making Rum altogether.

Trusting that you will appreciate our position in this matter,

I have, etc.,

(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Messrs. Portal, Dingwall and Norris.

Secretary.

Mr. Chamberlain's Mission to South Africa.

As our last Circular went to press the announcement was made of Mr. Chamberlain's intended visit to South Africa. At a Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday, October 30th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., in the Chair, Present:—Mr. Henry K. Davson, Deputy-Chairman, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. Edward G. Barr, Mr. G. Macgregor Frame, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the following Resolution was adopted unanimously:—

Resolved:—"That this meeting having learned that the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, will, with the approval of his Majesty the King, proceed at an early date to South Africa to examine on the spot the problems presented by the termination of the war, and the settlement of affairs in the new Colonies, takes this opportunity of recording its keen appreciation of the services rendered by the right hon. gentleman to his Majesty's Colonial possessions beyond the seas, and its gratitude for the courtesy with which he has always considered the representations of the West India Committee of Planters and Merchants regarding matters affecting the welfare of the British West Indies; and that the Secretary be instructed to convey to Mr. Chamberlain the cordial and sincere wishes of the West India Committee for a prosperous journey and a safe return to the mother country."

A Lecture on the West Indies.

On the 25th of October, a Lecture on the West Indies was given by Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, M.A., to the Members of the Working Men's College. Mr. J. G. Ritchie, presided and introduced the lecturer, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall. Mr. Shephard stated that he deemed it an honour to address the students of a college which was founded by Frederick Denison Maurice. The West Indies were an integral portion of the Empire, and included colonies acquired by Settlement and by Conquest. The islands were inhabited by the Charaibes when Columbus discovered them. These inhabitants judging from their language were of an oriental origin; recently Mr. Hesketh Bell, in a report on the Carib Settlements in Dominica, expressed an opinion that they were of Mongolian origin. The lecturer explained the difference in constitution, laws and legislative powers between colonies acquired by Settlement and those by Conquest. The economic relation of the West Indies to England was regarded by John Stuart Mill, as of a home, and not a foreign, character, all their surplus produce becoming an addition to the wealth of England. As regards bounties, they were the badges of inferiority. If Beet Sugar were equal to, or better than, Cane Sugar, why had it never been able to compete on its own merits with Cane Sugar. Beet Sugar was started by protection and, in spite of every improvement in its manufacture, a complete circuit of protection by import duties and export bounties was still found supporting it. The exact effect of this arbitrary interference with the natural course of production was the substitution of Beet Sugar,—the inferior; for Cane Sugar—the superior:—the land and labour of the Continent, for the land and labour of the West Indies! Thus had the natural development and utility to England of her West Indian Colonies been arrested and kept in abeyance by the Continental Bounty system. He need hardly remind the students that "Free Trade" meant "No Protection," in conclusion the lecturer expressed a hope that the history of the West Indies would be studied by the students, as there was much in that history of the highest interest to thinkers on economic and constitutional questions. Mr. Shephard mentioned that his friend Mr. Algernon Aspinall, who had recently been travelling in the West Indies, had kindly consented to exhibit a most interesting collection of photo-slides. Mr. Aspinall then gave a very graphic and interesting comment on the various views as the operator threw them on the screen. Mr. Ritchie, in thanking Mr. Shephard and Mr. Aspinall for the lecture, alluded to the interesting fact that, if the original inhabitants of the West Indies came from the East he had, as an Indian official, often witnessed the departure for the West Indies of the coolies who migrated there to find work and wages.

The Situation in St. Vincent.

The following telegram from the Governor, Sir R. B. Llewellyn, to Mr. Chamberlain was received at the Colonial Office on October 25th last, and communicated to the West India Committee on the 29th ult. —“In continuation of my telegram of 19th October, written reports from Curator, St. Vincent, show very serious and extensive injuries to all growing crops. General outlook much worse than it was early in the month; area of comparative safety is narrowed down considerably and gravity of situation very much increased.”

The Lord Mayor has remitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a further sum of £5,000 from the Mansion House Fund for the relief of the sufferers by the eruption in the Island of St. Vincent, especially to meet cases of distress arising out of the recent renewal of the volcanic disturbances. The Lord Mayor has also made a grant of £1,075 for the relief of the relatives of the ten men lost in the steamship “Roddam,” which was involved in the Martinique disaster, and which vessel was only saved from destruction with her entire crew, by the splendid heroism displayed by her captain. This sum is in addition to about £1,300 raised in other quarters.

New Members.

At the fortnightly Meeting of the Executive Committee, on October 30th last, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding, the following new Members were elected:—

| Name. | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| G. BRUCE AUSTIN, Esq. (Trinidad) | R. Rutherford, Esq. | E. L. Marshall, Esq. |
| CLAUDE T. BERTHON, Esq. | Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. | Mewburn Garnett, Esq. |
| MESSRS. ELDERS & FYFFES. | Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. | W. Gillespie, Esq. |
| MESSRS. THOMAS & JAMES HARRISON | Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. | H. K. Davson, Esq. |

The next election of Members will take place on the 13th inst. Subscriptions paid by new Members elected during the last three months of the current year will not be renewable until January 1st, 1904.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The following is the report of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the half-year to June 30th, 1902:—“The Court of Directors have to inform the proprietors that Admiral A. J. Chatfield, C.B., has retired from the company, of which he was the manager and a director, and the Court have appointed to succeed him as manager Mr. Alfred S. Williams, lately one of the managing directors of the Atlantic Transport Company, Limited. Mr. Herbert Edlmann has vacated the position of deputy-chairman, and Mr. Thomas Dence and Sir James Fergusson by their colleagues respectively chairman and deputy-chairman of the Court of Directors, *pro tem*. There are two seats on the direction vacant. The directors are considering how those vacancies can be best filled, and as soon as this point has been settled, the proprietors will be called together for the purpose of an election. The Court take this opportunity of stating that the accounts for the half-year ended June 30th last admit of a full writing off for depreciation and insurance, but do not justify the payment of an interim dividend. The Court think it right to add that the proposal made to them that the Company should enter into a combination has, so far, led to no result.” It is announced that a meeting of the Company will be held on January 7th next, for the purpose of electing “two” new Directors.

Sir Nevile Lubbock and the West Indian Club.

Our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., is to be the guest of the evening at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club, to be held on Wednesday next. Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G., Governor of Newfoundland and late Colonial Secretary of British Guiana, whose recovery from a somewhat serious operation we are glad to be able to announce, will occupy the chair, and among those who have accepted invitations to be present are Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Bart., M.P., Sir Walter

Sendall, G.C.M.G., Sir Henry Bergne, K.C.M.G., and Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G. General Sir Henry Norman, G.C.M.G., &c., in a letter to the Secretary, expressing his regret at his inability to be present, added "It would have given me extreme pleasure to be present at the entertainment to Sir Nevile Lubbock, as I think he has done more hard and useful work in the interest of the West Indies than any man I know."

"Free Trade in Danger." *

The above is the title of an instructive article on the Sugar Bounties question from the pen of Mr. George Martineau, C.B., which appears in the November number of the *New Liberal Review*. No one is better qualified to write on this subject than Mr. Martineau, who has acted as Expert Adviser to the British Delegates at no less than Five Conferences on the Sugar Bounties. The present Article is the sequel to one entitled "The Russian Note on Trade Combination," which the same writer contributed to the September number of this Magazine, and summarises the various attempts which have been made during the past 25 years, to abolish the iniquitous bounty system. Mr. Martineau reminds us that the consequence of the steady increase in the amount and area of the bounty system has been that the bounty-aided source of production in the European beetroot industry has already established a monopoly to the extent of more than two-thirds of the visible supply of the world. If matters were allowed to go on as they are now, it is clear that Germany and Austria with the additional advantage of their Cartel Bounties would in time supplant, not only cane, but all other beetroot sugar. They can afford to export at £2 to £3 below cost price, and yet make a handsome profit on their total production, which must therefore continue to increase and squeeze out all other competition. The confectioners would do well to bear this in mind and realise that they cannot eat their cake and still have it. Low prices now will not avail them much if in the end competition is squeezed out, and they are compelled to pay through the nose for their sugar. The cry, Free Trade in danger, has been falsely used. Free Trade is in danger, says Mr. Martineau, when its principles are erroneously invoked to defeat an inconvenient or insignificant demand for free and open competition in British Markets. The demand is no longer insignificant, and will soon become large enough to make it very inconvenient to trifle any longer with the greatest Free Trade question that has arisen since the days of Cobden.

The Medical Service in Nevis.

Mr. Chamberlain informed the West India Committee on November 7th, in reply to their letter of 20th ult., regarding the reported inadequacy of the Medical service in the Island of Nevis, that there are two Government medical officers in that Island, but that it has been found necessary to allow one of them some months leave of absence during the present year. Mr. Chamberlain understood that satisfactory arrangements had been made in the Colony for the performance of this officer's duties during his absence, but an enquiry will be addressed to the Governor on the subject. Mr. Chamberlain has recently sanctioned the appointment of an additional medical officer for St. Kitts, which will render the medical service of the Presidency sufficient for all requirements.

Mr. George Martineau, C.B.

When in July last we expressed our surprise at the non-inclusion of the name of Mr. George Martineau in the list of Coronation Honours, we felt confident that the granting of a distinction to that gentleman, who has done so much for the cause of the West Indies could not long be delayed. We now have the genuine pleasure of congratulating him upon his appointment on November 9th to be a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Civil Division). Mr. Martineau acted as expert adviser to the British Delegates at no less than five Conferences on the Sugar Bounty

* "The New Liberal Review." November, 1902. Price, One shilling nett. 82 & 83, Temple Chambers, E.C.

Question, namely, at Brussels in 1875, at Paris in 1876 and 1877, and Brussels again in 1898 and 1902. Among other recipients of Birthday honours we note Lt.-Gen. John William Laurie, M.P., one of our supporters in the House of Commons, who has been made C.B., and Colonel J. Roper Parkington (a member of the Committee of the West India Club) and Henry Alleyne Bovell, Ex-Chief Justice of British Guiana, upon whom has been conferred the honour of knighthood.

The Beet Crop.

The Beet Crop on the Continent is nearing an end. In Austria the weather has been dull and foggy, with hoar frost in the mornings, but as little rain has fallen the crop has been proceeded with without interruption. Similar conditions have existed in France where the quality of the root appears to have improved somewhat. The production per acre in Germany is still in many places more unfavourable than was expected. In Russia, the weather is most unfavourable and labour is scarce and dear. Many factories have for this reason been compelled to interrupt work. Since our last Circular went to press, the factory figures were published, agreeing nearly with Gieseke's figures. This led to a slight advance in prices which was followed by realisations. Fears of opposition to the Convention in England then caused a slight decline, which was sure to be recovered on November 8th, when Licht foreshadowed a reduction of 100,000 tons in his German estimate. As we go to press the market is flat, the following being the quotation of 88 per cent. beet, November 7s. 4½d. to 7s. 4½d., December 7s. 4½d. to 7s. 4¾d. 1903.—January/March 7s. 6d. to 7s. 6¼d., May 7s. 8¾d., August 7s. 11¼d., October/December 8s. 5¾d.

West Indian Affairs.

The R.M.S. "Orinoco" left Barbados 18 hours after the scheduled time, and owing to persistent heavy seas and tempestuous weather which she experienced during seven days, lost 18 hours more on the voyage, with the result that she did not anchor off Plymouth until 10.45 a.m. on Friday, November 7th. The Mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's s.s. "Port Antonio" arrived at Avonmouth from Jamaica, on Wednesday, October 29th. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents:—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), October 22nd. By the appointment of Mr. E. St. John Branch, the posts of Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General had, with a view to retrenchment, been amalgamated. The rainfall during the month had been singularly uneven. Some estates had had ample, while others had been less fortunate and required a good soaking rain at the present moment. There was still a small quantity of produce to come forward, and prices in New York had an upward tendency. Many estates were going in for onion cultivation, and small experiments of about one acre of cotton were being conducted in parts of the Island.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), October 25th. The Island had again been deluged with a shower of dust from the Soufrière in St. Vincent. Although the dust of May was of a heavier nature and fell in greater quantity than that of October 16th, the latter, coming as it did in the daytime proved much more disagreeable as all business had to be suspended after 10 o'clock for the rest of the day. Samples of this dust were being carefully analysed and it was thought that it would be of greater manurial value than the first fall. Rain for the fortnight had been scanty, only a few showers had fallen which were scarcely sufficient to thoroughly wash away the dust. Small pox was still prevalent, though the number of cases each day seemed to be on the decrease.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), October 22nd. The "Forth," the second coolie ship of the season arrived on October 15th with 665 Immigrants. Since his return from the Massaruni, the Governor had been more or less unwell, and at a recent Meeting of the Executive Council Mr. Ashmore had had to preside. There had been no meeting of the Legislature or of the Planters' Association during the fortnight. The weather had been dry and good showers would have a beneficial effect on young cultivation. There had been a good deal of activity in the sugar market during the fortnight, and large parcels of refining crystals had changed hands at prices from \$170 to \$180. The continued rise in the cable quotations of beet was most encouraging.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), October 23rd. The Cacao crop was in full swing considerably earlier than usual and was expected to be good on the whole. Some localities appeared to be doing extremely well, while others were short. A complete collection of Dominican birds had been presented to the Victoria Memorial Library by Mr. H. S. Branch. The weather for the past fortnight had been finer.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), October 21st.—With the advent of the new Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, all indications pointed to a period of activity and energy in the Government of the Colony. He was said to be earnestly desirous of effecting retrenchment in the several departments, and thus gradually easing the tax burden which falls so heavily on the industry of the Colony. The weather could not be better.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), October 24th. Another violent eruption of the Soufrière occurred on the night of the 15th October. It not only destroyed everything planted since the 7th of May in the immediate neighbourhood of the Island but had covered up crops over an extended area.

Trinidad.—(Edgar Tripp, Esq.), October 24th.—At the last meeting of the Agricultural Society, Mr. W. H. Swanston moved—"That the importance of the Cotton Industry merits the consideration of the Society, with a view to its re-introduction as a profitable branch of Agriculture in the Colony." This, of course, in view of the recent proceedings in the Cotton Markets in Lancashire. The matter was referred to the General Cultivation Committee for report. Years ago all the Islands in the Bocas yielded comfortable incomes to their occupiers from cotton. Chacachacare, we believed, was the last to relinquish the cultivation, but all such places appeared to have been found adapted to the cultivation, and, given fair market returns, it might yet be found worth renewing, always bearing in mind, however, the one *sine qua non*, Labour. The acting senior unofficial member of Council, Mr. Leotaud, informed the Government about a month ago that the unofficals, after seeing the draft of the Waterworks Consolidation Ordinance, had decided to oppose it in a body. The Governor thereupon postponed its consideration until the return of Mr. Wrightson, the Director of Public Works. In the meantime a public meeting was held at the Prince's Building, which passed resolutions unanimously in agreement with the unofficial members. This meeting was a large one, and the proceedings were orderly and well conducted.

At the Meeting of Council on 20th instant, the objectionable ordinance was withdrawn, the Governor stating that Mr. Wrightson was in no way responsible—in fact that the ordinance had not been drawn on the lines agreed to by him before going away. The weather continued seasonable and crop prospects all round are favourable.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," November 7th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Miss Burton, Miss Law, Mr. W. M. Howell. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. W. Dow Sim, Dr. W. K. Miley, Mr. H. H. Solomon, Mr. J. Dalzell, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Davson, Dr. W. P. Von Winckler, Capt. H. Davis, Dr. Frazer. **TRINIDAD.**—Mrs. P. N. Jones, Miss Archibald, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Franzins, Mr. W. Corneillius, Rev. Father V. Ryan, Mr. Geo. Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. E. Palacios, Mr. H. and Master Palacios, Mr. F. Orde, Mr. C. Monckton. **St. Lucia.**—Lieut. McKenzie.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," November 12th, 1902:—**BARBADOS.**—Hon. and Mrs. Forster M. Alleyne, Rev. S. Bradshaw, Mr. H. Lynch. **DEMERARA.**—Bishop E. A. Parry, Mr. and Mrs. C. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Macquarrie, Mr. and Mrs. C. Wieting, Mr. H. Perkins, Mr. H. R. Greig. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. McNee, Mr. C. Wulff, Mr. Stenhouse, Mr. H. F. Wilson, Mr. James Milne. **TRINIDAD.**—His Honour Justice and Mrs. Routledge, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Labastide, Mr. A. P. Marryat, Dr. E. J. Hammond, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. DeVerteuil, Mr. and Mrs. A. DeVerteuil. **DOMINICA.**—Mr. E. W. Hatton. **GRENADA.**—Hon. G. S. and Mrs. Seton-Browne. **St. Kitts.**—Mr. L. Kortright. **St. Vincent.**—Mr. A. Wakefield.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," October 29th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. T. Anderson, Mr. Bolt, Mr. and Mrs. R. Capper, Capt. Caulfield, Mr. Franck, Mr. Harley, Mr. Williams, Mr. A. Gee.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," November 8th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Miss Alicia Brown, Miss Pullen-Burry, Mr. C. J. Earl, Mrs. R. Gibb, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Hamilton, His Excellency Sir Augustus W. L. Hemming, K.C.M.G., and Lady Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Heyliger, Rev. and Mrs. John Hunter, Mr. G. Hutchinson, Miss Hutchinson, and Lady Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Heyliger, Rev. and Mrs. John Hunter, Mr. G. Hutchinson, Miss Hutchinson, Rev. H. B. Macartney, Capt. H. Maddick, Rev. and Mrs. F. B. Meyer, Miss A. L. Munro, Mrs. L. A. Nankivell, Mrs. R. E. Nunes, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Otto, Mr. W. H. Plant, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Rust, Dr. and Mrs. Shakleton, Miss F. C. A. Steen, Mr. G. R. Taylor, Mr. S. Valentine, Col. and Mrs. White, Mr. W. G. Chandler, Mr. S. H. Justin, Mr. J. A. Pinkney, Mr. A. Robinson, Mr. M. Boyle, Mr. G. S. Spicer, Dr. J. H. Stormont, Mr. H. Wyndham, Mr. H. Wyke.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—Following the date of our last report, the market continued to exhibit the same flat tone which prevailed previously, and sales were made with difficulty; subsequently there was more disposition to buy, but chiefly at a decline of rs. per cwt. At the last public sales there was greater competition than for some time past, owing in a great measure to the fact of the Government being in the market, but the general buying did not show any improvement. At the close prices are firm at the above-named decline. Sales reach about 2,400 bags at 58s. to 60s. for middling; 61s. to 69s. for good middling to fine.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, .. 1st Jan. to 1st Nov. .. | 42,351 bags against | 36,945 bags. |
| HOME CONSUMPTION | 26,642 | 28,721 .. |
| EXPORTED | 13,024 | 9,765 .. |
| STOCK, 1st November | 15,615 | 18,634 .. |

