

24

. The .

West India Committee Circular



VOL. XVIII.

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THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
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	CIRC.	PAGE.		CIRC.	PAGE.
Chamberlain, Mr. J., M.P.— <i>continued.</i>			Colonial Reports— <i>continued.</i>		
—, Resolutions of regret at resignation, Jamaica	110	98	—, Trinidad and Tobago, 1901-2 ...	93	4
—, „ Liverpool (W.I.A.)... ..	109	84	—, „ „ „ 1902-3 ...	113	166
—, „ Trinidad	108	69	—, Turks and Caicos Islands, 1902	106	43
—, „ West India Committee ...	106	33	Colonial Service, My, by Sir W.		
—, Speeches, Birmingham, May 15... ..	97	1	Des Voeux... ..	105	26
—, „ Birmingham, Nov. 4... ..	109	83	Commission, Brussels Sugar	95	1
—, „ Cardiff, Nov. 20	110	99	„ „ „	98	3
—, „ Glasgow, Oct. 6	107	50	Company Meetings, Colonial Bank ...	95	3
—, „ Greenock, Oct. 8... ..	107	51	—, Demerara Railway Co.	95	4
—, „ Leeds, Dec. 16	113	162	—, Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. ...	88	2
—, „ Liverpool, Oct. 27	109	82	„ „ „	95	2
—, „ Newport, Nov. 21	110	99	„ „ „	96	2
—, „ Sheffield, Oct. 1	107	49	—, West India and Panama Tel. Co.	97	9
—, Tariff Reform Commission	113	162	Condolence, Resolutions of, Mr. Quintin		
—, Tariff Reform League and West			Hogg	89	1
India Committee	108	65	—, Lord Pirbright	89	1
—, West India Committee favour			Confectioners and Sugar Convention... ..	110	102
enquiry into the Fiscal Policy	100	2	Conference of Sugar Manufacturers ...	101	1
—, West Indian Press and	107	61	Consumers and Sugar Convention		
Chambers of Commerce of the Empire	103	11	(Memo by Sir N. Lubbock)	93	2
„ „ „	105	17	Consumption of Sugar in France	112	150
„ „ „	106	44	Consumption and Production of Sugar,		
—, Mr. E. Tripp's Report	105	17	The World's	92	4
Coal, Discovery of, in Honduras	112	155	Convention, Brussels Sugar, Austrian		
Cocoa and Coffee in St. Thomé	87	3	Law of Contingentirung	92	1
Cocoa and Copra in Samoa... ..	92	3	—, Bill read 1st time... ..	98	1
Cocoa, Consumption of in U.S.A.	94	6	—, „ „ 2nd time	102	1
Cocoa Crop, Brazilian... ..	105	25	—, „ in Committee	103	1
Cocoa in Samoa	112	155	—, „ read 3rd time	103	4
Codrington College, Barbados	109	82	—, „ before Lords... ..	103	4
Coffee and Cocoa in St. Thomé	87	3	—, „ receives Royal Consent	103	5
Coffee in Colombia	110	104	—, British Workmen and	95	6
Colonial Bank—General Meeting	95	3	—, Confectioners and	110	102
Colonial Reports, Barbados, 1901-2	87	6	—, Consumers and	93	2
—, „ „ „ 1902	108	72	—, Correspondence, <i>re</i>	94	2
—, British Guiana, 1901-2	88	3	—, Great Britain not to penalise		
—, British Honduras, 1902	103	9	Colonies	91	2
—, Grenada, 1901	88	3	—, King's Speech	91	2
—, „ 1902	113	168	—, Lord Cranborne on	89	1
—, Jamaica, 1901-2... ..	87	6	—, Mr. Platt Higgins, M.P., on	90	1
—, Leeward Islands, 1901-2	87	6	—, Powers agree to Ratify	88	2
—, St. Lucia, 1901	99	8	—, Ratification of	89	1
—, St. Vincent, 1901-2	98	6	—, Russia and	108	71
—, „ 1902-3	110	106	Cotton Acreage in the West Indies ...	105	24
			—, British Growing Association formed	90	4

205

Cotton—*continued.*

	CIRC.	PAGE.
—, Cultivation in Cuba	109	90
—, Industry, progress of... ..	93	3
—, " " " "	99	6
—, " " " "	100	7
—, " " " "	101	4
—, " " " "	103	5
—, " " " "	104	5
—, " " " "	106	34
—, " " " "	108	70
—, " " " "	110	103
—, " " " "	112	151
—, " West India Committee and	94	4
Countervailing duties in India	94	1
Cuba, Reciprocity with United States,		
Liverpool Chamber of Commerce	87	4
—, Reciprocity Bill passed by Senate	113	163
—, Message to Congress... ..	110	102
—, Mr. Farr on effects of	109	85
—, Ratification of Bill by Senate ...	93	1
—, West India Committee protest... ..	91	3

D

Davson, Mr. Henry K., Knighthood of	109	81
" " " "	110	97
—, Sir Henry K., W. I. Club dinner to	113	169
Demerara Sugar, Sustaining Power of	91	3
—, Allowance for Tests on	105	24
Direct West India Cable Co. report ...	106	44
Dominica Agriculturist, The	93	7
—, About, by H. A. A. Nicholls, Esq.	105	28
—, Fruit	112	154
—, Imperial Road	109	88
—, Imports and Exports, 1901-2	104	6
—, Notes on, by His Honour H. H.		
Bell, C.M.G.	106	41
—, Planting in, by E. A. Agar, Esq.	90	3

E

English Harbour, Antigua	113	164
Exhibition of West Indian Produce at		
Board of Trade... ..	99	3
—, At Liverpool	112	150

F

	CIRC.	PAGE.
Fiscal Policy, see Chamberlain, Mr. ...		
France and Jamaica	106	42
Fruit, Dominica	112	154
Fruit Imports into United Kingdom ...	108	69
Fruit Industry, Hon. S. Olivier on ...	105	24
—, Mr. W. W. Symington's proposals	92	2
—, " " " " " "	97	7
—, Packing in the West Indies	91	4

G

Gieseker's Crop Estimates	108	80
Grenada, Resolution of Thanks to West		
India Committee from	95	1
Guyot, M. Yves, on West Indies	113	170

H

Hodgson, Sir F., Barbados Proprietors	101	1
" " " " " "	105	19
Honours, Birthday	109	81
—, " " " " " "	109	92
—, Coronation	100	7

I

Immigration to British Guiana	99	7
—, Mr. Chamberlain and	109	89
—, to Trinidad, Com ^r . Coombs' Rpt.	103	11
Imperial Department of Agriculture,		
Publications of	90	4
" " " " " "	93	6
" " " " " "	95	5
" " " " " "	97	9
" " " " " "	102	9
" " " " " "	103	9
" " " " " "	108	73
" " " " " "	113	168
India and Countervailing duties	94	1
Indian Sugar Act, The... ..	109	86
" Industrial Trinidad " (Victoria In-		
stitute	105	27

J

Jamaica Cyclone, August 11	103	8
—, Details of	104	2
—, " " " " " "	105	21

	CIRC.	PAGE.		CIRC.	PAGE.
V					
Venezuela and Trinidad	110	104	West Indian Club— <i>continued.</i>		
Volcanic Eruptions, Capt. Young's Rpt.	98	4	—, Sir G. Strickland	106	37
—, correspondence <i>re</i>	108	72	—, Archbishop of West Indies ...	107	60
W					
West Indian Club Dinner to Sir F.			—, Dr. G. B. Mason	108	71
Hodgson	97	10	—, Archbishop of Port of Spain ...	109	92
—, Hon. A. M. Ashmore	100	8	—, Sir Henry Davson	113	169
			—, Lord Mayor	89	2
			—, Half-yearly meeting	102	7
			West India Circular, Mr. E. Kynaston's	87	9
			Woolward, R., a characteristic epitaph	113	172

ILLUSTRATIONS.