GRENADA.—Continues in limited supply, but there has been no activity in the demand, and while fair to middling qualities have about maintained their previous value, fine has suffered a decline of about rs. per cwt.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, .. 1st Jan. to 1st Nov. .. | 43,335 bags against | 40,343 bags. |
| HOME CONSUMPTION | 31,378 | 29,474 .. |
| EXPORTED | 12,801 | 6,322 .. |
| STOCK, 1st November | 7,674 | 9,578 .. |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. | Cocoa. | Coffee. | Rum. | Cocoanuts. | Molasses. | Gold. | Diamonds |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | Hhds. | lbs. | lbs. | Puns. | | Puns. | Ozs. | Carats. |
| BARBADOS— | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1 to Oct. 24, 1902 | 46,951 | — | — | — | — | 42,433 | — | — |
| " " 24, 1901 | 62,683 | — | — | — | — | 45,317 | — | — |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | Tons. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1 to Oct. 21, 1902 | 73,357 | 97,533 | — | 20,343 | 3,360 | 1,215 | 78,746 | 10,185 |
| " " 23, 1901 | 45,435 | 76,361 | — | 13,445 | 76,566 | 518 | 78,104 | 2,616 |
| JAMAICA— | | Cwts. | Cwts. | Galls. | | | Bananas. | Oranges. |
| Apr. 1 to Oct. 24, 1902 | 11,939 | 7,623 | 34,074 | 1,433,682 | 12,987,576 | — | 8,724,819 | 22,211,867 |
| " Sept. 28, 1901 | 10,757 | 9,565 | 72,183 | 1,190,793 | 7,644,505 | — | 6,212,446 | 10,203,440 |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brls. | lbs. | lbs. | Puns. | | Puns. | Tres. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1 to Oct. 23, 1902 | 449,338 | 26,261,770 | 39,840 | 1,250 | 9,631,225 | 3,314 | 141 | 236 |
| " " 23, 1901 | 470,567 | 19,100,530 | 15,840 | 1,605 | 8,549,926 | 3,481 | 158 | 566 |
| | | | | | | | | Asphalt. |
| | | | | | | | | Tons. |
| | | | | | | | | 126,886 |
| | | | | | | | | 147,420 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 | 1901 | 1900 | 1899 | 1898 |
|---|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. |
| United Kingdom, 1st November | 122,991 | 81,191 | 40,100 | 39,350 | 75,503 |
| France, 1st October | 260,692 | 104,609 | 97,810 | 206,563 | 109,595 |
| Germany, 1st October | 243,044 | 126,954 | 41,366 | 14,730 | 84,356 |
| Hamburg, 5th November | 159,730 | 73,020 | 43,600 | 94,300 | 79,000 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st October | 129,054 | 85,920 | 63,981 | 61,631 | 120,329 |
| Holland, 15th October | 39,494 | 8,991 | 2,537 | 823 | 5,592 |
| Belgium, 15th October | 71,803 | 11,448 | 3,125 | 11,750 | 38,307 |
| United States, 5th November, Total Stocks | 1,026,808 | 492,133 | 292,519 | 429,147 | 512,682 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 5th November, Total Stocks.. | 166,000 | 176,613 | 66,995 | 187,548 | 133,194 |
| Cargoes afloat, 6th November | 86,000 | 51,493 | 2,225 | 12,980 | 32,179 |
| | 122,333 | 21,145 | 81,113 | 160,175 | 104,984 |
| Total..... | 1,401,141 | 741,384 | 442,852 | 789,850 | 783,039 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), November 10th. "Rain much wanted. Crops suffering."

BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), October 28th, "Weather dry, some showers would be acceptable."

TRINIDAD.—(Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), October 30th, "Weather all that could be desired."

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

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West India Committee.

No. 84.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, November 24th, 1902.

The Sugar Bounties.

Before this Circular is in the hands of Members, the vote of the House of Commons will have been taken upon the following resolution which is to be introduced by Mr. Gerald Balfour this afternoon:—

"That this House approves the policy embodied in the Convention relating to sugar, signed at Brussels on March 5th, 1902, and, in the event of that Convention receiving the ratifications required to make it binding, is prepared to adopt the necessary measures to enable his Majesty to carry out its provisions."

Both the West India Committee and the Anti-Bounty League have been actively soliciting the support of Members of Parliament, and it is with some degree of confidence that we await the result of the Debate which means so much to British Guiana, the West Indies, and the Sugar refining and Engineering industries of the United Kingdom. Mr. Gibson Bowles had signified his intention of moving an amendment to the effect that inasmuch as the Convention involved a charge on the Public Revenue, and the imposition of further taxation under certain contingencies, its consideration should be adjourned and referred to a Committee of the whole House, but in accordance with Parliamentary etiquette this will give place to a direct negative which will be moved by Sir William Harcourt for the Front Opposition Bench. Assuming that the resolution to-day is carried, the resolution in Committee, and the Bill founded thereon, needed to give statutory effect to the provisions of the Convention enabling the Government to impose a special duty on the importation of sugars from countries that grant bounties either on production or export, and to incur expenses on account of the establishment and working of the Permanent Bureau, upon which will devolve the duty of ascertaining whether in the contracting States any direct or indirect bounty is granted on the production or export of sugars, will not be proceeded with until next Session. But the House will not go back upon its resolution, so it is to-day that the definite issue will be arrived at which will dispel any illusion on the part of Foreign Governments as to the determination of our Government to put an end for ever to the iniquitous bounty system, which has been working for the ruin of our West Indian Colonies, two important home industries and ultimately, we might add, even the Confectionery Industry of the United Kingdom.

Dinner to Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

So great was the demand for tickets for the dinner to Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., given by the West Indian Club, on Wednesday, November 12th, that not only was it necessary to refuse many applicants, but an overflow meeting had to be held in one of the Public rooms of the Howard Hotel. Among those present upon this auspicious occasion besides the guest of the evening were Sir Cavendish Boyle, K.C.M.G., in the Chair, Gen. A. D. Andrews, G. Bruce Austin, Esq., M. M. Beeton, Esq., T. Bell-Smythe, Esq., H. Berger, Esq., Sir Henry Bergne, K.C.M.G., L. Bert de Lamarre, Esq., C. T. Berthon, A. Bovell, Esq., A. Brack, Esq., H. Brack, Esq., C. Bright, Esq., G. Carrington, Esq., C. P. H. Corbin, Esq., Col. T. Daly, Hon. C. S. Davson, H. K. Davson, Esq., H. J. Deary, Esq., W. C. Dyett, Esq., Capt. Fielden, R.A., C. K. Gibbons, Esq., W. Gillespie, Esq., Hon. W. Gordon Gordon, A. C. Henderson, Esq., J. K. D. Hill, Esq., A. J. Hirsch, Esq., A. Johnson, Esq., Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., Mark Kerr, Esq., H. B. Leggatt, Esq., A. N. Lubbock, Esq., R. Lubbock, Esq.,

Hon. D. A. Macdonald, D. Mackintosh, Esq., G. B. Mason, Esq., L.R.C.P., A. E. Messer, Esq., J. Morrison, Esq., A. Mc. D. Nathan, Esq., A. E. Aspinall, Esq., Col. Sir J. Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., F. de Pass, Esq., H. de Pass, Esq., G. Hope Pearce, Esq., A. A. Pearson, Esq., C.M.G., H. Pennington, Esq., G. W. Penrice, Esq., J. H. Phillips, Esq., G. H. Pile, Esq., C. C. Pilkington, Esq., G. B. Pilliner, Esq., Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, H. F. Previté, Esq., Percy Quilter, Esq., J. Rippon, Esq., R. Rutherford, Esq., J. S. C. Saunders, Esq., R. Schult, Esq., Johnson Scott, Esq., Sir Walter J. Sendall, G.C.M.G., R. W. Shire, Esq., H. K. F. Smith, Esq., — Spiller, Esq., E. Sturridge, Esq., Dr. M. S. Turton, J. W. Watson, Esq., F. J. Webster, Esq., J. H. Wilkinson, Esq., T. J. Wilkinson, Esq., W. A. Wolseley, Esq., and T. B. Younger, Esq.

The usual loyal toasts having been honoured, Sir Cavendish Boyle said:—" In rising again—and this time to propose the toast of the evening—I wish you gentlemen to believe me when I assure you that I have not got up this speech. In the first place, because I think that such remarks as I propose to make—as I wish to make—will come more heartily if they are made without any preparation, and secondly, because I have only just been allowed myself to *get up*. The toast which I ask you to drink—no asking, I feel sure, however, is required—is that of our distinguished guest and friend—Sir Neville Lubbock. The name in itself is sufficient guarantee of the weight which I have to carry in this duty which has been given to me to perform—anyone—everyone who has had the remotest connection with the sugar producing Colonies, knows that name and honours the man who bears it. And so the duty with which I have been charged, is, indeed, a very pleasant one. That I shall do justice to the subject is, I fear, not at all so certain—but of this you may be assured, and it is, that my words about our guest will come from my heart. There is no man of whom you and I know who has given his labour of a lifetime so freely, so generously, and so whole-heartedly to the furtherance of the welfare of those Colonies that he has. We have heard much about absentee Proprietors lately—well, Sir Neville Lubbock is one of those, and I rejoice to think that that is so. As an absentee Proprietor he has done more for the good of the West Indies and British Guiana than he could possibly have done had he remained in those Colonies. He has persistently and consistently fought the battle—the uphill battle, and given his whole lifetime to the work of combatting the evils of unfair competition. I believe that he has worn out a whole set of those lead stair coverings so well known to many of us in Downing Street. He has never been beaten. In spite of many a rebuff, many a hard battle, he has gallantly struggled on with his good work, and we all rejoice to think that now he and you through him and through his efforts are within measureable distance of success. Ere long we shall know and be able to say that the Foreign Sugar Bounties are things of the past, matters of history, and with their history will be linked the name of Neville Lubbock who fought them so gallantly, and who overcame them. Ever since those early years in the sixties, when the Colonial Company was being formed, Sir Neville Lubbock entered heart and soul into the work for the West Indies—and, gentlemen, through fair times and all through stormy times he has stuck to the ship. Just think how easy it would have been for him, with his abilities and his name and his influence to have left the ship, to have cut his line, and gone away to at least peace and rest. But, no, he did not do that, he stood by at the helm and through it all—all that depression—he gave his best to weather the storm and to help those around him by his efforts, his experience, his pluck, and his unflinching determination. Therefore, all honour to him, say I—and say you—is it not so? And this gathering tells the same tale—the full appreciation which you feel for his work.

Some here may recollect that an ancestor of my own was once described as " Father of Chemistry and Brother to the Earl of Cork," well—may we not say of Sir Neville Lubbock, that he is " Father of the Anti-bounty Warriors and Brother to Lord Avebury?" And I believe with him—as I always have believed—that you will see his good work crowned with a full measure of success. I believe that the

Sugar Colonies are about to emerge from that long period of depression and distress, and I believe as I always have believed, that they are to be restored—if not in full to olden golden days of prosperity—at all events to those of freedom from care and trouble, that their products will fill once more an untrammelled market, and that their labours will earn, at any rate, more than a living wage. For such a condition—such a coming condition of affairs—we have largely to thank our guest. That, I believe, is why you are all here to-night, to meet together in friendship, in good fellowship, and, I think, in gratitude. But I must not keep you much longer. Sir Nevile is going to speak to you, and I hope that what he may say to you will be as full of cheering words and forecasts, as I am trying to tell you the future should be—and as I believe will be. What I have said, has come from one who has known our guest for many years, and who has rejoiced—and still rejoices—in that knowledge, and who is proud to be amongst his friends. I give you, gentlemen, from my heart, the toast of Sir Nevile Lubbock, and I ask you to drink it with the fullest of full honours. The toast was then drunk with full musical honours.

Sir Nevile Lubbock, rising to respond, said :—“ I congratulate the Club not only on its success, but on the great rapidity of that success. It is doing a vast amount of good for the West Indies by creating a sort of centre where gentlemen interested in the West Indies can meet one another and have an opportunity of comparing notes. In the past the West Indies have suffered from being a number of sticks rather than a bundle of sticks. I should like just for a minute to refer to Mr. Chamberlain's forthcoming visit to South Africa. I think it would be very appropriate on our part at such a large and representative gathering as this is if we were to request our Chairman to send a telegram to Mr. Chamberlain wishing him God-speed on his journey and expressing the wish for a happy and prosperous return from it. (Hear, hear.) I think it is a very happy thing for the Colonies that our Colonial Secretary has set the example of visiting what we hope will be one of our largest leading Colonies. We all hope that Mr. Chamberlain will not stop there, but that before long he will visit the West Indies. I am sure he would be received with open arms and I think he would be setting a great example to those who come after him if he were to do that. I believe with Sir Cavendish Boyle that we are on the eve of seeing the abolition of the Bounty system by European Governments. We owe a great deal to Mr. Chamberlain for that—for having brought this question to the front, and having practically been the means of bringing about a settlement of it. For my own part I do not expect that we shall have any very great boom in the West Indies in consequence of the abolition of the Bounties, but I do think we shall have a fair remunerative price and that we shall therefore be removed from that feeling of uncertainty and insecurity which largely prevents capital from flowing into any industry. As to the opposition to the ratification of this Convention which is being made by the jam makers, I am rather ashamed of them myself, because the leading jam makers have always told me that they would be delighted to see the Bounties abolished. But they have recently given their sanction to a pamphlet which has been written by a Mr. Perris, who has made estimates that the abolition of Bounties is going to cost this country seven millions per annum. And he appears to have based that on Sir Henry Norman's Minority Report, in which he recommended countervailing duties. Now this is the extract from Sir Henry Norman's report :—“ It must be admitted that if countervailing duties are levied, and have the desired effect, the people of the United Kingdom will have to pay more for their sugar than they do at present, perhaps to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound.” At the time he wrote that the price of sugar was so low that this Royal Commission was sent out to the West Indies, and because Sir Henry Norman mentioned that possibly sugar might be $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound more than they were paying at that time, the jam makers have saddled him with having made a deliberate estimate that the price of sugar is to be $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound more in the future than in the past. Thus they estimate that the abolition of Bounties is going to cost the country seven-and-a-half millions per annum more than it at present pays for Sugar. I do not think Sir Henry Norman's statement warrants anything of the sort.

The average price of beetroot sugar for the past ten years has been 10s. 9d. per cwt. There is not the slightest fear that on the average for the next ten years the price of sugar will be any higher than that. But I believe that Bounties are coming to an end next September. They will have to sow their next crop in April and May. They will sow that crop under the firm knowledge and belief that Bounties are coming to an end before that crop comes into the market. At the present moment these gentlemen are selling their crops readily at from 8s. 6d. to 8s. 7½d. for delivery next September, and that is something like 2s. below the price at which sugar was selling on the average while the Bounties existed. All these estimates about the abolition of the Bounties sending up the price to the extent of £4 10s. a ton are absolute rubbish. The kindest thing I can say about the jam makers is that they do not know their own business. They are acting directly contrary to their own interests by opposing the ratification of this Brussels Convention. The argument of Mr. Perris's second chapter is that directly you have Bounties abolished you will have such a tremendous competition going on all over the world in sugar that prices will go down and the West Indies will be ruined. In his third chapter he winds up that if only foreign Governments could be induced to abolish Bounties of their own free will, of course everybody would be delighted. That is exactly what has been done by the Brussels Convention. Many of you know that for many years past there has been a great desire evinced on the part of Canada to make some reciprocity arrangement with the West Indies. The chief commodities they were selling in the West Indies are produced in Canada as well as in the United States. As a matter of fact, the United States take our sugar, and, therefore, they get the back trade in fish, in lumber, and so on. Those are just the articles that Canada can produce, and Canada is exceedingly desirous to get more favoured terms with the West Indies. So long as the Bounties prevailed, and so long as we were shut out of the English Market by those Bounties, we were driven into the markets of the United States, and we dare not do anything which would for a moment imperil the United States market. As a matter of fact, the United States market has been, and is likely to be for the next two or three years, the salvation of the West Indies. Therefore, I think, that after the abolition of the Bounties things will be somewhat changed. We shall not be quite so helpless, for as well as the United States market in the future, we shall have the home market. But we shall not get that market immediately. The stocks that have accumulated in consequence of these Bounties are enormous, and it will be two or three years before the abolition of Bounties makes itself felt. But in the course of two or three years the condition of things, as between Canada and the British West Indies, will be very different. I think one of the effects of the abolition will be this, that it will open the door in the future to trade between Canada and the West Indies, which is likely to be of advantage to both of them. But I think it would be a great mistake to attempt to hurry that. In that way the abolition of Bounties is of Imperial importance. If England is not just to her small Colonies—I cannot help thinking that the feeling of the largest Colonies would be "what you have done unto the least of us you have done unto me." Therefore, I think, this abolition of Bounties really goes far beyond the mere question of the West Indies. I think that the West Indies are going to derive considerable benefit from the Imperial Agricultural Department. You all know that they have taken great interest in the seedling cane experiments. These seedling canes experiments were well on their legs before the Agricultural Department was started, and I think that whether the Agricultural Department had been started or not they would have gone on, and that whatever benefit we are deriving from them would still have been secured. And I am bound to say that we are deriving benefit, but not exactly in the way that the Press here seem to think was likely. What we have found is this—that we have got several canes that will on poor land give us far better crops than the Bourbon cane will do. We have also found that the seedling resists bad seasons better than the Bourbon cane does. With bad seasons and poor land the seedling canes are doing us very important service. Where I think the Agricultural Department is going to do immense good to the West Indies is in this way. I find they have been taking up an enormous number of subjects. To

my mind all that they have done is a very liberal education to the Creoles of the Colonies. I think the fact that gentlemen are now going about the West Indies, gentlemen who have been well taught by the Agricultural Department—going about amongst the people and getting them to take an interest in all these different matters is of the greatest importance. The Creole who will take an interest in the development of a fungus learns a lesson that will be of great value to him. It will be of immense importance in bringing about a larger amount of intelligence on the part of the Creoles of the West Indian Colonies, and with that intelligence, I think, must come a greater self respect. I have been distressed in going about the West Indies to see what very little care the Creoles take of their houses—to see the exceedingly slovenly houses belonging to men, very often, who could well afford to live in far better houses than they do. I think that with this increased intelligence will come better house accommodation, a greater pride in themselves, and that would be an immense improvement to the population. (Cheers.)

Sir Walter Sendall then rose and said:—"I have been asked to propose the health of Sir C. Boyle, our Chairman, who told you in his opening remarks that he had not prepared anything in the nature of a speech; and I can assure you that I certainly, on arriving here this evening, was not prepared with any speech, for it was not until I had taken my seat at the table that Mr. Aspinall requested me to undertake the duty which I have now the great pleasure to perform—that of proposing the health of our Chairman. Many of you here present perhaps know Sir Cavendish Boyle more intimately from some points of view than I do, but there is one way in which I think my own knowledge of him differs from that of any of you. For almost the whole period during which I was Governor of the Colony of British Guiana, Sir Cavendish was my Government Secretary, my chief adviser, my loyal supporter, and my friend. He ever worked zealously and untiringly for the welfare of the Colony, and his departure to assume the position he now occupies—that of Governor of the important Colony of Newfoundland—deprived me of the companionship and assistance of one who had for over 3 years worked cordially with me, and it is therefore with especial pleasure that I have responded this evening to the invitation to propose his health."

"Sir Cavendish, when proposing the toast of the Guest of the evening, Sir N. Lubbock, said: 'That the West Indies had been going through a period of probation.' I will go further than that and say that it has been a period of purgatory; but I feel confident, and I am sure, gentlemen, that you will all feel confident too, that, after listening to the admirable and important speech which we have heard from Sir N. Lubbock, there is just and reasonable expectation that the fortunes of the West Indian Colonies are likely to be brighter in the future than they have been for many years past. I may mention, in reference to Sir Cavendish, that since his connection with me in Demerara has been severed, he has presented himself to me at any rate in a new light. He has, since taking up the reins of his Government in Newfoundland, composed a national ode or hymn which, in sentiment, in style, and as a literary production will, I am convinced, be a treasured possession while Newfoundland remains a Colony. I will now ask you Gentlemen to join with me in cordially drinking the health of our Chairman of this evening—My friend Sir Cavendish Boyle." The toast was then drunk with enthusiasm.

In the course of the evening the following telegram was sent to Mr. Chamberlain at the House of Commons:—

"West Indian Club assembled at dinner to Sir Nevile Lubbock desire to express to you hearty good wishes for prosperous voyage to South Africa, and safe and speedy return.
—Cavendish Boyle, Chairman."

The following reply was subsequently received.

"Thanks for good wishes, hope that some time may visit West Indies also with their great possibilities in the future.—J. Chamberlain."

West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company.

The Report of the Directors of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Limited, for the half-year to June 30th, states that the amount to credit of revenue is £28,970, against £29,145 for the corresponding half-year of 1901. The expenses have been £22,399, against £21,277, leaving a balance of £6,571, to which is added £2,516 interest on investments and £4,079 brought from last account, making a total of £13,166, with which it is proposed to pay 6s. per share on account of arrears of dividend on the First Preference Shares, taking £10,368, leaving a balance to be carried to current half-year's account of £2,797. This will leave in arrear the dividend on the First Preference Shares for the six months, and two years' dividend to the same date on the Second Preference Shares. Owing to continued ill-health, Mr. Andrews has been compelled to resign the Chairmanship of the Board, and Mr. Kingsford has been elected in his stead. Reference is made to the damage done to the Cables by the volcanic disturbances. The repair of the Cable between St. Lucia and St. Vincent restored through communication to all stations except Martinique. This section was, however, interrupted two days afterwards off the Coast of St. Vincent, by renewed volcanic disturbances, and a part of the new length just laid in was picked up in a very mangled condition. Further repairing operations have, therefore, been suspended for the present off the coasts of St. Vincent and Martinique. The Directors are glad to report that through communication has again been restored by the repair of the St. Lucia-Grenada section. This was only effected under extremely difficult conditions, as the cable had to be grappled for and lifted from a depth of no less than two miles of water.

Cassava.

Having received numerous enquiries concerning the Cultivation of Cassava in the West Indies we addressed a letter on the subject to the Commissioner of Agriculture, and have received in reply the following details from Mr. John B. Bovell concerning its experimental growth.

As the result of an experiment conducted at the Botanic Station, Barbados, fifty holes of cassava, planted 12 feet by 6 feet, yielded 1,075 lb. of cassava, a return equivalent to 12,907 lb., or 5 tons 15·2 cwt. per acre. Five to six tons per acre is stated to be the average yield of cassava in Florida. It is interesting, however, to note that the Honourable T. H. Sharp, of Jamaica, states in the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph* for May 27th, 1902, that: "An ordinary crop of cassava produced on an acre of land in Jamaica is ten tons." A series of manurial experiments on cassava, conducted at the Florida Experiment Station, are summarized in the *Experiment Station Record*, Vol. xi., p. 334. The no manurial plot gave a yield of 7,420 lb., whilst a plot manured with 125 lb. acid phosphate, 150 lb. of cotton seed meal, and 37½ lb. of muriate of potash gave more than double this yield, namely, 15,080 lb. Cassava is at present grown only on a very small scale on estates, so that it is difficult to obtain any reliable data as to the cost of cultivation of it as a sole crop. The actual cost should not exceed that of sweet potatoes, and allowing for upkeep and management, taxes, &c., would probably be, under present conditions, about £3 per acre. For the reasons stated above cassava is not a regular article in the market. It is grown in native provision grounds, and on estates, mainly for home consumption. The present price for the small amount in the Barbados market is one dollar (\$1.00) per 100 lb., but it sometimes falls as low as forty cent. (\$0.40).

Trinidad Cane Farmers' Crop, 1902.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Edgar Tripp, we are enabled to give in the present circular the statistics of the Trinidad Cane Farmers' Crop of 1902, which were laid before a meeting of the Agricultural Society on November 11th. These returns are specially noticeable as showing the progress of the farming industry in proportion to that of the regular estate cultivation. It will be seen that cane farmers have supplied more than half the material of the sugar crop just ended. An

industry of this magnitude should and must command considerable attention. Its importance not only during the present crisis of cane cultivation, but as, perhaps, the main factor in the future prosperity of the Colony cannot be overlooked. It is therefore very much to be regretted that certain misunderstandings have lately occurred tending to weaken confidence in the industry and hinder its development. As a result, it is expected that the output next year will show a falling off of nearly 20 per cent.

| ESTATE. | Tons of Sugar made from Estate Canes, not weighed. | | Tons of Estate Canes Ground. | | Tons of Canes Purchased from Farmers. | | Amount Paid for Canes. | | NUMBER OF FARMERS. | |
|----------------------------|--|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | | | | East Indian. | West Indian. |
| Aranguéz ... | 333 | — | 1,166 | \$2,378 | 7 | 27 | | | | |
| Brechin Castle ... | 3,565 | — | 3,915 | 7,373 | 132 | 215 | | | | |
| Bronte ... | — | 15,882 | 11,217 | 21,447 | 350 | 202 | | | | |
| Caroni ... | — | 34,252 | 2,196 | 4,085 | 63 | 185 | | | | |
| Craignish ... | — | — | 5,602 | 9,968 | 164 | 179 | | | | |
| Colonial Co.'s Estates ... | — | 110,943 | 41,526 | 79,111 | 1,372 | 1,197 | | | | |
| Esperanza ... | — | 19,231 | 14,460 | 27,400 | 292 | 237 | | | | |
| Forres Park ... | — | 11,020 | 14,131 | 26,449 | 359 | 160 | | | | |
| Hindustani ... | — | 3,138 | 5,277 | 8,567 | 95 | 256 | | | | |
| Lothians ... | 481 | — | 6,020 | 11,315 | 176 | 221 | | | | |
| Mon Desir ... | — | 3,581 | 1,641 | 2,208 | 94 | 70 | | | | |
| Mon Plaisir ... | — | 9,546 | 2,662 | 5,025 | 83 | 128 | | | | |
| Orange Grove ... | — | 33,936 | 11,499 | 14,770 | 210 | 718 | | | | |
| Palmiste ... | — | 16,048 | 16,232 | 31,485 | 306 | 270 | | | | |
| Perseverance, Cedros ... | — | 7,638 | 4,720 | 5,425 | 79 | 87 | | | | |
| Reform ... | — | 4,662 | 14,708 | 26,220 | 298 | 304 | | | | |
| Tennants Estates ... | — | 43,513 | 17,516 | 30,495 | 356 | 290 | | | | |
| Woodford Lodge ... | — | 25,411 | 10,379 | 13,462 | 70 | 104 | | | | |
| | 4,379 | 337,911 | 184,867 | 327,183 | 4,506 | 4,850 | | | | |
| Returns for 1901 ... | 3,652 | 434,003 | 169,918 | 369,482 | 3,819 | 4,737 | | | | |
| „ „ 1900 ... | 1,286 | 364,355 | 105,996 | 227,865 | 2,826 | 3,591 | | | | |
| „ „ 1899 ... | 1,571 | 426,306 | 106,741 | 219,011 | 2,826 | 3,870 | | | | |
| „ „ 1898 ... | „ | „ | 105,753 | 202,901 | 2,326 | 3,824 | | | | |

Cases for Filing the West India Committee Circular.

Arrangements have been made for supplying Members with spring back cases for filing one year's issue of the West India Committee Circular, 2s. 6d. each, or post free, 3s. The cases are neatly covered in Maroon cloth, lettered in gold lettering "West India Committee Circular," and will, we hope, prove a convenience to Members. The cases will be posted immediately to Members upon receipt of a remittance of 3s. (stamps may be sent) addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, Billiter Square Buildings, London, E.C.

West Indian Affairs.

The West Indian Mails were delivered this week with unusual punctuality, the first delivery of correspondence being made at this office at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19th. The Royal Mail Steamer "Trent" anchored off Plymouth at 2.10 a.m. on that morning. It is noteworthy that this was the first voyage when the transhipment of intercolonial cargo and passengers was made at Trinidad. While the new arrangement appears to have given satisfaction in some quarters, in others it was not so generally approved. The Imperial Direct West Indian Service R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Jamaica reached Avonmouth on Friday, November 14th, 1902.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), November 4th. The weather after a long spell of fine showed signs of breaking.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), November 5th. Very acceptable rains had fallen for eight or ten days, and did not appear to be quite over. They had relieved St. Mary and Vere of the threatened drought.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), November 3rd. Owing to a misunderstanding on the part of the labourers in Nevis, as to the nature and extent of the aid to be given to the sugar industry, strikes had taken place on one or two estates. With regard to the weather it was to be regretted that they did not get more rain in October to improve the canes. October and November rain helped to make a good crop. The crops were ripening up, and operations would soon be going on.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), November 4th. The weather had favoured some localities, whilst others were still in much need of rain, and taking the Island as a whole, the promise for the crop for 1903 was not anything like as good as that for 1902, at the same period last year. The new and temporary arrangement for the transfer of the Mails at Trinidad was not appreciated, as letters were now received in Antigua twenty-four hours later than before, while letters had to be posted twenty-four hours earlier.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), November 8th. The weather continued deplorably dry, so that the next would prove a deplorably short crop next year was beyond doubt. In some parts of the Island a few showers had fallen during the fortnight, but not over a very large area, and these only served to keep the canes green. On one estate the problem of feeding the stock had presented itself for solution.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), November 5th. They had had another dry fortnight with a very light shower now and then. Good showers were wanted for young cultivation as well as to help on spring and canes just cut. The sugar market was quiet. After reaching \$1.90, the price dropped again to about \$1.85 and \$1.87. With the cable again interrupted, business was hampered considerably, and buyers were holding off somewhat.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), November 5th. The weather was all that could be desired, and arrowroot-making had begun on several estates; the Soufrière still continued slightly active. In another column will be found the official report of the recent eruption.

Trinidad.—(Edgar Tripp, Esq.), November 12th.—He regretted very much that he omitted last mail to refer to the general feeling of sorrow with which the news of the death of Lady Jerningham was received in Trinidad. No hostess at Government House ever dispensed more graceful hospitality: no lady ever endeared herself more by true womanly qualities to all classes of the community. Her name, her goodness and her charity would long be held in grateful and affectionate memory; and Sir Hubert in his affliction might be assured that the best sympathy of Trinidad was with him.

Owing to the difficulties occasioned by the presence of small-pox at Barbados, Trinidad now had the opportunity of her long asserted claim to be the most suitable station for the head-quarters of the Royal Mail Steamers. All the transshipment into the Inter-Colonial Steamers was now done at Trinidad, instead of at Bridgetown. The "Atrato" was the first of the Ocean boats coming under the new arrangement. She arrived at Trinidad on the Monday at 6 a.m., instead of Tuesday as would otherwise happen, thus saving two days on the time table of the previous contract. Thanks to the excellence of the lighterage system, and to the customary smoothness of the Gulf, she had discharged 14,000 packages, representing 1,400 tons, which were either landed or transferred to the other steamers before 6 p.m., when she proceeded to Jamaica. Everything appeared to have been done without a hitch. The controversy over the Water Question still continued; but as both the new water and sewerage works would shortly be in operation, most people were coming to the conclusion that it would be better to wait results before proceeding to praise or condemn. Meanwhile the Insurance Companies in view, as they say of local representation, and of "the extensive works in progress for increasing the supply of water," had suspended for six months the increase of 25 per cent. on all risks in Port of Spain, which was improved in May last, such risks, however, to be subject to the *pro rata* condition of average which hitherto has not been enforced here. The Foundation Stone of the New Royal College at St. Clair was to be laid on 11th inst. by the Acting Governor, Sir G. C. Knollys. Trade with the Orinoco was entirely suspended, and with the Coast on the opposite side of the Gulf, greatly, by the continuance of the Revolution in Venezuela, all the steamers of the Orinoco Shipping Company having been laying up here for months fully laden with goods from Ciudad, Bolivar, and places above.

He regretted to record the death of Mr. W. Sanger Tucker, one of the oldest Colonists of Trinidad. He had retired for some years from business in which he was formerly most actively engaged. He was a man of untiring energy and as the founder of the Garden of the Tucker Valley Estates, his name would be perpetuated.

Port Royal, Jamaica.

A rumour having reached us on November 12th, to the effect that the abandonment of Port Royal, Jamaica, as a Naval Station was contemplated, we addressed an enquiry on the subject to the First Lord of the Admiralty. On the same day we received a courteous letter from the Earl of Selborne, informing us that the Admiralty were not aware of any intention to make any alteration in respect of the use of Jamaica as a Naval Station.

The St. Vincent Eruptions.

The following extracts from official despatches regarding the eruption of the Souffriere, which took place on the 15th and 16th of last month, were transmitted to the West India Committee by the Colonial Office on the 18th inst. On October 23rd, Sir R. B. Llewelyn, the Governor of the Windward Islands, wrote to Mr. Chamberlain:—

I have the honour to forward a despatch I have just received from the Administrator of St. Vincent, reporting the eruption which took place on the 15th and 16th inst.

I regret to observe that there has been a large increased area of land damaged by this last outburst, and the prospects are now much blacker than they were. Coarse, gritty sand or small stones seem to have fallen as far south as Argyle estate and in the Marriqua Valley, and I notice with deep regret that the peasants settled on the acquired estates of New Adelphi and Park Hill have had all their ground provisions, nearly ready for reaping, destroyed. It is a matter for serious consideration whether Georgetown, at present deserted, may not have to be abandoned, and, if another violent eruption takes place, and that time drifts to the west instead of to the east, as on the 13th inst., then Chateaubelair, down as far as Mr. McDonald's property at Wallilabo will be destroyed. The area of safety for dwellings and cultivation is gradually getting reduced, and, even if land is acquired at the south end of the island, and all the people crowded there, I do not know how they can exist, except in poverty and distress. I had no idea until the receipt this afternoon of Mr. Cameron's report that the damage done was so serious, and it is a matter for grave consideration, and one on which I am afraid I can give no decisive opinion, whether any part of the island can confidently be said to be without the range of danger from this terrible volcano. It is most distressing to have to write this of what was certainly a beautiful island six months ago, but I am afraid it must be faced. The south-eastern end of the island is badly off for water, and I am afraid if more people are crowded there they will not be able to exist.

The following is the extract from the despatch of Mr. Cameron, Administrator of St. Vincent, to Sir R. B. Llewelyn, dated October 21st:—

I have the honour to supplement my two telegrams of 16th instant, with the following brief account of the violent eruption of the Soufriere Mountain, which took place on the night of the 15th.