	CIRC.	To FACE.		CIRC.	To FACE.
Banquet to Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	111	128	Rodney Memorial, Jamaica	112	148
British Delegates to Brussels Conference	102	8	West India Committee Rooms—		
Centrepieces and Candelabra presented			(1) The Committee Room	107	52
to Sir Nevile Lubbock	111	124	(2) The Secretary's Office	108	68
Chamberlain, Right Hon. J., M.P. ...	106	40			
Codrington College, Barbados	109	84	Barbados Bananas	110	109
Davson, Sir Henry K.	110	100	Lubbock, Lady	111	135
English Harbour, Antigua	113	164	Bath House Hotel, Nevis	112	153
Lubbock, Sir Nevile, K.C.M.G., by Prof.			Presentation to Mr. Geo. Martineau, C.B.	111	135
H. von Herkomer, R.A.	111	120	Usine St. Madeleine, Trinidad	111	128



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BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
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Monday, January 5th, 1903.

The Industries of Trinidad.

His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., the Governor of Trinidad, attended a specially convened Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, on January 1st, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding. Those present included Mr. Henry K. Davson, (Deputy-Chairman), Mr. C. Gurney, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. G. Barr, Mr. T. Du Buisson, Mr. G. Mc. G. Frame, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. E. Packard, Mr. W. P. Sheppard, Mr. J. D. Taylor (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), Colonel Trollope, Mr. E. Kynaston, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. Smith (New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co.), Mr. Grierson and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, *Secretary*.

SIR N. LUBBOCK, in introducing Sir Alfred Moloney to the meeting, said, I am sure I may thank Sir A. Moloney on your behalf for coming here to-day. As you are aware, we are always pleased to see our different Governors. It is an advantage to us, and I think to the Governors themselves, to lay before them our views on topics of general interest connected with the West Indies. With regard to Trinidad, the main industry is of course Sugar. We are in hopes that the Brussels Convention will be ratified this month or next, and that in September, 1903, it will come into operation. For my own part, I have not the slightest fear as to the prosperity of the Sugar industry in Trinidad, if that Convention does come into force. Trinidad can grow sugar as cheaply as any other part of the world, and with a fair field and no favour will be able to hold her own.

But there is one question upon which the sugar industry in Trinidad depends largely, that is, the question of labour. As you know, for nearly 50 years past, Trinidad has been practically dependent upon East Indian Coolie labour. I believe the Coolie has been the salvation of Trinidad. At the present moment a large proportion of the labour of the Colony is done by Coolies and the greater part of the work of the Sugar Estates. Whether the apportionment of the cost of this immigration, two-thirds to those to whom the immigrants are allotted, and one-third to the Government is equitable, I do not wish to discuss to-day. I believe it is unfair to the Estates, for while they pay two-thirds of the cost, others get three-fourths of the labour, so that I am quite certain that the amount paid by the Estates is largely in excess of the work they get for it.

There are other questions connected with coolie immigration which are of much greater importance. There was a new coolie ordinance passed some three years ago, the intention of which was to amend the old ordinance. We thought at the time the new ordinance would prove unworkable and informed the authorities at the Colonial Office that we thought so. Subsequent experience has shown that we were right. I may mention two or three of the points of importance. First, although there is a clause under which deserters can be punished for desertion, yet that clause becomes inoperative for the reason that there is another clause under which coolies can be punished for vagrancy, the penalty for which is much lighter than for desertion. When the coolie deserts he gets taken up and brought before a magistrate on a charge of vagrancy, he is convicted of this, and when he is taken back to the estate he cannot be punished for desertion. Secondly, another clause made it penal for anyone to harbour a deserter, very naturally it was thought that it would be a hardship to punish some innocent employer of labour who unknowingly employed a deserter. Therefore, the word "knowingly" was inserted; when the magistrates had to interpret this word, they construed it to mean that the person charged must have had absolute knowledge that the coolie was a deserter and the result

Members are reminded that Subscriptions for the current year are now due. The next election of Members will take place on Thursday, January 8th, next.

of the working of that clause is that practically there is no penalty for harbouring or employing a deserting coolie. One of the reasons why they desert is that they are tempted to do so. It is obvious that the man who is not put to expense of two-thirds of the cost of importing the coolie can afford to pay a higher price for his labour. Thirdly, under the ordinance there is a penalty for any coolie refusing to do work allotted to him. On a charge of failure to perform the work given, the magistrate decided that failure did not prove "refusal" and that where no actual refusal had taken place the charge must fall. I have no hesitation in saying that it will be a great blow as well to the estates as to the Colony generally if immigration has to cease. There are labour laws and ample means to compel the planter to fulfil his contract to the coolie; to that we have no objection, but we think at the same time the laws ought to protect us in securing that the coolies do much more work than they do now. I think I am well within the mark in saying that the coolies do not perform more than 40 per cent. of the work they have contracted to do.

The Cocoa industry is exceedingly prosperous, and those interested in cocoa, fortunately, unlike the Sugar Planter, have but little to complain of. One other industry, important to the Government rather than to the whole island, is the Pitch Lake Asphalt. The Government derives some £50,000 a year from this industry. A Commission has recently been appointed to consider the working of that Pitch Lake, and we are anxious to have their report. As Mr. Previté, one of the Directors of the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, is here, perhaps he would like to say a few words on the subject.

MR. PREVITÉ: It will be remembered that a good many troubles and difficulties have arisen in connection with the working of the land asphalt deposits near to the Pitch Lake. In order to settle these troubles a Commission was appointed, and we are now awaiting the report. This report has barely reached the Colonial Office, and will have to be considered by the authorities both here and in Trinidad, and it will probably be a considerable time before any action can be taken on that report. I may say, however, that every one was satisfied with the way in which the Commissioners' work was done, and we hope that the result will be to settle all the difficulties and disputes. The Commission made a more thorough investigation than was ever made before, and I think we now know more about these troubles than we ever did. At present we are in a sort of interregnum awaiting the report, and that position is giving rise to new difficulties which we trust the presence of the Governor in the Island may help to smooth over. I hope, Sir, you will give the matter your earnest attention when you get back to Trinidad.

MR. W. GILLESPIE said he should be glad to hear whether there was any hope of an alteration in respect to the 30 per cent. duties in Venezuela.

SIR ALFRED MOLONEY then rose and said: The points to which the Chairman refers are all of great interest, and as you have been very generous in your remarks, not in any way taking advantage of my presence here to heckle me, for which I am obliged to you, I shall be very frank with you in what I have to say. With regard to the sugar industry, we are all bound to the hope that the Convention will come into force. When I came to England, anxiety was very marked in Trinidad as to the future of sugar. With the extinction of that industry, the progress of the Colony would be absolutely blocked, and in that case, there could be no continuance of immigration. Now, with the marked increase of the population in Trinidad, represented by the importation of the East Indian Coolies, our consuming power and our revenue, are much increased, whereas, if the industry were stopped, it would prove a great blow to the progress of the Island, and would, I am sure, bring about an enormous amount of suffering consequent on the lack of employment for labour. Comparing sugar

with cocoa, I may say that on estates of equal size five labourers are required on a sugar estate to one on a cocoa estate. Fortunately for the cocoa industry there are no difficulties in its way, and although the cocoa produced is nearly equivalent in value to the sugar, yet its importance to the Colony in the matter of employment of labour is not so great in the proportion I have mentioned.

Now, although I am not here in my official capacity, and cannot in any way commit my Government, I am thankful to you for bringing before me the points which you have done, and you may rest assured that I shall give them my best attention, and when I get back I shall do all that I can, both in the interests of the planters and the coolies. With regard to Mr. Previte's remarks, I am unable to say anything as to the views of the Asphalt Commission, but I am well aware of the troubles and difficulties which exist, and I can assure him that the position is one regarding which I have made strong recommendations to the Government at home, in the hope of getting something done to set at rest these difficulties, and I hope the result of the Commission will be satisfactory.