The first intimation of unusual activity occurred between 8 and 8.30, when a single explosion took place, and a very large and high column of steam and smoke ascended. This was, however, not repeated, and all soon became quiet again, the night being fine, with bright moon. Shortly after midnight I was roused by the low ominous growl, which has now become so distressingly familiar, and the usual lightning flashes, and on going out found that an eruption was in progress. This continued till daylight, and from the loudness of the rumbling and detonations, which was, I think, greater than on any previous occasion, and the enormous cloud of smoke that gathered on the east, it was evident that the eruption was a very serious one, and that the force of it was being felt mainly on the windward coast. Sand of a coarse gritty nature began to fall in Kingstown between half-past one and two, and continued till the morning, getting gradually lighter and finer.

I obtained information in the morning as soon as possible as to the condition on the leeward coast, and at Mesopotamia, and at once telegraphed the occurrence to your Excellency. The telephone communication with Georgetown being interrupted, I de-patched a constable from Mesopotamia to ascertain what might have happened there. Shortly after, however, I got communication through Mesopotamia with the Medical Officer's quarters at the "Cedars," and was relieved to learn from a Georgetown constable, who had come there on the way to town with a report from the Assistant Treasurer's clerk, that there had been no loss of life. He confirmed, however, the news from Mesopotamia, and my expectations as to the heavy fall of sand up the coast to Georgetown.

I arranged on Thursday with the Curator for himself and the Agricultural Instructor to proceed to windward and make an examination of the country and a report on the damage sustained. This report I now transmit. The condition of things it discloses is very distressing, and of most serious import in connection with the consideration of future probabilities and the action desirable.

I take this opportunity of bringing under your Excellency's special notice the prompt, efficient, and valuable services rendered by Mr. Powell on this occasion, as well as after the eruptions of September 3rd and May 7th last, in providing the Government with reliable information as to agricultural losses, to obtain which he has been unsparing of himself.

I have had to authorize Mr. Isaacs to give a supplementary dole to the refugees from Georgetown and the neighbouring villages, who have again been driven to quit their homes and are congregated at Colonarie and Sans Souci, and I can start further relief work on the by-roads mentioned by Mr. Powell. This, however, touches merely the fringe of the matter. The real question is what is to be done with the population whose dependence lies within the area affected by this malign volcano, an area which with each successive eruption becomes more and more of a Sahara. No term can be fixed to the activity of the mountain, and the people cannot go on like this indefinitely. It is pretty certain also that a general cry for relief will come in within the next fortnight or so from all villages to the north of Argyle. A deputation from Greggs has come in already. Even the Marriqua Valley is on this occasion devastated to some extent.

The report of the Curator of the Botanic Station and of the Agricultural Instructor, which was appended, gives a detailed account of the extent of damage done in the various districts inspected.

New Members.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday, November 13th, Mr. CHARLES MAULME, proposed by Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre, and seconded by Mr. R. Rutherford, was unanimously elected a Member of the West India Committee. The satisfactory increase in our Membership Roll continues, and we are glad to be able to record that the number of new Members elected during the current year exceeds that of last year. We again earnestly appeal to our friends to assist us by bringing forward new candidates for election, and so ensuring the continuance of the Fortnightly Circular, the postage of which, alone, is a considerable item of expenditure. The next election of Members will be held on the 27th instant.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," November 19th, 1902:—**DEMERARA.**—Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Cameron, Rev. Jas. Williams, Mr. D. W. A. McKinnon, Mr. John Perkins, Mr. H. Venning, Mrs. J. Rieck, Mr. R. Cooke. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. H. W. Weyranch. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. Townsend, Mr. Anto. F. de Freitas, Mr. Joaquim Ribeiro, Mr. Emille Bosella, Mr. Julian Bagur, Mr. R. A. Rakin, Mr. Gilbert Wilson. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. and Mrs. John S. Macdonald. **DOMINICA.**—Rev. Father Williams. **St. LUCIA.**—Mr. F. Earle.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," November 26th, 1902:—**DEMERARA.**—Mr. F. Gover, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. H. K. Greig. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. A. H. Long. **TRINIDAD.** Mr. and Mrs. R. Hamlyn, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sanger Tucker. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. J. Anderson. **GRENADA.**—Mr. D. Alexander, Hon. Macaulay Browne, C.M.G., Dr. H. Bishop.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIAN MAIL.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," November 14th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. R. B. Dods, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Greaves, Mr. K. Johnson, Mr. H. R. Kewley, Mr. C. Renwick, Mr. E. J. Williamson, Mr. P. J. Powell.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," November 22nd, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Miss Barne, Mrs. and Miss Bodkin, Mr. J. B. Capper, Mr. and Mrs. Caulfeild, Mrs. F. E. Court, Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Gossett, Miss Grange, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Griffith, Rev. and Mrs. J. Hunter, Major Lovebond, Mr. E. I. Neale, Miss Rowley, Mr. H. J. Spear, Mr. and Mrs. A. Walder, Mr. Pinnock, Mrs. F. O. Abraham, Mrs. Atthill, Miss Beardhall, Mr. and Mrs. Colquhoun, Mr. A. F. Facey, Mrs. and Miss Glanville, Mr. A. G. Grant, E. G. Horton, Mr. L. G. Harrison, Mrs. Kemp, Mr. J. W. Mather, Miss Musson, Mrs. R. E. Nunes, Rev. P. Williams, Mr. Simpson, Mr. S. Stedman, Mr. Haynes Walton.

Cacao Statistics in France. Oct. 31st.

| | Imports. Kilos. | Consumption. Kilos. | Exports. Kilos. | | Stocks Kilos. | |
|------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| 1902 | 36,883,200 | 13,572,100 | 14,627,600 | 15,888,500 | Havre | 10,337,100 |
| 1901 | 30,213,500 | 14,626,000 | 14,705,100 | 10,989,100 | Nantes | 1,604,300 |
| 1900 | 30,186,400 | 14,291,200 | 16,345,700 | 12,170,100 | Bordeaux | 1,490,500 |
| | | | | | Paris | 1,776,800 |
| | | | | | Div. Entrepôts | 679,800 |
| 1902 | ... | ... | 15,729,000 | 1897 | ... | 13,447 0 |
| 1901 | ... | ... | 14,864,000 | 1896 | ... | 13,008,000 |
| 1900 | ... | ... | 14,505,000 | 1895 | ... | 12,666,000 |
| 1899 | ... | ... | 14,484,000 | 1894 | ... | 12,336,000 |
| 1898 | ... | ... | 14,539,000 | 1893 | ... | 12,037,000 |

DUTIES ON IMPORTS.

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Tons. | Cocoa. lbs. | Coffee. lbs. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoanuts. | Molasses. Puns. | Gold. Ozs. | Diamonds. Carats. |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| BRITISH GUIANA— | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1 to Nov. 4, 1902 | 79,799 | 97,533 | — | 21,557 | 3,360 | 1,215 | 82,959 | 10,615 |
| " " 6, 1901 | 51,004 | 78,456 | — | 15,305 | 76,566 | 690 | 82,086 | 2,830 |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brls. | | | | | Puns. | Trcs. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1 to Nov. 6, 1902 | 449,548 | 27,234,850 | 39,840 | 1,259 | 10,338,025 | 3,314 | 141 | 236 |
| " " 6, 1901 | 471,107 | 19,309,290 | 20,800 | 1,605 | 9,145,686 | 3,481 | 158 | 566 |
| | | | | | | | | Asphalt. Tons. |
| | | | | | | | | 140,390 |
| | | | | | | | | 153,015 |

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom, 15th November..... | 116,960 | 77,335 | 45,339 | 41,715 | 76,127 |
| France, 1st November | 452,474 | 338,480 | 323,032 | 381,866 | 265,010 |
| Germany, 1st November | 632,000 | 641,692 | 487,888 | 404,687 | 441,498 |
| Hamburg, 20th November | 165,440 | 98,030 | 52,500 | 104,300 | 96,700 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st November | 320,000 | 331,782 | 287,798 | 229,183 | 304,759 |
| Holland, 1st November..... | 52,130 | 30,366 | 16,982 | 11,034 | 18,000 |
| Belgium, 1st November | 92,289 | 38,919 | 10,068 | 25,981 | 56,582 |
| United States, 19th November, Total Stocks | 1,837,293 | 1,556,604 | 1,223,607 | 1,198,766 | 1,258,675 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 11th November, Total Stocks | 183,000 | 163,154 | 74,917 | 192,242 | 108,103 |
| Cargoes afloat, 6th November | 77,000 | 42,914 | 1,522 | 12,175 | 22,900 |
| | 75,103 | 16,828 | 48,935 | 111,785 | 82,522 |
| Total..... | 2,172,396 | 1,779,500 | 1,348,981 | 1,514,968 | 1,472,200 |

Weather Telegrams.

ANTIGUA.—(Messrs. Boddington & Co.), November 17th. "Two to four inches of rain have fallen." **BARBADOS.**—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), November 19th. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island with appearances of more."

Algernon E. Aspinnall,

Secretary.

Arrangements have been made for the supply to Members of Spring-Back Cases, 2/6 each, for filing the West India Committee Circulars, see announcement page 7.

West India Committee.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, December 8th, 1902.

The Death Knell of the Bounties.

A representative gathering of our West Indian friends was present in the House of Commons on Monday, November 24th, to hear what we may fairly consider the death knell of the Foreign Sugar Bounties. The confidence which we expressed in our last Circular as to the issue of the debate in progress as we went to press was not misplaced, for Mr. Gerald Balfour's resolution, approving the policy of the Brussels Convention, and pledging the House to adopt the necessary measures to carry it out was agreed to without a division, Sir William Harcourt's negativing amendment being defeated by a majority of 87 (for 126, against 213). The arguments of the opposition were based on the fallacy— attractive enough, no doubt, to the man in the street—that consumers will have to pay £7,000,000 or £8,000,000 a year more for the sugar. Mr. Chamberlain in his incisive and statesmanlike speech flouted in no unmeasured terms this preposterous idea. If, he said, the right hon. member for West Monmouth (Sir William Harcourt), and other hon. members, had really studied the question, they would have refrained from such an argument, that the cost to the country would be the amount of the bounty, which they put at a *maximum* of £5, multiplied by the total importation of sugar into this country.

"That really is perfectly ludicrous. Anybody who knows the true facts of the case knows that, whatever may be the amount of the bounty, the advantage to the consumer is very much less. A large part of the bounty goes to countervail the natural advantages of the country against which the bounty is directed, and as to the rest, it is divided between the consumer on the one part and the producer on the other. He takes as much as he can and gives to the consumer the least possible amount which is necessary in order to secure the market. . . . It is perfectly clear to any one who knows the course of trade, to any one who has been in business, that of the bounty on any article whatever which is given by a foreign country it is only a small proportion that finds its way into the consumers' pocket. (Hear, hear.) It is not these seven or eight millions which are talked of with so much readiness that we have to deal with. It is only the very small proportion that falls into the pockets of the consumers. But if the bounty were abolished I am not certain that there would be even that small disadvantage. If there were, it would be compensated for by the regularity of prices, which is a more important thing in business even than the prices themselves, and it would also be compensated for by the natural extension of trade. It is said that if the price of sugar is not raised the West Indies will not benefit. In any case they will benefit, in the first place, by getting rid of the sense of injustice which presses upon them, in the second place they will get rid of the irregularity in their trade, and, in the third place, by the restoration of their credit, without which it is absolutely impossible for them to provide the new machinery, and to secure the results which they ought to secure from the scientific prosecution of their industry. (Hear, hear.) I will say no more upon the financial, pecuniary, or pocket question. In my opinion the sacrifice which we shall be called upon to make is a very small and trifling one. But even if it were considerable, then, on moral grounds, I for one say that we are still bound in honour and duty to make it."

No one who knows anything about the cost of production of beet and cane sugars in the world believes that the price of sugar will be any higher in the next than it was in the last ten years, in fact, there are few who think that it will be as high. It is obvious to those who have considered the question that unless bounties were put an end to, Germany and Austria would, in view of their Cartel system, crush out all competition, and would in about two years be the only sugar exporting countries on which we have to depend for our sugar. All other sugar producing countries would have gone under, including the West Indies. On the basis of the prices which have prevailed for the past 16 years, the West Indies will in future be able to manufacture sugar at a profit, inasmuch as the cost of production is already lower than it was 10 years ago, and with confidence in the industry restored, capital will flow to the West

Arrangements have been made for the supply to Members of Spring-Back Cases, 2/6 each, for filing the West India Committee Circulars, see announcement page 10.

Indies, which, alas, have so long stunk in the nostrils of the capitalists, owing to the blighting hand of the bounties, crops will be increased, and methods of manufacture improved. We may fairly congratulate ourselves and our friends upon the successful issue of the fight which has been maintained by the West India Committee against unfair foreign competition unceasingly for over 25 years.

Questions in the House of Commons.

During the past fortnight many questions have been asked in the House of Commons obviously with a view to hamper the Government, and jeopardize the result of the Brussels Convention. So far, however, the Government have by their replies been able to strengthen their position rather than otherwise. It is satisfactory to see that the Government hold that neither countervailing duties, nor prohibition of bounty-fed sugar are a violation of the most favoured nation treatment, and in this connection it will be recalled that when the United States imposed countervailing duties in 1897, Russia threatened much, but nothing came of their threats. This happened again when the Indian Government similarly countervailed bounty-fed sugar. On Saturday last, on the formal motion of adjournment until Monday, Mr. Bowles endeavoured to re-open the question of the sugar Convention, and was supported by Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, but met with a sharp rebuke from the Prime Minister.

Thanks to our Loyal Supporters.

Presiding at the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, November 27th, Mr. Henry K. Davson, Deputy-Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—I think we may congratulate ourselves on the altered circumstances under which we meet to-day. For the last twenty-five years, and especially for the last two years, we have met under a cloudy sky, and under a feeling of depression not knowing what a day might bring forth in consequence of the competition fostered by Foreign Bounties. To-day, on account of the Resolution passed by the House of Commons on Monday, we meet under happier circumstances. The air has cleared and we may now look forward, with some degree of certainty, to the ultimate prosperity of the West Indies. For this change and with his speech on Monday night still ringing in our ears, we realise the deep debt of gratitude we owe to the Colonial Secretary for the bold and statesmanlike manner in which he has championed our cause. I do not propose at the present moment to move a Vote of thanks to Mr. Chamberlain as that will be done in a more public manner later on. As regards our Chairman, too much cannot be said of the services he has rendered to the West Indies by his indefatigable zeal, and by the dogged perseverance with which he has stuck to his guns, under what sometimes seemed to some of us to be a hopeless struggle. We are always sorry when Sir Nevile Lubbock is absent from any of our fortnightly meetings, but it is well that he happens to be so to-day, for he could not have moved from the Chair the resolution that I have now the pleasure of submitting to you, and which I feel will be most cordially responded to. There are others to whom our thanks are due, namely, that portion of the Press which has so stoutly advocated our cause, but this can be better done on a later occasion. I now beg to move that in view of the satisfactory issue of the debate on Monday, November 24th, when Mr. Gerald Balfour's motion approving the Brussels Convention, and pledging the House to adopt the necessary measures to enable His Majesty to carry out its provisions was adopted by the House of Commons,

(1) The cordial thanks of the West India Committee be conveyed by Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., and Mr. George Martineau, C.B., to Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Colonel Denny, M.P., Mr. A. Wylie, M.P., Mr. C. McArthur, M.P., Mr. David McIver, M.P., and Mr. James Reid, M.P., and Mr. Mayson M. Beeton, the Secretary of the Anti-Bounty League, for their valued services to the cause of the stricken West Indies.

(2) The West India Committee being desirous of marking their appreciation of the services of Sir Nevile Lubbock, the following gentlemen be appointed a sub-Committee to recommend to the Executive Committee how this may best be done, viz.—Mr. Henry K. Davson, Mr. R. Rutherford and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The resolutions were put to the meeting and carried with enthusiasm.

The despatch of the following telegram to the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., on board H.M.S. "Good Hope," at Portsmouth was then confirmed.

"God bless you for what you have done for the West Indies. We wish you and Mrs. Chamberlain a prosperous voyage and happy return. Nevile Lubbock, Chairman, West India Committee. *November 25th, 1902.*

West India Section Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.

At a meeting of the Committee of the above Section, on Monday 24th inst., Mr. J. E. Tinne presiding, a letter was read from the Postmaster General regarding the late arrival of the R.M.S. "Orinoco" on November 7th, of which the Section had complained. After pointing out that the Steamer had experienced exceptionally severe weather, he said that he was in communication with the Company on the question, whether other causes contributed to the delay, and were or were not beyond the Company's control. With regard to reports of the withdrawal of certain R.M. Steamers, the Postmaster-General had reason to believe that the "La Plata" had been permanently withdrawn from the West India Line, but the Company had not announced to him their intention of withdrawing the "Orinoco" or the "Para." Mr. G. R. MacKenzie was unanimously elected a Member of the Section. The following telegram was despatched to Mr. Chamberlain: "Chairman, Mr. Ernest Tinne, and Committee of West India Section of Chamber, wish you pleasant voyage to South Africa and safe return; also a successful issue against bounties in to-night's debate."

New Members.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee, held on November 27th, the following new Members were elected:—

| Name. | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hon. W. P. LEACOCK (Barbados). | T. W. Wilkinson, Esq. | W. O. Collymore, Esq. |
| Messrs. COLLYMORE & WRIGHT " | T. W. Wilkinson, Esq. | W. O. Collymore, Esq. |
| Messrs. JONES & SWAN " | R. Rutherford, Esq. | Henry K. Davson, Esq. |
| Messrs. A. E. OUTERBRIDGE & Co. | Henry K. Davson, Esq. | W. Gillespie, Esq. |
| (QUEBEC STEAMSHIP COMPANY). | | |
| DEMERARA RAILWAY COMPANY— | | |
| R. A. ROBERTSON, Esq. | } M. Garnett, Esq. | E. G. Barr, Esq. |
| Sir EDWARD WINGFIELD, K.C.B. | | |
| Col. B. H. MARTINDALE, C.B. | | |
| E. BRUCE READ, Esq. | | |
| H. MARTIN SELLS, Esq. | | |

For the convenience of Members we are enclosing with the current Circular, order forms for the payment of subscriptions through Bankers and Agents. It is hoped that Members will not confine themselves to the minimum subscription, but will by their generous support help to keep the West India Committee in a state of efficiency, and ensure the maintenance of the publication of a fortnightly Circular. The next election of Members will be on Thursday, December 11th.

Arrangements have been made for the supply to Members of Spring-Back Cases, 2/6 each, for filing the West India Committee Circulars, see announcement page 10.

The New Colonial Company, Limited.

The report and statement of accounts of the Directors of the New Colonial Company, Ltd., were adopted at the Sixth Ordinary General Meeting, on November 27th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.M.G., presiding. The accounts show an available balance of £16,928 1s. od., after payment of Interest on Debenture Stock, and including the amount brought forward from last year. In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Directors have declared the fixed Dividend of 5 per cent., payable on the 3rd December, 1902, for the year ending 30th June, 1902, on the Preference Shares of the Company, which will absorb £11,718 10s. od., and leave £5,209 11s. od. to be carried forward to the next account. The Improvements Expenditure applicable to the year is £26,846 17s. 10d., of which the sum of £6,000 was provided on the formation of the Company, £15,000 is met by the Improvements Reserve Account provided out of the profits of previous years, and the balance of £5,846 17s. 10d. has, having regard to the large additional value resulting from the Improvements, been charged to the Capital Accounts of the Estates. The Expenditure upon Machinery and opening up New Land, and for largely increasing the Crop of Albion Estate, Berbice, from which the Accounts of the present year have received no benefit, is carried forward to be dealt with next year. An amount of £4,972 spent upon new Plant and Machinery to deal with the increasing Crops at the Canovanas Factory, Puerto Rico, has been added to the amount at which the Mortgage Account stands in the Company's books. In moving the adoption of the Report, Sir Nevile Lubbock commented upon the Bounty question:—

“ You will probably like me to say a few words now about the Brussels Sugar Conference. When we met last year I was able to announce to you that it was reported in the West India Committee Circular as probable that the Conference was likely to meet. Nothing was then known officially, but I venture to express to you my opinion that the news was probably correct, and I ventured to go a little further, and do what is not always a very wise thing—to express my opinion that the Brussels Conference was likely to result in a Convention. I am very glad to be able to tell you that the Conference has resulted in a Convention. When we first went there naturally it was a great question as to what the attitude of Germany and Austria would be. However, after a time Germany showed very clearly that she did not approve of her consumers being mulcted to the extent that was going on by means of the cartel in order to enable producers to export sugar a little cheaper. Germany, therefore, agreed, and subsequently Austria agreed. France and Holland were exceedingly anxious to see the bounties abolished, and they agreed that they ought to do what they could to help in that abolition. The part that our Government was called upon to play was practically to be the stakeholder. They were asked to agree to a penal clause under which any country who committed a breach of faith in regard to this Convention would be penalised. Without England coming in and agreeing to that there would have been no penalty whatever for any breach of the Convention. England, therefore, I think very properly, agreed to do what was wanted. A great deal has been said about this penal clause and our imposing countervailing duties, but the fact that any country which commits a breach of the Convention will be penalised, ought to be quite sufficient to prevent any breach, and that has given the confidence to each one of the Powers to trust in one another that they would never have had without such a security.

“ In dealing with the question of the sugar bounties, you must always remember that the state of the market during the last eighteen months has been entirely different from what it has ever been before. Up to about eighteen months ago the European bounties practically amounted to about 25s. per ton. No doubt the bounty in France was considerably higher, but the largest exporting countries, Germany and Austria, only gave a bounty of 25s. per ton. During the last two years they set to work this cartel system, which I may explain to you very shortly is that by combination and by means of very heavy protective duties they can keep the price of sugar at any internal market considerably higher than it is outside, and that gives them such a large profit that it enables them to send their sugar out below cost. That was the state of things when the Conference met. I am glad to be able to tell you that not only was the Convention agreed to at Brussels, but it has also passed our House of Commons. The House of Commons on Monday last, pledged itself to enact the legislation necessary to enable England to carry out her part of the Convention, and there is no reason to suppose that the House of Commons will not fulfil its promises this year. Now, perhaps, you would like me to say one or two words as to what I think is likely to be the effect of this abolition of bounties upon your interests. I may tell you, in the first place, that the average price of beetroot sugar for the last ten years up to this year has been [from 10s. 3d. to 10s. 9d. per cwt., and I have not the least expectation that in the next ten years we shall see the price of the sugar any higher than that. I think if you go and consult the leading gentlemen in Mincing Lane—and I see two of them here—they will not go so far as that. I think the prevailing impression in Mincing Lane is that the average price for beet in future is likely to be nearer

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9s. than 10s. I do not agree with that, because I think that the largely increasing consumption of the world will require sugar to be rather more profitable, to induce people to go into new factories; but if we assume that the price of sugar is going to be practically what it has been for the last ten years we will see how very ridiculous has been the cry which has been put forth that it is going to cost the country from £7,000,000 to £8,000,000 sterling.

Now, I want to answer a question that was asked by Sir William Harcourt in the House, and which sounds such a very plausible one. He said, "You cannot get out of this dilemma. If prices go up the consumers will pay more for their sugar; if prices do not go up it will be of no advantage to the West Indies." That is exceedingly plausible. My answer to that is very simple indeed, and it is this: If things were left alone, within two years the West Indies would be wiped out. Then prices would go up enormously, but that would be of no advantage to the West Indies—we should be dead. None of the cane countries can compete against cartels. Therefore, if things had been allowed to go on, within two years this country would have been absolutely dependent upon Austria and Germany alone for the whole of their enormous supply. We would have been immediately landed in a monopoly. Austria and Germany would have at once put their heads together; in fact, they had been negotiating with that object before the Conference, and there is not the slightest doubt that they would have made a monopoly of it, and our consumers would have had to pay exactly any price they asked. That is not a mere fanciful thing. Even within the last twelve months that has been very nearly carried out. If you read Mr. C. Czarnikow's circular you will see he states that within the last three months we have been absolutely dependent upon Germany and Austria. Therefore we were within sight of that happening. It is a thing that would readily have happened, and I am surprised that the jam makers say that it would be to their advantage that that should happen. I cannot myself think that the jam makers understand the question or know exactly what they are about; but whether they understand it or not, I should like to say this—that I think nothing can justify the malicious statements which they have been putting about broadcast in regard to this question."

The West Indian Club.

Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., occupied the chair at the Club Dinner organised by Dr. G. B. Mason, L.R.C.P., on November 26th. Among those present were the Earl of Stamford, Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Sir Anthony Thornhill, Bart., Colonel Sir John Roper Parkington, The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. A. A. Pearson, C.M.G., Hon. D. Macdonald, Colonel Nourse, Colonel Collings, Mr. C. Cary Elwes, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Mr. Innis Bowen, Mr. Horace Deighton, Mr. L. Jones, Mr. W. Monnington, Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. J. P. Rees, Mr. J. W. Watson, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. W. Phillips, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club. The arrangements for the next Dinner to be held on Wednesday, December 10th, at 7.30, have been undertaken by Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. W. C. L. Dyett, and Mr. R. Schult.

Coolie Immigration.

The following reply has been received to our letter of October 7th, the text of which will be found in Circular 82, page 3, to the Secretary of State for India on the above subject:

Sir,

19th November, 1902.

I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to inform you that a copy of your letter of the 7th ultimo, on the subject of emigration from India to British Guiana and the British West Indies will be forwarded for the consideration of the Government of India.

With reference to the letter from the West India Committee to Lord Curzon, dated 28th November, 1898, a copy of which has been furnished by you, the Committee are no doubt aware that since the date of that letter the important question of the return passages of immigrants has been carefully considered by the Government of India, and the conclusion at which they have arrived is that the discontinuance of the grant of an assisted return passage would be of little benefit to the Colonies, as it would materially discourage emigration, if it did not put a stop to it altogether.

I am to enclose an extract from a letter from the Government of India, dated the 30th March, 1899, in which this opinion,—which is entirely concurred in by the Secretary of State for India—is more fully expressed.

I am, etc.,

HORACE WALPOLE.

The Secretary,
West India Committee,

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**Copy Extract Despatch from the Government of India, Revenue Emigration, No. 26,
dated 30th March, 1899.**

2. As regards the proposal of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the grant of an assisted return passage should be discontinued, we consider that that course would be of little benefit to the Colonies as it would materially discourage emigration, if it did not put a stop to it altogether. If the privilege were withdrawn, and if Magistrates throughout the country were to inform, as would be incumbent on them, every intending emigrant coming before them for contract that he would have to pay his way and that of his children back to India on completion of his engagement, and that each passage would cost R.100 and upwards, in the opinion of one of the most experienced of the Government Emigration Agents, no labourers for the West Indies would be forthcoming at all.

3. From the point of view of the Colonies, we think these considerations are conclusive. If the Colonies desire to obtain labour from India at rates of wage which leave no great margin for saving, they must be prepared to satisfy the natural expectation of the Indian labourer of returning to his own country on completion of his engagement.

4. From our point of view, we are convinced that the abolition or further curtailment of the return passage privilege would remove the most effective guarantee we have that the emigrant will continue to be well treated. The better he is treated, the less likely is he to claim his return passage. If the privilege were surrendered, it would no longer be incumbent on the West Indian Colonies to provide a special service of ships from the West Indies direct to India, and those emigrants who wished, and had the means, to revisit India would probably have to return by an expensive route *via* Europe.

The Committee and the Rum Trade.

The following letter, dated November 20th, has been received from the leading Rum Dealers. The previous correspondence will be found in Circular 83, page 2. "Your letter of the 5th November, was placed before a meeting of the Rum Dealers, held 17th November, and was carefully considered. In reply, we beg to remind you that we do not expect you to bear the whole of the extra charges for dock rent, but as we cannot approach the Dock Company with so much power as the Importers of Rum, we requested you to take notice of our wish for an alteration in the terms on which Rum is landed, in order that you might endeavour to make arrangements with the Dock Company. The cost in Albert Docks, Liverpool, to hold a puncheon of Rum, including landing and 52 weeks' free rent, is 7s. 6d. per pun., or less than 1d. per liquid gallon, whereas in the West India Docks, London, the charge is 10s. per 100 gallons— not per pun.,—for 16 weeks' rent, landing and delivery. Four weeks' out of the 16 weeks free rent are usually required by the Dock Company before samples are available.

The cost in London, at present, for holding a puncheon a year, is about 2½d. per liquid gallon, against the Albert Docks, Liverpool, rate of less than 1d. This certainly wants revision in the interests of the Port of London, as well of the Importers and Dealers, and we request that you will kindly take such steps with the London and India Dock Company, that the Consolidated Rate will include 52 weeks' free rent. By this means the Rum trade in London will be improved, and Importers will more readily dispose of the article on arrival, whereas on the existing terms, notwithstanding the low prices ruling for Rum at present, many shipments remain unsold, mainly owing to the risk of incurring the charge for Dock rent. With regard to the average life of the average puncheon of Rum in the Docks, we are unanimously of opinion that it is longer than the 16 weeks mentioned by you. Presuming the period to be say six months, this would then involve a risk for the Dock Company of only a further two months rent—2s. 6d. per puncheon. It is with the view of keeping the trade in London and preventing it from migrating to other ports that we urge upon you the necessity of procuring for us the 52 weeks' free rent, and we therefore beg that you will use every effort with the Dock Company to bring about so desirable a concession."

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The Jamaica Mails—A Small Concession.

In response to our request for increased facilities for posting the Jamaica Mails, the Postmaster General has granted a small concession in fixing 9 a.m. instead of 8.30 a.m., as the time up to which correspondence for Jamaica, bearing a late fee of 1d. in addition to the proper postage, can be posted at the General Post Office St. Martin's-le-Grand, on the day of the departure of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Steamer. This is not much, but it will, it is hoped, lead to further concessions, for which we shall continue to press. The following is the correspondence:—

West India Committee to Postmaster-General.

Sir,

We have the honour respectfully to request that you will be pleased to approve of increased facilities being granted for posting letters in London for conveyance to Jamaica by the Steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service:

2. It appears that at present the latest hours for posting correspondence by Direct Jamaica Mail are as follows—

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| At the General Post Office, E.C. | 8.15 a.m. and with late fee 8.30 a.m. Saturday morning |
| „ Lombard Street | 7.45 a.m. |
| „ Gracechurch Street | 7.30 a.m. |
| „ Mark Lane | 7.30 a.m. |

and at other branch offices 8 p.m. Friday to 3 a.m. Saturday.

3. We understand that in the case of the General West Indian Mails carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company a box is open on the platform at Waterloo Station, in which letters may be posted up to 11.15 a.m., or twenty minutes before the departure of the Mail train for Southampton at 11.35.

4. We would venture respectfully to suggest that similar facilities might be granted at Paddington Station, and that a late-fee Box may be placed on the platform on the alternate Saturday for clearance immediately before the departure of the Mail train at 10.40 a.m., or on some Saturdays at 3 p.m.

5. We need not point out to you, Sir, how greatly this boon would be appreciated by the Jamaica Merchants, especially at the present time when every effort is being made to stimulate the trade of the Colony, and we trust, therefore, that you will see your way to accede to our request.

We have, &c.,

N. LUBBOCK,

Chairman.

ALGERNON F. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

Postmaster-General to West India Committee.

26th November, 1902.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 10th of this month, respecting the posting in London of correspondence for Jamaica, to be conveyed by the direct steamers leaving Avonmouth on alternate Saturdays, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the West India Committee, that, with the view of meeting the convenience of firms in the City having commercial relations with Jamaica, the Postmaster-General has now fixed at 9 a.m., instead of 8.30 a.m., the time up to which correspondence for Jamaica, bearing a late fee of 1d., in addition to the proper postage, can be posted at the General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, on the day on which the mail leaves.

The Postmaster-General regrets that he cannot give any further concession in this direction, and, in particular, that it is not practicable, in present circumstances, to arrange for a late fee box for Jamaica letters to be placed on the railway platform at Paddington Station.

I am, &c.,

H. BUXTON FORMAN.

West Indian Affairs.

When the Mail left, weather and crop conditions in British Guiana and the West Indies were more satisfactory than they had been. The Royal Mail Steamer "Atrato" arrived at Plymouth, at 2 a.m., on Thursday, December 4th, and letters were delivered at 2.45 p.m. on the same day. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Jamaica, reached Avonmouth on Thursday, November 27th.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), November 18th. The King's birthday was kept as Arbor Day, and a number of trees were planted on either side of the road in the Victoria Gardens, the name of the planter being attached to each tree. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Edeline Strickland, gave a ball at Government House, and at noon a royal salute was fired by the Police in the Gardens. During the month they had good rains, varying from 8 to 4 inches, which had done much good to the 1903 crop, though retarding cultivation. The new Governor had not yet convened a meeting of the Legislative Council, but would do so shortly for the purpose of passing the estimates for 1903-4. It was believed that his policy will be one of general retrenchment.

Barbados.—(T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.), November 22nd. The number of cases of small-pox was gradually decreasing and several days had passed without a fresh case being reported, the latest return being as follows:—Fresh cases since November 7th, 38 (48 less than in previous fortnight); deaths 9; discharges 195; still under treatment, 238.

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Nearly a thousand people were being vaccinated every day, the total number so treated was 77,562. On November 15th, a cane fire occurred at Wildy Estate. 127 holes of canes were destroyed. During the fortnight there had been nice rains generally throughout the Island, but more were still required, and the appearance of the weather seemed to indicate a continuance of showers at any rate. £101,494 had been advanced to date, under the Plantations in Aid Act.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), November 19th. The "Moy," the third and last Coolie ship of the season arrived on the 16th, with 375 adults. Sales of refining crystals had been made during the fortnight at \$185 and \$187½. On the day of writing there was a better feeling and \$191½ had been obtained. The weather during the fortnight had been favourable. Light showers had been general, and they had had a beneficial effect on young cultivation, besides helping on the work of replanting. More would do good, but heavy rain was not wanted, as it would impede the sugar-making which was in full swing. The Governor was far from well, and had by no means recovered from the effects of his late serious illness. Arrangements were being made for the exhibition in London of the nugget of gold, weighing 28 lbs., recently found at Barima. 3,999 diamonds, weighing 138½ carats were entered at the office of the Department of Mines on November 11th.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), November 18th. The fortnight had been a wet one. A small social club had been started in Roseau with the usual billiard and reading rooms. The Cacao crop all over the Island was a very good one, all the pods ripening together. The quantity of produce moving seemed to be on the increase. Two extra R.M. Cargo boats had to visit the Island to carry off the cargo besides the last Scrutton boat which took away 400 tons.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), November 18th. It was feared that the regular seasons had been lost. Rain had fallen, but not in sufficient quantity, and had not covered the usual area. Cereals were likely to suffer to some extent, and the sugar yield for next season would consequently be reduced. There still remained 25,000 bags of Pimento in Jamaica. Trade was not particularly busy, but a brighter feeling ruled among importers and retailers. A meeting of the Westmoreland Sugar Planters' Association was held on November 15th, and the following officers were appointed:—Hon. C. B. Vickers, President; Messrs. C. S. Farquharson, John Hudson, and Samuel Morris, Vice-Presidents; Messrs. W. H. Farquharson, Vickers, Wooliscroft, J. C. Nolan, Greg, Clarke, Burgess, and Charley, the Committee. Mr. J. W. Toone was elected Secretary. The Direct West India Cable Company with the co-operation of the Jamaica Merchants had arranged to send daily cabled despatches to as many centres in England as funds would permit, as to the weather and temperature of Jamaica and particulars of local entertainments, hotel developments, etc., a praiseworthy scheme calculated to enhance materially the prospects of the tourist traffic.