There is another industry which is likely to prove of great importance to the Colony, and that is coal. I have taken great interest in this question, and I have great anticipations in regard to it. First of all, we imported a boring machine, and I had a particular section of the Colony bored to the extent of 600 to 700 feet. About 9 feet under the surface we came upon a seam of coal about 10 feet thick. The importance of this find is dependent upon the dip of the coal, and the area over which it extends. Expensive machinery will not be required, and it can be worked by means of boring and tunnels. Should the area prove satisfactory our railway will have to be extended to the coalfields, and I hope that the result will be that we shall be able to work our railways and steamers at half the present cost, and also to sell coal. I may explain that we have put the coal to the following test. I got 20 tons down to the landing stage—a man-of-war came in, and I made them a present of the coal on one condition, namely, that they should use no other coal while steaming to Grenada, and they reached that Island within 15 minutes of what they would have done with ordinary coal.

With regard to the difference which exists between Trinidad and Venezuela, nobody would be more readily welcome a settlement of it than I should. I have been incessantly endeavouring to bring about the abolition of the 30 per cent. duties ever since I have been in the Colony. I thank you, gentlemen, for the welcome which you have extended to me. I shall always entertain a great respect for the views and opinions of such a body as you are. It is a great advantage to a Governor to have such views and opinions laid before him, and you may be certain that I shall give every consideration to the representations you have made to me.

THE CHAIRMAN: We thank you, Sir, for your presence here to-day and for the interesting remarks you have made, and we feel sure that when you return to Trinidad you will do what in your judgment is right and proper in the interests of the Colony generally.

Cocoa and Coffee in St. Thomé.

Mr. Consul Nightingale in his Report on the Trade and Commerce of St. Thomé and Principe, which has just been published by the Foreign Office (Annual Series, Consular Reports, No. 2,902), states that the most important products of St. Thomé are cocoa and coffee, the increase in the production of the former article having made enormous strides in the last fourteen years, while coffee, on the other hand, has fallen off considerably, showing but half the amount produced fourteen years ago. It will probably diminish still further, as all the attention of the planters is bestowed on cocoa, which seems to be specially favoured both by the soil and the climate. Cocoa was first introduced into the island about the year 1822, and now there are several varieties grown. Samples of five varieties have

been deposited at the Imperial Institute, where they will, doubtless, attract attention. The varieties are :—

1. Cacau vermelho ponteagudo (sharp-pointed red cocoa).
2. Do. amarello redonda (round yellow cocoa).
N.B.—This is said to be the true Caracas cocoa.
3. Cacau creoulo longo (long creole cocoa).
N.B.—This is said to be the true Trinidad cocoa.
4. Cacau amarello (yellow cocoa).
5. Do. vermelho redondo ou creoulo (red round cocoa, also called "creole." This quality is produced by grafting long creole and sharp-pointed red).

The cocoa tree produces all the year round. 1,000 green pods weigh about 470 kilos. (1,045 lbs.), and give on an average about 89 kilos. (196 lbs.) of green beans, which, when dried, yield close upon 54 kilos. (119 lbs.). Coffee is said to have been first introduced in the year 1795, and was brought from Upper Ethiopia; the quality is very good, and compares favourably with the best Brazilian and other first-class kinds. Only about one-fourth of the island is at present under cultivation, but steady progress is being made from year to year in the clearing the forest lands for further planting of the cocoa tree. Many of the plantations are even now worked on the most primitive methods. Accompanying the report is a return showing the production of cocoa and coffee in the two islands for the years 1888 to 1901, during which period the former rose from 1,518 tons to 14,914 tons, while the latter fell from 2,206 tons in 1888 and 1,092 tons in 1901.

West India Section Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the above Section on Dec. 22nd last, the following resolution was adopted unanimously :—

"That in view of the reports which are now appearing respecting negotiations at present taking place between the Government of Cuba and the United States in regard to the making of a new Reciprocity Treaty of a Commercial Character, it is in the opinion of the Committee of the West India Section of this Chamber, of the utmost importance both to the English Export Trade to Cuba and to the Sugar Trade between the British West Indies and the United States that the terms of any such Treaty or of any agreement preliminary thereto, should be very closely watched and examined with a view to preventing, if possible, injury to the interests named."

The following letters from the Direct West India Cable Company and the Anglo-American Telegraph Company were read.