Montserrat.—At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on November 13th, Mr. C. Watson was appointed Honorary Correspondent of the West India Committee for the Island of Montserrat.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), November 17th. Our correspondent in a letter to the Press on November 11th, strongly urged upon planters and others the duty of joining the West India Committee, who had so prominently brought before the British Public and Imperial Government the grievances of the Colonies, and had been mainly instrumental in bringing the sugar bounty question to a satisfactory conclusion, and the granting of temporary financial aid from time to time. (Our cordial thanks are due to the Editors of the *St. Christopher Advertiser*, and to *St. Christopher Gazette* for the prominence and support given to Mr. Todd's letter. A.E.A.) Crops were rapidly ripening and reaping had commenced in some places. The weather was wild and blustering, but there had been good rains for which there was every reason to be thankful.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), November 19th. Captain Young, C.M.G., arrived by the last mail to investigate the system of administration of the relief funds for sufferers from the volcanic eruption, but no announcement had been made as to his arrangements. The weather had been exceedingly wet and boisterous, but no further volcanic disturbances had been experienced.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, Esq.), November 19th.—There was no foundation whatever for the rumours which recently gained ground in Barbados to the effect that small-pox had broken out in Trinidad. The weather had been showery, and therefore very favourable for the growing crops, the appearance of which was quite satisfactory. Planters did not expect to commence the reaping of Sugar until early in February. At the monthly meeting of the Agricultural Society, held on November 11th, the general cultivation Committee recommended the desirability of encouraging the re-establishment of cotton cultivation in the Colony, but before operations were commenced they thought it was desirable to ascertain the cost of growth and preparation and the best kind to be grown as well as the value of the product. The further consideration was adjourned pending the result of Mr. Hart's experimental plots at St. Clair. The Cocoa Crop

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would be a good one if the fine weather continued, though the almost continuous rains were causing anxiety on these estates where artificial driers were not in use. In the local market the quotation varied from \$12.50 to \$13.00 for good red ordinary qualities up to \$13.40 to \$13.50 for fair estate marks.

We received no letters from our Hon. Correspondents in Grenada, St. Lucia and Tobago. Contributions of items of interest concerning the West Indies for inclusion in the above columns are solicited from Members.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," December 4th, 1902:—**BARBADOS**,—Colonel Tolson, Miss L. Gubb. **DEMERARA**.—Dr. Oliver, Mr. J. P. Quinton, Mr. E. W. Foster, Mr. Frank Rouberol, Mr. Chas. de Lichtenberg, Mr. Abdul Wahea. **JAMAICA**.—Capt. T. Pearce, Mrs. W. Freear, Mrs. Schwann, Miss Muspratt, Jas. Robt. Trivett, Edwd. Robt. Hortnoll, Ernest E. Rawling. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. J. Bremaies, Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, Mr. Wm. I. Edwards, Mr. Herbert Sharp, Mr. F. Thomas, Dr. J. B. E. Joseph, Mr. Kernahan, Mr. J. C. Bankhead. **ST. LUCIA**.—Mr. Saml. Renshaw, Lieut-Col. J. R. M. Dalrymple-Hay, D.S.O., Mrs. Dalrymple-Hay.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," December 10th, 1902:—**BARBADOS**.—Mrs. E. T. Dickson, Miss Dickson, Mrs. T. B. Evelyn, Miss Manning, Mrs. Morris, Mr. J. Hinkson, Mrs. Emtage and family, Lt. T. Crean, Miss Vickers, Miss Shaw, Miss Rolls. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. J. Whitford, Miss Valladares, Mr. F. A. Angoy, Hon. A. H. Alexander, Dr. T. Murray, Dr. J. E. London, Mr. E. Sheafs, Dr. W. Coates, Mr. W. Othwalt. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. E. Greg, Mr. J. Greg, Mr. A. Thomson, Miss B. Chambers, Miss P. Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Spedding, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Philipps, Mr. and Mrs. Lyon, Capt. A. C. Russell, Mr. C. W. Bell, Mr. F. Roper, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Bond, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. C. Foley, Mrs. Verley. **TRINIDAD**.—Sister Raphael, Sister Stansilas, Rev. Father Cantwell, Mrs. Dix, Mr. E. E. Coryat, M. T. Thompson, Mr. R. Hendrichsen, Mr. F. A. Skeete, Rev. Fr. J. Smith, Mr. C. T. Bishop, R.N., Rev. Fr. G. Sutherland, Rev. Fr. C. Goldrich. **ANTIGUA**.—Mr. F. L. Humphrys, Hon. Mrs. J. F. Foote. **DOMINICA**.—Mr. G. W. Penrice, Mrs. Scully and ch., Miss Meads, Mr. and Mrs. W. Meads, Mr. S. Savill. **ST. LUCIA**.—Mr. G. Barnard. **GRENADA**.—Rev. S. Leather, Rev. C. Frawley, Mrs. A. J. Pegley. **ST. KITTS**.—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. J. Crofts. **TOBAGO**.—Mr. W. Archibald, Miss L. Archibald. **TOUR**.—Mr. and Mrs. Stables, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Harding, Miss Hirst, Mr. B. Lucey, Mr. J. Wallace, Mr. H. D. Pearsall, Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams and two ch., Mr. W. English, Mr. T. W. Ashworth, Mr. A. Lucy, Mrs. and Miss Millar.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," December 24th, 1902:—**BARBADOS**.—Mr. and Mrs. H. Deighton, Professor D. Albuquerque. **DEMERARA**.—Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Pearson. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. G. Verschuur, Mrs. and two Misses Rathbone, Miss Lamport, Mr. and Mrs. Lyon, Mr. M. Lyon, Mr. M. French, The Marquise de Torre Hermosa, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Weyranet, Hon. and Mrs. Marescaux. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Joyan, His Excellency Sir A. Moloney and Lady Moloney, Mr. H. Carvalho, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Lucy, and Mr. C. T. Spencer. **ANTIGUA**.—Mrs. Lewis. **TOUR**.—Mr. A. H. Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. Harwood, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Perkins. **GRENADA**.—Mrs. and Miss Tarring. **ST. LUCIA**.—Mrs. and Miss Hall.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," November 27th, 1902:—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. Chas. Cowlin, Mr. and Mrs. C. Reid Campbell, Hon. Dr. Johnstone, Mr. J. S. Pritchard, Mr. H. C. Quinn, Mr. R. Pritchard, Mr. C. B. Webber.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," December 6th, 1902:—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. W. Abbott, Mr. T. Anderson, Mrs. and Miss Bewley, Mr. H. Bone, Mrs. F. G. Collicott, Mr. J. A. Corea, Lieut. and Mrs. A. F. G. Fox, Mrs. R. Gibb, Mrs. F. E. Hopkins, Mr. O. Janzen, Mrs. E. F. Latreille, Rev. W. Lund, Mr. J. McKean, Mr. J. Milne, Mr. J. McMonies, Mrs. and Miss Nuttall, Mr. G. B. Pilliner, Mrs. H. F. Ronaldson, Mr. R. G. Thomas, Mr. J. Thompson, Mr. C. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Vega, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Walker, Capt. and Mrs. J. M. Young, Mr. J. Kranabitter, Mrs. L. Rowles, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Sykes, Mr. J. F. Taylor.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," December 20th, 1902:—**JAMAICA**.—Miss M. Andatn, Mr. E. Carpmcal, Mr. F. Cross, Mr. P. Fox, Miss B. L. Hopkins, Mr. J. W. Kincaid, Mr. Morison, Mr. and Mrs. Mouncey, Mr. and Miss Muddock, Mrs. and Miss Taplin, Mr. and Mrs. Thorburn, Mr. H. G. Wheeler, Col.-Sergt. J. Walsh.

Cocoa.

TRINIDAD.—The market opened with a steady tone after the date of our last report, but without any material change in value except for fine, which was in demand.

Subsequently the market became a little irregular, and easier prices were accepted in some instances, but closing quotations are practically identical with those ruling a month ago, although there is less disposition to purchase. Sales amount to about 3,000 bags at 58s. to 60s. 6d. for middling, and 61s. to 69s. for good middling to fine.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, .. 1st Jan. to 29th Nov. ++ | 44,777 bags against | 37,811 bags. |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. " " ++ | 29,388 " " | 31,119 " |
| EXPORTED .. " " ++ | 14,048 " " | 10,824 " |
| STOCK, 29th November .. " " ++ | 14,271 " " | 16,043 " |

GRENADA.—Supplies continued very limited, and during the month only 421 bags were offered at public sale. The tone of the market ruled quiet, and towards the close prices shewed a slight decline: ordinary to good fair being quoted at 54s. to 58s., and middling to fine 58s. 6d. to 61s. 6d. per cwt.

| | 1902 | 1901 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| LANDED, .. 1st Jan. to 29th Nov. ++ | 43,780 bags against | 40,504 bags. |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. " " ++ | 32,167 " " | 31,135 " |
| EXPORTED .. " " ++ | 13,759 " " | 6,930 " |
| STOCK, 29th November .. " " ++ | 6,372 " " | 7,470 " |

Arrangements have been made for the supply to Members of Spring-Back Cases, 2/6 each, for filing the West India Committee Circulars, see announcement page 10.

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. Tons. | Cocoa. lbs. | Coffee. Cwts. | Rum. Puns. | Cocoanuts. Puns. | Molasses. Puns. | Gold. Ozs. | Diamonds. Carats. |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| BRITISH GUIANA— | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1 to Nov. 18, 1902 | 91,011 | 97,533 | — | 22,901 | 3,360 | 1,215 | 87,106 | 10,615 |
| „ „ 20, 1901 | 60,369 | 82,066 | — | 17,287 | 76,566 | 892 | 87,576 | 2,830 |
| JAMAICA— | | Cwts. | | Galls. | | Pimento. Cwts. | Bananas. Bunches. | Oranges. |
| Apr. 1 to Oct. 25, 1902 | 12,281 | 8,007 | 37,269 | 1,496,362 | 15,057,376 | 79,783 | 9,512,923 | 34,717,367 |
| „ Oct. 26, 1901 | 10,884 | 9,979 | 13,768 | 1,203,707 | 9,661,500 | 42,321 | 6,999,370 | 38,993,272 |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brls. | lbs. | lbs. | Puns. | | Molasses. Puns. | Tons. | Asphalt. Tons. |
| Jan. 1 to Nov. 20, 1902 | 449,774 | 28,423,490 | 39,840 | 1,259 | 11,328,756 | 3,408 | 141 | 142,029 |
| „ „ 20, 1901 | 471,362 | 19,492,380 | 20,800 | 1,605 | 9,706,186 | 3,513 | 158 | 154,825 |

Beet Prospects.

According to Mr. C. Czarinkow's Circulars, during the early part of the fortnight the severe frost on the Continent gave place to a thaw which facilitated the pulling up the few roots left in the fields. Licht estimated the damage caused by the frost at 5 % of the crop, and a further advance in the price of beet resulted (Thursday, November 27th, 7s. 10s. ½d.). A temporary reaction caused by Licht's report of larger cane crops, and less damage by frost in Europe followed, but the decline was quickly recovered and a further advance of 2½ recorded, when his statements of 12 % extra plantings in Cuba and Java were denied, America continued to improve, severe frost set in, and the returns of about 40 German Factories which finished work with over 40 % less roots than last year. As we go to Press 88 % beet is quoted: December 8s. 4¾d.; 1903—Jan., March 8s. 5½d.; May 8s. 6¾d.; August 8s. 9½d.; Oct., Dec. 1903, 9s. 3½d.

Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and N. America.

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

| | 1902 Tons. | 1901 Tons. | 1900 Tons. | 1899 Tons. | 1898 Tons. |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| United Kingdom, 29th November..... | 111,295 | 79,162 | 49,943 | 41,197 | 71,699 |
| France, 1st November | 452,507 | 338,480 | 323,032 | 381,866 | 265,000 |
| Germany, 1st November | 631,962 | 641,692 | 487,888 | 404,687 | 441,498 |
| Hamburg, 3rd December | 156,720 | 118,810 | 73,000 | 107,800 | 100,000 |
| Austria-Hungary, 1st November | 320,080 | 320,700 | 288,000 | 229,183 | 304,759 |
| Holland, 15th November | 74,141 | 60,696 | 41,938 | 31,751 | 35,857 |
| Belgium, 15th November | 140,049 | 69,395 | 34,102 | 53,288 | 89,066 |
| | 1,886,754 | 1,628,935 | 1,297,903 | 1,249,772 | 1,307,879 |
| United States, 3rd December, Total Stocks | 183,000 | 130,540 | 69,200 | 209,897 | 86,523 |
| Cuba, six principal ports, 3rd December, Total Stocks.. | 67,000 | 35,857 | 1,130 | 11,542 | 9,704 |
| Cargoes afloat, 4th December | 46,951 | 11,328 | 35,728 | 71,411 | 69,963 |
| Total..... | 2,183,705 | 1,806,660 | 1,403,961 | 1,542,622 | 1,474,069 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Nov. 25th. "Rain has continued since last cable." Dec. 8th. "Light partial showers." **BRITISH GUIANA.**—(Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), Nov. 26th. "Partial showers have fallen." Dec. 5th. "Weather seasonable." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), Nov. 27th. "Fine, with occasional light showers." Dec. 1st, "Rainy season appears to be approaching." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Dec. 1st. "Weather showery." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), Dec. 3rd. "Rain has fallen heavily." **JAMAICA.**—(Direct West India Cable Co.), Dec. 5th. "Weather fine." "Temperature, Max. 82, Min. 70."

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

Arrangements have been made for supplying Members with spring back cases for filing one year's issue of the West India Committee Circular, 2s. 6d. each, or post free, 3s. The cases are neatly covered in Maroon cloth, lettered in gold lettering "West India Committee Circular," and will, we hope, prove a convenience to Members. The cases will be posted immediately to Members upon receipt of a remittance of 3s. (stamps may be sent) addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, Billiter Square Buildings, London, E.C.

West India Committee Circular.

No. 86.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, December 22nd, 1902.

The Compliments of the Season!

While wishing our friends the Compliments of the Season which is now upon us, we would add our most cordial thanks for the loyal support which they have given us. Our aim has been to secure greater co-operation in the West Indies, and it is gratifying to find that this object has in a large measure been attained. Our list of Members shows a significant increase over that of last year, and evidence is not wanting that a greater interest is now being taken in West Indian Affairs. This being so, and for the convenience of Members, we have decided to acquire in June next more commodious premises. In the new Committee Offices it is proposed to furnish a room where Members may meet their friends and peruse the West Indian Papers which with the official gazettes and other publications will be regularly filed for their use. We confidently look to our friends to back us up in this new departure, and the way in which they can best do so is by helping us to add still further to our Membership roll. We have been accused of interesting ourselves too much in sugar, but, after all, the sugar question has been the burning one so we need make no apology for its occupying so much space in the Circular. As the writer pointed out during his tour in the Caribbean in 1899-1900 the organisation is ready, and it rests with the West Indies to make greater use of it. We are ready and willing to do what we can to enhance the welfare of those Colonies. But the New Year upon which we are about to enter should bring with it the abolition of the Foreign Sugar Bounties which have hung like a pall over the West Indies for so many years making the capitalists fight shy of not sugar alone, but all industries of the West Indies. But that will all be altered, and unless anything unforeseen occurs we may confidently look for a period of prosperity for British Guiana and the West Indies. May it come! It must, and will!

The West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, December 11th, the following new Members were elected:—

| Name. | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| MESSRS. KNIGHT & Co. (Barbados) | T. W. Wilkinson, Esq. | R. Rutherford, Esq. |
| EDWARD T. WHITAKER, Esq. „ | Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co. | G. H. Pile, Esq. |
| A. CHARLEY, Esq. (Jamaica) | Messrs. Thomson, Hankey & Co. | Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G. |
| E. B. T. BURGESS, Esq. „ | „ „ | „ „ |
| W. H. FARQUHARSON, Esq. „ | „ „ | „ „ |
| S. H. MORRIS, Esq. „ | „ „ | „ „ |
| W. S. MARR, Esq. (Puerto Rico) | Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. | Edward G. Barr, Esq. |

The next election will take place on Thursday, January 8th. With the present Circular is enclosed a candidate's form, which it is hoped the reader will send to a friend interested in the West Indies.

The Brussels Convention.

With the prorogation of Parliament on December 18th, we may expect to hear less of the opposition to the Brussels Convention. Our opponents have endeavoured to make capital out of Mr. Balfour's statement on December 11th, that in 1880 the Law Officers of the Crown held the imposition of countervailing duties or prohibition were contrary to the most favoured nation clause. Lord Cranborne's answer to Mr. Bowles, on December 3rd, in which he indicated that in 1899, when India imposed countervailing duties, Her late Majesty's Government held the opposite view and were prepared to abrogate the 1859 treaty with Russia if that Country differed from it,

should have dispelled any doubts as to the present attitude of the Government on the subject. But the ground has now been cut from under our opponents' feet by Mr. Balfour's answer on December 16th, when he clearly stated that His Majesty's Government were advised that there was nothing in the Convention inconsistent with the most favoured nation clause. Lord Lansdowne went even further, and replying to Lord Welby's request for a return giving various particulars as to the Countries engaged in the production of sugar and those Countries which had commercial treaties with the United Kingdom containing the most favoured nation clause, emphatically stated that he could hold out no hope that the return asked for would deter the Government from advising His Majesty to ratify the treaty.

The Anti-Bounty League.

Sir Nevile Lubbock presided over a meeting of the Committee of the Anti-Bounty League on 11th December last. Much satisfaction was expressed at the result of Debate in the House of Commons on November 24th, and a resolution of thanks to Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Colonel Denny, M.P., Mr. A. Wylie, M.P., Mr. C. McArthur, M.P., Mr. David McIver, M.P., Mr. James Reid, M.P., and Mr. Donald Nicol, M.P., for their loyal services to the Cause was carried unanimously. The resignation of Mr. Mayson M. Beeton, who, for four years, has so ably performed the duties of Secretary of the League, was accepted with regret, and, in recognition of his services, it was decided to present him with a suitable souvenir. Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall was appointed Honorary Secretary in his stead, it being decided *nem. con.* to continue the existence of the League. Proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Sir Nevile Lubbock and Mr. George Martineau, which was proposed by Mr. C. Czarnikow and carried unanimously.

The West Indian Club.

We have pleasure in announcing that the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, Sir Marcus Samuel and the Sheriffs of the City of London, have accepted an invitation to dine with the West Indian Club on January 28th next. The privilege of attending this banquet will be extended to Members of the West India Committee and its allied Associations. Further particulars will be obtainable in due course from the Secretary, West India Committee, or W. A. M. Goode, Esq., Hon. Sec. West Indian Club, Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street.

West Indian Affairs.

The news to hand by the homeward mail as to weather and to crops is, on the whole decidedly satisfactory. The result of the Sugar Bounties debate on November 24th, was naturally hailed with the greatest satisfaction, and our thanks are due to numerous correspondents and many organs of the Press of the West Indies, for their kindly recognition of our efforts towards securing the abolition of the foreign bounty systems. Although the small-pox epidemic at Barbados was almost stamped out, it had been thought advisable to postpone the Agricultural Conference, as the quarantine would prevent the Commissioner of Agriculture and his assistants from attending at Trinidad.

The Royal Mail Steamer "Para" arrived at Plymouth at 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17th, and letters were delivered by first post the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Steamer "Port Antonio" from Jamaica, reached Avonmouth on Thursday, December 11th. We extract the following from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), December 2nd. The weather had been favourable for growing crops, though some estates had had too much moisture, 20 inches of rain for one month having been recorded.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.), December 4th. It was felt that the retention of the headquarters of the Mails at Barbados was of vital importance, involving as it did an annual expenditure of some £25,000, and employing a large quantity of lightermen and boatmen, who could not take their labour elsewhere. Their present distress was grievous and had been fully represented by the Governor to the Colonial Office. The present arrangement, which they trusted was only temporary, during the continuance of quarantine, was very unsatisfactory, and was well illustrated by the

writer's late voyage. The "Orinoco" in a calm passage, and with every effort made to push her so as to arrive in the daytime on Sunday, could not reach Carlisle Bay till 10.30 p.m., and passengers were kept in suspense till mid-night as to whether they would be landed at that most inconvenient hour and day. Ultimately they were landed next morning, and after discharging Mails and cargo, the "Orinoco" did not leave till noon, so that after all the pushing she could not reach Trinidad by daylight on Monday. Even with the faster steamers the practice of arriving on Sunday was very inconvenient for many reasons, and it would be much better if the old time of daylight on Monday morning were adhered to. The epidemic of small-pox had rapidly diminished, [leaving only some 200 cases treated in the hospitals. Few new cases now occurred. The latest figures showed 26 fresh cases since November 22nd (12 less than in the previous fortnight, one death and 148 discharges, leaving 115 under treatment). It would seem therefore, that the disease would be stamped out within a measurable time, though it was reasonable to expect that sporadic cases might still occur. It was to be hoped that this might not be the case, and that before long, quarantine, which has had such a blighting effect on the revenues of the Island might be removed. Additional taxes had to be imposed, so that the cost of living of the better classes had sensibly increased. Fortunately, however, fish and potatoes were plentiful and cheap, so that the labouring population were less affected by the hard times. One grievous effect of the severity of the quarantine regulations was the prohibition of the importation of wood from the neighbouring islands, so that many valuable trees had been mangled or cut down to obtain the necessary firewood. The Island could ill afford to spare these.

From November 12th a series of delightful showers began, a total of from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 inches for the month. The canes immediately responded, and the whole island presented a beautiful green appearance. It would be too much to expect, however, that even if rain continued till February, the damage caused by the drought in September and October could be repaired. The ratoons in all districts were very low—some very bad and beyond repair—but the first crop might yet do well. The total rainfall for the year to date only amounted in many places to half what it was last year. The potatoes and yams promised well. The export to British markets of sweet potatoes was proceeding, and would be shortly followed by that of yams.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), December 3rd. The Planters' Association wrote to the Government on November 29th, suggesting that the Chairman and Secretary of this body should be associated with the Receiver-General in the administration of the Immigration funds, and also form units of the Consolidated Immigration Loan Commission, instead of the two senior Members of the Court of Policy as at present appointed. The sugar market was still strong and an appreciative advance had been made on figures last quoted. Sales had been made during the fortnight at prices ranging from \$1.91 $\frac{1}{2}$ to \$2.7 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the latter figure was the quotation for the day, though \$2.10 could probably be got. Occasional showers had been experienced during the early part of the fortnight, and good rains had fallen during the last few days—these were wanted for young cultivation. The British Guiana Diamond Syndicate, Limited, shipped by the mail 3,481 stones, equal to 433 carats, obtained from the Mazaruni. The stones were larger and of much better quality than had been received for some months past.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), December 3rd. In spite of the fact that new lands were being opened up, and abandoned estates being brought back under cultivation, the supply of labour continued to meet the demand. With the prospect of steady employment, migration to the gold mines was decreasing, while immigration from the Northern Islands, especially from Montserrat, was on the increase. The labourers from Montserrat were of a better class than formerly. Unfortunately no accurate statistics were kept with regard to emigration and immigration. The advent of a few large capitalists would no doubt entail the deliberate importation of labour.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), December 3rd. During the fortnight 22 inches of rain had fallen in the Eastern end of the Island, while the weather in the Northern portion had been seasonable. The Southern part was suffering greatly for want of rain. The extensions and improvements of the Constant Spring Hotel were inaugurated with a big garden party on December 1st, and tourists were already visiting the Island in considerable numbers. A shortage of Bananas was likely, the supply being unequal to the demand, and the United Fruit Company had had to hold over for a week the "Brookline," the "Buckman," the "Ullen," and the "Leon" being unable to load them up.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), December 1st. The action of the West India Committee in the matter of the Nevis Medical Service was greatly appreciated. This little Island had quite recently three medical officers, which, purely for pecuniary reasons, had to be reduced to two. The permission given by the Local Authorities to Dr. Cook, to go on leave without making arrangements for the discharge of his work by a *locum tenens*, was considered grossly unfair to the people of the Island. We, of Nevis, had in recent years been very much neglected, and this medical scandal was only one of many similar grievances from which the inhabitants suffered. With regard to the weather, he reported that on Tuesday and Wednesday a flood of rain fell over the Island, damaging every field in preparation and the young plants.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay), December 4th.—The weather had lately been favourable to crops. Mr. Edgar Du Boulay had been appointed Auditor-General of Sierra Leone.

St. Vincent.—(December 2nd).—Captain Young has been very busy settling with the labourers for the losses sustained by the eruptions, and his visit was giving general satisfaction. His instructions with regard to Proprietors and

the assistance of those who the authorities thought in a position to help themselves, appeared to be very definite. However, time would show, but, in the meantime, for want of work being undertaken in the Carib country, great damage was being done by the heavy rains, the want of the Canal as a means of drainage being responsible for several buildings and machinery being destroyed. The Souffrière remained quiet, although the people had been made uneasy by explosions from the Rabacca and Walliben rivers, which threw up large quantities of sand and ashes over quite a big area.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. T. Fenwick), December 5th.—The estimates for the introduction of the usual 2,500 Immigrants for the season 1903/4, had been placed before the Standing Committee on Immigration. In accordance with an arrangement come to in February last by this Committee, by which the share of the cost to be borne by the planters should be divided between Sugar and Cocoa in the proportion of two-thirds, payable by Sugar and one-third by Cocoa, and that calculations of the amount to be raised should be based, not as hitherto on estimated crops to be made, but on the actual crops of the preceding twelve months; the Immigration Taxes to be paid for 1903 were fixed as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------|----|--------------------|---------|
| On Sugar | for every 1,000 lbs. | 3s.6d. | .. | Last season it was | 2s.8d. |
| „ Molasses | „ 100 galls. | 2s.10d. | .. | „ „ | 2s.0d. |
| „ Rum | „ 100 galls. | 8s.6d. | .. | „ „ | 6s.0d. |
| „ Cocoa | „ 100 lbs. | 7d. | .. | „ „ | 7½d. |
| „ Coffee | „ 100 lbs. | 7d. | .. | „ „ | 7½d. |
| „ Cocoanuts | „ 1,000 lbs. | 7d. | .. | „ „ | 7½d. |
| „ Copra | „ 1,000 lbs. | 1s.10d. | .. | „ „ | 1s.11d. |

The tax on sugar had to be raised while that on Cocoa was slightly reduced, because it happened that while the sugar crop of last twelve months fell somewhat short of the average, the cocoa crop was a record one. At last, after years of vigorous protest, on the part of the planters, an attempt was being made to remedy some of the worst defects of the Immigration Ordinance 19 of 1899, which in its time was an attempt to remedy the still worse defects of Ordinance 12 of 1897. In the Ordinance now being brought forward (a copy may be seen at the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOM.—A.E.A.) the principal features were: (1) That entries in the Case, and Hospital Registers shall in future be taken as evidence of the facts therein mentioned, and (2) that provision is made for the punishment of Immigrants absenting themselves without lawful excuse from work or neglecting or refusing to do any particular work. (This last is in accordance with the recommendations of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE to the Secretary of State in their letter of 16th August 1899—see Council paper No. 125, of 1899—A.E.A.) When the Ordinance came on for discussion other amendments would be proposed, amongst them one requiring every magistrate before proceeding to try any charge of vagrancy against an Indentured Immigrant, to make enquiry of the police whether there was any warrant against the defendant for a more serious offence (desertion) and as regards "Harbouring" another attempt would be made to get rid of the word "knowingly" from sub-section A of section 1 of clause 148. The first Coolie ship of the season, the "Rhine," had arrived and the immigrants were to be distributed among the estates on the 5th inst. The Immigrants were reported to be a fine lot. They had had a record passage as to health, there being only one death during the voyage. There was one birth to make up for it.

The Venezuelan Revolution under the leadership of General Matos had collapsed. Many of his personal staff had been taken prisoners and he himself was a fugitive in Curacao. But by all accounts, conflicting as they were in detail, revolution under rival leaders still continued, and President Castro's position no better assured than it was six months ago. Meantime, trade with, and in, Venezuela was practically at a standstill; all sorts of illegal acts, and acts unfriendly to the friendly Power, Great Britain, were almost daily charged against Castro's Government, and rumours were rife that action would shortly be taken by either England or Germany, or both, to put an end to the present maladministration of the Country. Colour was given to these rumours by the sudden return of H.M.S. "Indefatigable," which was supposed to have paid her final visit to Trinidad and to be on her way home. Suitable quarters for the Queen's Royal College had for many years been a crying need. At last the foundation had been laid and the work of building was proceeding. The new College, which was to be quite an imposing building, was beautifully situated on the Savanna with ample recreation grounds; but whether from mistaken economy or weak submission to opposing influences, the very complete scheme was practically ruined by the elimination of quarters for boarders. It would therefore be nothing more than a big day school, and no residents outside of the town would be able to avail themselves of even this unless they possess the means, and can make proper arrangements for providing their children with board and lodging elsewhere. The weather had been showery all the fortnight to the great benefit of both sugar and cocoa. Fair crops of both are expected.

West India Section Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.

At the Fortnightly Meeting on December 8th last, Mr. Tinne presiding, a letter was read from Mr. Chamberlain, thanking the Chairman and Committee for their telegrams, expressing their good wishes on his departure for the Cape. A letter from Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., was read pointing out that the rate for cabling between Cuba and this Country is 1s. 10d. per word, against 3s. per word to Jamaica, which is only 100 miles further. It was also stated at the Meeting that the rate to Demerara is 7s. per word, against 3s. per word to New Zealand, and it was suggested that

the adoption of the Marconi System between the West India Islands and British Guiana might lead to cheaper communication.* The following resolution was adopted unanimously:—"That the best thanks of the Committee of the West India Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce be tendered to the Members of the Parliamentary Committee of the Anti-Bounty League, for their services in the matter of the abolition of the Bounties."

Volcanic Ash as a Fertiliser.

In continuation of our remarks under the above head in Circular 71, page 3, and Circular 74, page 3, we now give the report of the full analysis of the Volcanic Dust which fell in Barbados on October 16th, forwarded by the Colonial Office for the information of the West India Committee. It will be noted that the dust differed considerably in composition from that which fell on May 7th and 8th, which consisted largely of ferro-magnesian minerals and contained a considerable quantity of magnetite. On this account the dust is, in the opinion of Mr. Longfield Smith, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, likely to prove of greater fertilising value than that of May 7th and 8th. For the sake of comparison we place these figures by those of an analysis of Volcanic Dust collected at Kingstown, St. Vincent, which Mr. Edward Packard has kindly forwarded to us.

| BARBADOS VOLCANIC DUST. | | | ST. VINCENT VOLCANIC DUST. | | |
|---|----|----------------|---|----|---------------|
| The complete mineral contained in 100 parts:— | | Per Cent. | The following percentages were soluble in Hydrochloric Acid:— | | Per Cent. |
| Moisture | .. | 0.520 | Potassium oxide (potash) .. | .. | 0.87 |
| Loss on ignition | .. | 0.130 | Sodium oxide | .. | 0.627 |
| Potassium oxide (potash) .. | .. | 0.753 | Calcium oxide (lime) | .. | 3.200 |
| Sodium oxide | .. | 3.979 | Magnesia | .. | 1.284 |
| Calcium oxide (lime) | .. | 9.409 | Ferrous oxide | .. | 1.410 |
| Magnesia | .. | 3.594 | Ferric oxide, Alumina and Titanium oxide | .. | 8.666 |
| Manganese oxide | .. | 0.150 | Phosphoric anhydride (phosphoric acid) | .. | 0.61 |
| Alumina and Titanium oxide | .. | 20.134 | Sulphuric anhydride | .. | 0.148 |
| Iron oxide | .. | 9.596 | Silicia | .. | 1.138 |
| Phosphoric anhydride (phosphoric acid) | .. | 0.148 | Soluble in Citric Acid Solution, 1 per cent. | .. | 0.027 |
| Silica (by difference) | .. | 51.138 | Ditto | .. | 0.028 |
| | | <u>100.000</u> | | | |
| | | | | | <u>100.00</u> |

The British Guiana Coolie Commission Report.

We have received copies of the Report of the Commission appointed in June 22nd last, to enquire into the cost of the introduction into, and repatriation from British Guiana of East Indian Immigrants. The report which is signed by The Hon. A. M. Ashmore, C.M.G., The Hon. A. H. Alexander, The Hon. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G., The Hon. B. H. Jones, The Hon. R. G. Duncan and A. Summerson, Esq., may be summarised briefly as follows:—

Recommendations, to give effect to which steps have already been taken.

- Gratuities to Captains and Officers of Coolie Ships should be abolished.
- After January, 1904, alternative tenders should be invited for steam or sail service for 3, 5, and 7 years. Minimum number of coolies to be conveyed 1,500, maximum 4,000.
- Boat and crew of Immigration Department should be hired at a rate per diem when required, instead of for a fixed sum per annum. An endeavour should be made to provide in future contracts that each coolie ship while in port should provide a boat free of charge.
- Endeavour should be made to reduce cost of supplying fixed diets to coolies at the Depot, Georgetown, to 12 cents, per head per diem instead of 16 cents.
- For the maintenance of East Indian paupers at the Alms House, only the actual cost per head per immigrant should be charged by that Institution.

*We understand that a letter (the text of which we hope to give in our next Circular) on this subject has been addressed to the Chamber by the Direct West India Cable Company.

The remaining recommendations are that :

- (1) The emoluments of Surgeons Superintendent of Coolie ships should be reduced to—

| | | |
|---------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| Sailing Ships | 12/- | per immigrant to British Guiana. |
| | 14/- | per immigrant to India. |
| Steamers | 10/- | either way. |
- (2) In the case of the Compounders (and Interpreters) drawing pay and fees on a sliding scale according to the number of voyages they have served on, the scale should not be raised so high, but the increases should cease at a *fifth* voyage to the Colony (*i.e.* limit \$200 fee per immigrant 30 cents) or *sixth* voyage to India (*i.e.* \$225 and 35 cents).
- (3) All charges on account of Back Passages (Coolie Settlements) should be passed through the estimates in the usual way, the standing resolution of the Combined Court No. IX, 15th October 1896, ceasing to be regarded as an Authority.
- (4) On the occurrence of vacancies the salary of the Immigration Agent-General in the Colony should be fixed at £1,000 to £1,200 a year, and that the Senior Immigration Agent should be placed at £500 a year.
- (5) The majority recommend that on occurrence of a vacancy, the office of Medical Inspector created by the Asiatic Immigration Ordinance of 1891 should not be filled up.
- (6) The Quarterly Accounts received from the Immigration Agent at Calcutta should be referred to a Standing Committee, consisting of the Immigration Agent-General, the Receiver-General and the Secretary of the Planters' Association for information and where deemed necessary for suggestions to the Government thereon.
- (7) The Commissioners express the hope that the new contracts may afford some reduction in the price of the transport of the coolies, and as regards recruiting, recommend, with a view to economy, the combination of competing Colonial Agencies and are strongly of opinion that greater care should be exercised in selecting recruits.

The full text of this useful and interesting document may be seen at the West India Committee Room.

The British Guiana Immigrant Funds.

On October 22nd last, the British Guiana Planters' Association addressed a letter to the Government Secretary of British Guiana, requesting that interest should be allowed on the balance in the Treasury standing to the credit of the Consolidated Immigration Loan Commission, and other Immigrant Accounts (the former \$123,214.44, and the latter \$231,752.56, in addition to \$26,746 in the British Guiana Bank, and \$57,676 in the Colonial Bank), when they are in credit in the same way, as interest was charged prior to 1897-98, when the accounts showed a balance on the debit side. They further thought that some standing arrangement might be come to with the Banks, to allow interest when large sums were in their hands, in the same manner that certain local institutions were allowed interest on their deposits withdrawable at very short notice.