December 17th, 1902.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, in which it is stated that the Committee of the West India Section of your Chamber have desired you to open correspondence with us regarding a substantial reduction in the rate of cabling to Jamaica and making comparison between such rate and rates to Cuba, we think the following information will convince you that the best efforts in the direction you mention have already been and will be made by our Companies, as far as it lies in their power.

Before 1898 the rate to Cuba was 2s. 8d. per word, and the yearly traffic to that place alone about 600,000 to 700,000 words, whereas the charge to Jamaica was 5s. 10d. per word, and the traffic about 80,000 words only. You will, therefore, see that the traffic to Cuba is probably eight to twelve times larger to that of Jamaica.

Through our efforts the rate to Jamaica was reduced to 3s. per word in 1898. The traffic foreshadowed as a result of such reduction was 160,000. We received in 1902, 120,442 words. Notwithstanding this diminution, the saving in cost of telegraphing to West Indian Merchants using our "via Bermuda" route to Jamaica in 1902 was £15,000, and on traffic to the whole of the Islands £26,000.

The News supply before 1898 was scanty, and the Agreement made between the Jamaica Government and our Companies to supply 400 words daily, say 125,200 words per annum has been considerably exceeded, and a supply of 315,000 words, including valuable quotations, has been given for the same subsidy as existed prior to 1898.

We do not think telegraph charges can be based on distance alone, but the question of volume of traffic and many other considerations must come into the calculation.

The Companies are issuing a Social code, copy of which is sent to you under separate cover, which will meet the requirements of visitors, and enable them to go to any of the Company's offices and send home telegrams at the smallest possible cost.

I may point out, various Governments, besides paying subsidies, guarantee loss arising to Companies on reduction of rates, and the route between England and New Zealand is through heavy traffic producing countries.

The rate charged to our Companies for telegrams between Jamaica and Demerara is 4s. 5d. per word, and we net only 1s. 1d. on a three-word message to that place, not 7s. per word.

It must also be borne in mind that our Companies are checked in their efforts to get certain valuable through traffic, by the West India and Panama Company being compelled to send all messages *via* Cuba and United States, as the result of an agreement entered into in the interests of the Western Union Telegraph Company of the United States.

Trusting that this letter has made the situation clear to you.

I am, &c.,

JOSEPH RIPPON,

DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.

SIR,

December 17th, 1902.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., in which the Committee of the West India Section of your Chamber say that it would be glad if the Anglo-American Telegraph Co. could see its way to make a substantial reduction in the rate for cabling to British Guiana, which at the present time is 7s. per word. I beg to inform you that this Company's proportion of the 7s. for the carriage of the message between the United Kingdom and New York is only 1s. per word, which is acknowledged to be an extremely moderate rate for 4,000 miles of lines, consisting for the most part of expensive deep sea cable.

The remaining 6s. per word are the charges which this Company pays out for transmission between New York and British Guiana.

We would respectively refer you to the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Dashwood House, New Broad Street, London, which own the telegraph lines between Cuba and British Guiana, but if you would prefer it, we should have much pleasure in sending a copy of your letter to them.

I am, &c.,

J. H. CARSON, *Manager*,

ANGLO-AMERICAN TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

It was then resolved to address a letter to the West India and Panama Cable Company accordingly. This was subsequently done and a copy of the reply of that Company which we have received from the Secretary is appended.

DEAR SIR,

CABLE RATE TO BRITISH GUIANA.

December 24th, 1902.

In reply to your letter of the 23rd instant, I beg to inform you that for the purpose of affording you complete information as to the tariffs and traffics at Demerara, I would point out that since July, 1889, the tariff from Demerara to Great Britain has been reduced from 15s. 0½d. to 7s. 0½d. per word without in the least increasing the volume of traffic.

You will perhaps be surprised to hear that the traffic from the whole of the United Kingdom and Europe to Demerara, including Government despatches, for the twelve months ended the 30th June last averaged twelve words per day, and that the entire traffic from Demerara to Cuba, North America, the United Kingdom and Europe, did not exceed an average of 32 words per day.