On November 4th, the Government replied, explaining—

“That the gross balance is made up from two distinct sources, the funds raised under the authority of Ordinance 7, of 1884, the balances on account of which consist of the following items as noted by you.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| The Treasury | \$123,214.44 |
| British Guiana Bank | \$26,746.96 |
| Colonial Bank | \$57,676.27 |
| Making in all | \$207,637.67 |

and (b) \$231,752.56 consists of funds raised from planters by way of Acreage Tax and Indenture Fees in excess of the planters' share of the cost of Immigration, amounting to \$203,268.91 and some other sums on deposit for specific purposes aggregating \$39,000.00 odd, less a sum in the hands of the Agent in India to meet current expenditure.

“It will be convenient to deal with these two totals separately. Of the sum (a) of \$207,637.67, \$55,200.00 has been invested by the Commissioners in 3½ per cent. Bonds of the Colony. Of the \$152,437.67 remaining, \$120,000.00 or £25,000, constitutes the working balance of the Commissioners. A varying sum of about that amount, sometimes more or sometimes less, is always either under advance to the Agent in India, by whom it is employed in recruiting, or is in a course of remittance to the Crown Agents to meet that gentleman's and the Receiver-General's drafts for Immigration purposes, for the payment of coolie passages, *et sim.*, and is not available for investment or in a position to produce interest. It appears in the account as a “Balance,” because the expenditure against it, not yet having been vouched for, cannot be passed by way of final payment through the accounts. When the next instalment of Immigration notes is paid, on the 1st January, 1903, a surplus over requirements under Ordinance 7, of 1884, will accumulate, which will be invested.

“With regard to (b), the sums under this head, aggregating \$242,734.95 (less about \$13,000.00), are required by law to be lodged with the Receiver-General, and they form part of the cash balances of the Colony deposited with the local banks and on which no interest is earned or obtainable. The Colony is unable to pay interest upon deposits in its custody, except by the authority of the Combined Court, which, in this instance, has not been given and in view of the fact that no interest is earned, cannot fairly be asked for.

“With regard to such items under (b) as constitute the Immigration fund proper, the Government would not be unwilling, when the state of its balances permits of its so doing, to consider a scheme for keeping them separate from the Colony's Funds, and arranging for their investment in interest-bearing securities. But I am to remind you that through the reduction of the Acreage Tax, the total will be much diminished at the end of the current year.”

Mr. A. Summerson, Secretary of the Planters' Association replied on November 11th :—

"From your letter it is shown that the funds provided by the Commissioners are ample to meet all current expenditure—in fact, looking to the accounts of the last few years, more than ample.

"With respect to the balance of Immigration account, pure and simple, *i.e.*, \$203,268.91 being sums overpaid by the planters, which, however, will probably be reduced by some \$65,000 during current year by the reduction of Acreage Tax, the Members of our Association are strongly of opinion that the Government should allow interest on the same. This sum has gradually been accumulating since 1895, and had the surplus been put year by year at deposit with either of the banks, interest would have been gained; if, however, the Government retains such balances in their hands they should in justice to the planters pay interest thereon.

"The fact that the authority of the combined Court has not been obtained is not, in our opinion, a good reason for declining to pay interest, and we think the Government should have taken the initiative. If the Government for its own purposes make use of funds which, it is admitted, belong to the planters, then the Government is in duty bound to pay a fair and reasonable interest thereon.

"The Council of our Association feel so strongly on this point, that in the event of his Excellency, The Governor and Executive Council ruling against them, they have the honour to request that the point may be submitted to His Majesty's Secretary of State for his decision.

"You will perhaps pardon my pointing out that during the past two years the surplus on Working Account of Immigration Fund has exceeded the estimate shortage this season through reduction in Acreage Tax."

Beet Prospects.

During the early part of the fortnight reports from factories confirmed previous news, that not even October figures were reached in some cases, and a substantial reduction was expected. With a severe frost and rumours of further American purchases, prices advanced 3d. per cwt., but 2d. was temporarily lost on the thaw and lower quotations from America. Factories were bidding higher prices for roots than last Spring, and this might possibly lead to an increase in sowings, to say nothing of the excess-yield to be expected if the weather is normal next year.

The December estimates are as follows :—

| | Hectares in Thousands. | | Thousand Tons Roots. | | | 1902. Estimated Production in Thousand Tons Sugar. | | | | % compared to last crop. | | Thousand Tons Sugar. | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------|----------------------|--------|--------|--|-------|-------|-------|--------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | 1902. | 1901. | Dec. | Oct. | 1901 | Dec. | Oct. | Dec. | Nov. | Roots. | Sugar. | Fact'ries. Dec. | Licht. Final. | Fact'ries. Dec. | Licht. Final. |
| Bohemia | 113.0 | 105.9 | 2,862 | 2,906 | 4,195 | 453 | 139 | | | | | | | | |
| Moravia | 91.0 | 105.2 | 2,181 | 2,185 | 2,648 | 307 | 296 | | | | | | | | |
| Hungary | 99.7 | 106.6 | 2,037 | 1,904 | 2,102 | 286 | 250 | | | | | | | | |
| Austria | 303.0 | 362.7 | 7,130 | 6,995 | 8,945 | 1,061 | 1,012 | 1,050 | 1,050 | -20 1/2 | -17 1/2 | 1,307 | 1,302 | 1,064 | 1,094 |
| Germany | 429.3 | 476.9 | 11,328 | 11,820 | 16,000 | 1,704 | 1,701 | 1,730 | 1,860 | -20 1/2 | -20 1/2 | 2,220 | 2,299 | 1,809 | 1,984 |
| France | 223.3 | 293.0 | 6,346 | 6,570 | 9,350 | 819 | 813 | 900 | 880 | -21 1/2 | -20 1/2 | 1,080 | 1,183 | 1,061 | 1,170 |
| Molasses | | | | | | 60 | 60 | | | | | 70 | | 70 | |
| Russia | 595.1 | 589.2 | 9,162 | 8,816 | 8,197 | 1,184 | 1,143 | 1,225 | 1,225 | +11 1/2 | +10.5 | 1,080 | 1,110 | 884 | 918 |
| Belgium | 52.9 | 69.6 | 1,450 | 1,590 | 2,506 | 198 | 319 | 240 | 240 | -42 1/2 | -39 1/2 | 325 | 350 | 320 | 333 |
| Holland | 31.2 | 48.0 | 699 | 745 | 1,487 | 98 | 102 | 120 | 120 | -52 1/2 | -51 1/2 | 200 | 203 | 168 | 178 |
| Sweden | 24.2 | 29.0 | 595 | 560 | 903 | 73 | 77 | | | -44 1/2 | -42 1/2 | 121 | | 123 | |
| Denmark | 15.2 | 14.5 | 318 | 375 | 452 | 39 | 47 | 355 | 355 | -31 1/2 | -37 1/2 | 400 | | 50 | 368 |
| | | | 36,920 | 37,471 | 47,840 | 5,175 | 5,114 | | | -22 1/2 | -20 1/2 | 6,459 | | 5,627 | |
| Others | | | | | | 230 | 230 | 5,620 | 5,730 | | | 221 | 6,843 | 207 | 6,045 |

The weather has turned almost warm in Western Europe. In Central Europe it is slowly thawing, but the rivers are low and hard frozen, so that a resumption of inland navigation is not quite in sight. The prices of 88 per cent. beet as we go to press are :—December 8s. 1 1/2d.; January, February, March, 1903, 8s. 2d.; May 8s. 3d.; August 8s. 5 1/2d.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," December 17th, 1902 :—BARBADOS.—Lieut. Kenworthy, Mr. W. F. Sellers, Major D. Grayfoot. DEMERARA.—Rev. T. E. Quick, Mr. T. Stanning, Mr. G. Schaefer, Mr. W. H. Jones, Mr. A. Rodriguz. JAMAICA.—Mr. B. T. Burdekin, Mr. F. Cartnell, Miss Pain, Miss Rooney, Mr. F. Sims, Mr. and Mrs. W. Moorby, Mr. T. J. Sowter, Mr. H. Schwann, Miss M. Solomon. TRINIDAD.—Dr. Woodward, Mr. F. W. Hagan, Mr. L. Symonds, Mr. and Mrs. Ransome, Mr. Mahomed Solarmare, Mr. Mozuppard Hussain, Mrs. George Boynton, Dr. C. Bovallius, Mr. C. Gerold, Mr. and Mrs. M. Dimsdale. DOMINICA.—Mrs. Pinheiro. TOBAGO.—Capt. Short, Mr. Esmé Howard.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," December 24th, 1902 :—BARBADOS.—Mr. and Mrs. H. Doughton, Professor and Mrs. D'Albuquerque, Miss C. E. Belfield. DEMERARA.—Mr. and Mrs. Coppin, Mr. and Mrs. H. de Rume Barclay. JAMAICA.—Mr. G. Verschuur, Mrs. and two Misses Rathbone, Miss Lamport, Mr. MacLachlan, Mr. and Mrs. Lyon, Mr. M. Lyon, Mr. H. Carvalho, Mr. Maxwell Trench, The Marquise de Torre Hermosa, Miss Batteley, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Weyrauch, Hon. G. and Mrs. Marescaux, Mr. G. T. Todd, Mr. and Miss Crum Ewing. TRINIDAD.—Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Lucy, Mr. C. T. Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Joyan, Mr. J. A. Rapsy, Mr. F. Thomas, Lieut. J. W. Russell, R.N., Mr. W. F. Sellers. ANTIGUA.—Miss Simpson. GRENADA.—Mrs. and Miss C. J. Tarring, Mr. C. J. Tarring, jun. ST. LUCIA.—Miss E. E. Hall, Mrs. Hall, Rev. Fr. Dugast. TOUR.—Mr. Harwood, M.P., and Mrs. Harwood, Mr. and Mrs. W. Frank Perkins, Mr. W. H. Düsseldorf.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," 7th January, 1903:—**BARBADOS.**—Mrs. Burslem, Lieut. C. E. Fleming, R.A.M.C., Lieut. M. J. Hamilton, Mr. M. A. Murphy. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. and Mrs. Brunker, Rev. J. G. and Mrs. Pearson. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Thompson, Mr. G. C. Vasner, Mr. S. Hawkins, Mr. W. Gamble, Mr. W. P. Purefoy. **TRINIDAD.**—His Excellency Sir A. Moloney, K.C.M.G., and Lady Moloney, Mr. W. Burslem, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Berkeley, Mr. and Mrs. Hargreave and Daughter, Miss Lamont. **ANTIGUA.**—Mrs. Lewis and maid, Miss Metcalfe, Mr. A. H. Kirby, Lady Strickland's nurse. **GRENADA.**—Dr. and Mrs. O'Neale, Rev. G. Clark, Mr. A. Duncan. **St. Kitts.**—Rev. J. and Mrs. Price and child. **Tour.**—Mr. H. J. Johnson and Mr. H. Harriman, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Roche, Mr. J. Wallace, Mr. J. C. Forster, Mr. Timmins and Mr. Sackville West.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," December 11th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Capt. Bennett, Mr. Stanley Betjemann, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Cameron, Mr. and Miss Hutchinson, Miss Macdonald, Mr. Routledge, Dr. Stormont, Dr. Wrightson, Mr. Wyndham, Mrs. Wallace, Mr. N. White, Mr. S. H. Justin, Mr. E. Merry.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," December 20th, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Miss M. Andain, Mr. W. Bayne, Mr. E. Carpmal, Mr. F. Cross, Miss K. E. Cutler, Miss D. Cutler, Mr. Percy Fox, Master Grant, Miss Harvie, Miss L. M. Harvie, Mr. W. Hill, Mr. J. W. Kincaid, Mr. J. Kirkpatrick, Dr. Leceane, Mr. J. R. T. Main, Mr. J. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Mouncey, Mr. J. E. Muddock, Miss Muddock, Miss J. Nixon, Mr. W. A. Tait, Mrs. Tamplin, Miss Tamplin, Mr. and Mrs. Thornburn, Mr. H. G. Wheeler, Mr. T. W. Carr, Mrs. G. H. Grinter, Col.-Sergt. J. Walsh.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," January 3rd, 1903:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. T. Alexander, Capt. Carpenter, R.N., Mr. F. G. Clarke, Capt. and Mrs. C. Crowe, Mrs. E. A. Cundall, Mr. H. A. Hood Daniel, Miss Ida Elliot, Lieut. T. E. Fielding, Mr. and Mrs. J. Findlay, Lieut. A. E. Fitzgerald, Mrs. and Miss Hamilton, Major and Mrs. E. M. Hassard, Capt. G. E. Hewett, Miss M. L. Holden, Miss B. K. Hopkins, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Justice and Mrs. C. F. Lumb, Mr. and Mrs. MacLaren, Sister Madeleine, Mr. A. Mallock, Mr. M. McC. Grieve Neill, Mr. W. Grieve Neill, Mr. J. W. Plaston, Major W. H. Robison, Master Robison, Mrs. L. J. Sinclair, Miss Sinclair, Miss A. E. Smith, Mr. E. F. Wright, C.M.G.

Rum.

An extremely dull tone continues to prevail in this market, and business is confined to very narrow limits. The "Cheniston" and "Spheroid" have arrived from Demerara with 2,400 puns, but the trade decline to make any offers for these shipments, owing to the inadequate free rent allowed by the Docks, in return for the exorbitant landing charges, which are some 250 per cent. greater than those current in the out-ports.

For Jamaicas there is very little demand at the moment, but a fair business has been put through, chiefly to good Home Trade Marks at 1s. 7d. The Imports have been very heavy, being 3,000 puns more than last year, and our stocks show a similar increase.

We append the Board of Trade returns.

| | | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| LANDED | In Nov. | 444,972 | 312,808 | 593,508 | 219,998 |
| | 11 months | 7,509,008 | 6,123,754 | 5,456,042 | 4,899,266 |
| HOME CONSUMPTION .. | In Nov. | 449,970 | 559,225 | 506,672 | 495,470 |
| | 11 months | 3,669,952 | 3,793,427 | 3,935,214 | 3,747,514 |
| EXPORT | In Nov. | 96,534 | 83,125 | 67,109 | 97,050 |
| | 11 months | 818,998 | 827,481 | 959,963 | 855,066 |
| STOCK (Gals.) | 30th Nov. | 9,376,000 | 7,358,000 | 6,723,000 | 7,231,000 |

STOCKS IN LONDON.

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| JAMAICA. PUNS.. | 11,305 | 8,362 | 8,605 | 11,410 |
| OTHER W. I. ISLANDS .. | 1,862 | 1,261 | 467 | 548 |
| DEMERARA | 7,137 | 3,693 | 4,011 | 2,267 |
| FOREIGN | 3,078 | 1,953 | 1,657 | 2,075 |
| BRITISH EAST INDIA .. | 1,179 | 2,034 | 1,355 | 1,538 |
| VATTED | 4,111 | 3,766 | 3,402 | 3,605 |
| TOTAL | 28,672 | 21,069 | 19,497 | 21,443 |

Exports.

| From— | Sugar. | Cocoa. | Coffee. | Rum. | Cocoanuts. | Molasses. | Gold. | Diamonds. |
|------------------------|--|---|--|---|------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Tons. | lbs. | Cwts. | Puns. | | Puns. | Ozs. | Carats. |
| BRITISH GUIANA— | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 1 to Dec. 1, 1902 | 97,764 | 99,693 | — | 25,733 | 3,360 | 1,316 | 91,765 | 11,078 |
| " " 3, 1901 | 73,127 | 88,348 | — | 21,007 | 76,578 | 1,112 | 91,094 | 3,076 |
| JAMAICA— | | Cwts. <td></td> <td>Galls. <td></td> <td>Pimento.</td> <td>Bananas.</td> <td>Oranges.</td> </td> | | Galls. <td></td> <td>Pimento.</td> <td>Bananas.</td> <td>Oranges.</td> | | Pimento. | Bananas. | Oranges. |
| Apr. 1 to Nov. 8, 1902 | 12,528 | 9,406 | 44,722 | 1,510,276 | 16,210,156 | Cwts. | Bunches. | |
| " " Nov. 9, 1901 | 10,922 | 10,502 | 19,339 | 1,214,657 | 11,100,260 | 90,595 | 9,993,999 | 34,043,887 |
| | | | | | | 40,387 | 7,443,190 | 53,035,772 |
| TRINIDAD— | Bags & Brls. <td>lbs. <td>lbs. <td>Puns. <td></td> <td>Molasses.</td> <td>Tres.</td> <td>Brls.</td> </td></td></td> | lbs. <td>lbs. <td>Puns. <td></td> <td>Molasses.</td> <td>Tres.</td> <td>Brls.</td> </td></td> | lbs. <td>Puns. <td></td> <td>Molasses.</td> <td>Tres.</td> <td>Brls.</td> </td> | Puns. <td></td> <td>Molasses.</td> <td>Tres.</td> <td>Brls.</td> | | Molasses. | Tres. | Brls. |
| Jan. 1 to Dec. 3, 1902 | 449,825 | 29,435,840 | 39,840 | 1,559 | 11,504,636 | Puns. | | Asphalt. |
| " " 3, 1901 | 471,492 | 19,671,564 | 20,800 | 1,605 | 9,887,186 | 3,408 | 145 | Tons. |
| | | | | | | 3,577 | 566 | 144,445 |
| | | | | | | | | 156,475 |

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), December 22nd. "Seasonable Weather."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Dec. 10th. "Weather fine with occasional light showers." Dec. 19th. "Heavy showers have fallen generally since last message." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), Dec. 19th. "Weather continues wet with intervals of fine days." **JAMAICA.**—(Direct West India Cable Co.), Dec. 19th. "Weather fine, temperature Max. 79 deg., Min. 67 deg."

Algernon E. Aspinal,

Secretary.