With such a small traffic as this it is obvious that a further reduction of rate cannot be made unless the Colony can see its way to guarantee a minimum income as is done in some of the Australasian Colonies.

Since 1871, when cable communication was established to Demerara, the section of cable between the Colony and Trinidad has, notwithstanding the subsidy grant, been worked at a loss; and in these unfortunate circumstances the Company regrets that it is unable to fall in with the suggestion of your Committee.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) R. T. BROWN,

Manager and Secretary,

WEST INDIAN AND PANAMA TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

Messrs. Joseph Gardner & Sons were elected Members of the Section, and Mr. Joseph Gardner was nominated to serve on the Committee. Correspondence with the West India Committee was reported and proceedings then terminated.

Colonial Reports.

The limited space at our disposal makes it impossible to refer more than very briefly to the Annual Reports of BARBADOS (No. 368), JAMAICA (No. 373), and the LEEWARD ISLANDS (No. 374) for 1901-2, which have recently been issued. It is of course unfortunate that the Reports should make so dilatory an appearance, but the following table showing the financial position of the Colonies issued at March 31st, 1902, will be useful for purposes of comparison.

	BARBADOS.		JAMAICA.		LEEWARD ISLANDS.	
	1901-2.	1900.	1901-2.	1900.	1901-2.	1900.
REVENUE ...	£ 179,972	£ 185,474	£ 774,837	£ 760,386	Antigua ... 42,067 St. Kitts Nevis 43,793 Dominica ... 29,598 Montserrat ... 6,196 Virgin Island 1,796 123,450	£ 42,652 39,904 28,113 6,664 2,117 119,450
EXPENDITURE ...	175,350	182,865	751,699	763,662	Antigua ... 48,514 St. Kitts Nevis 44,135 Dominica ... 28,012 Montserrat ... 10,312 Virgin Island 1,924 132,897	£ 49,435 43,964 26,780 9,597 2,197 131,973
SURPLUS ...	4,622	2,609	23,138	—	—	—
DEFICIT ...	—	—	—	2,276 Deficit in General Revenue £103,164	£9,447	£12,523

While it will be noted that the financial position of these Colonies has been somewhat strengthened, it is to be feared that except in the case of Dominica and to a minor extent Jamaica, this cannot be attributed to a return of prosperity but rather to rigid economy. These reports can be seen by Members at the Committee room. The Jamaica report is dealt with in an interesting leading article in the *Times* of January 3rd, in which issue there also appears a long letter on "Planting in Dominica," by His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator.

Labour Question in Queensland.

Mr. J. T. Critchell, the Editor of the *British Australasian*, who has lately returned from a visit to North Queensland, has favoured us with his views on the above subject. "What will Queensland do without her Kanakas?" is a question impossible to answer with precision just now at this time; next season, after experience of white labour over the whole cycle of field operations, the query will be an easier one to tackle. At the present, all one can say is that white men have been employed during the cutting season (commencing in July), and that a fair number were engaged at the date of last advices from North Queensland, November 8th. It is rather difficult to gather a clear idea of how these men are taking to the work, and the satisfaction they give to employers. The *Sugar Journal*, the organ of the industry in the State, says that so far "cane cutting (in Mackay) by white labour has only proved moderately successful: white men on the whole have proved distinctly less capable in cutting cane, and certainly less reliable."

The work is done in gangs at from 3s. to 4s. per ton, and the contention of white labour is that, at least, 40 tons per day can be cut by a 25 men gang. According to returns to hand, up to October, 39,649 tons of cane had been harvested by white labour in two of the North Queensland districts, Mackay and Lower Burdekin. Roughly, this may be put at about one-third of the

volume of cane to be handled in those districts. A very important factor to be remembered is that white labour has been so far engaged only in harvesting, as the cane was planted and grown by coloured labour; the time of year, July to October, during which white men have been at work on the sugar fields, is comparatively cool.

Under the Sugar Regulations issued by the Federal Government, the rebate of £2 a ton of sugar, is granted on "white-grown cane," so sugar-growers who registered under the Regulations are bound to get their cane harvested by white labour in order to receive the rebate, which is paid on sugar from cane grown by white men from first to last, but this year the regulations came into force on March 1st, irrespective of what had been done before. In Queensland sugar is grown from Bundaberg, Lat. 25, S., right up the coast to Port Douglas, Lat. 16.30, S., and if one can generalise from attempts made in the past to carry on the industry with white labour, and from experience in other parts of the world, the verdict would be that in the cooler south a certain measure of success may be achieved, but that in the tropical North the experiment will fail.

West Indian Mail News.

The Royal Mail Steamer "Orinoco" arrived at Plymouth at 5.15 p.m., on Thursday, January 1st, 1903, and letters were delivered by first post the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Steamer "Port Royal," from Jamaica, reached Avonmouth on Tuesday, December 23rd. We regret that owing to a mistake in telegraphic transmission between London and St. Thomas, the word "enfeebled" was substituted for "enabled" in a press message, which we communicated to the West India and Pauama Telegraph Company on December 8th last, regarding recent questions in the House of Commons. This error gave a tone of despondency, which was reflected throughout the West Indies (Jamaica excepted), to what was intended to be a hopeful paragraph. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), December 16th, 1902. The month up to date had been comparatively dry, but after the excess of moisture in November, this was an advantage.

Barbados.—(Forster M. Alleyne, Esq.), December 18th. There had been a continuance of light showers, which although at times unequally distributed, had been more or less general. Although they might have been heavier, the canes had, nevertheless, very much benefited. Still, it would not be expected that the ratoons would recover from the terrible drought of September and October, the most critical months for them, and the Island would have to rely for its crop mainly on plant canes. If the showers continued there was every hope that they would do well. The small-pox epidemic, now that cases had been reduced to a very small number, appeared to be stationary. Latest returns showed 10 new cases since December 5th (16 less than the previous fortnight) 2 deaths and 65 discharges, bringing up 58 under treatment on December 20th. The present method of transshipment of the Mails appeared to give satisfaction to no one, and the removal of quarantine was eagerly looked for. £102,044 was the total advanced under the Plantations in Civil Act. (We are indebted to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the following publications, which can be seen at the Committee Room. Report of the Agricultural Minister for the season 1900-1902, by Prof. J. P. D'Albuquerque, F.I.C., F.C.S.S., and J. R. Bovell, Esq., F.L.S., F.C.S. and *The Agricultural News*, Vol. 1, No. 18. We have also to acknowledge with thanks the *Barbados Agricultural Gazette* and *Planters' Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 12.—A.E.A.)

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), December 17th. The weather was favourable generally. Heavy showers had fallen during the fortnight both in Demerara and Essequibo. In Berbice the fall had been light, especially in the River districts which could do with more rain. The market for refining crystals after reaching a point at a fraction over \$2.25 had dropped, and it was doubtful if more than \$2.10 could be obtained at the time of writing. The Henery Syndicate shipped by Mail 4,138 diamonds, the result of six weeks prospecting in the claims in the Mazaruni. The stones were fine specimens, some of them being 9 to 10 to the carat.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), December 16th, 1902. The office of second puisne judge of the Leeward Islands had been abolished, and it was generally felt that the saving effected (£200) would not compensate the Island for the inconvenience likely to result from having no resident judge. A local cricket team had defeated a team from St. Lucia. The Imperial Commission of Agriculture had paid a visit to the Island, and had addressed a special meeting of the Dominica Agricultural Society. The weather had, on the whole, been fine.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), December 15th, 1902. The weather continued rainy and was not adverse to the existing condition of the canes.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) December 16th, 1902. Captain Young had practically completed his labours in connection with the Relief Funds, and was about to return to England.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) December 19th, 1902. The Amended Immigration Ordinance was passed on December 15th. There still however remained some Clauses dealing with "Harbouring" which required amendment, but the planters appeared satisfied for the moment and willing to see how the new Section (Section 11 of the New Ordinance, which can be seen at the Committee Room A.E.A.) dealing with absence from work, etc., worked out. Nearly all the authentic news received in the Island about Venezuela was cabled from London. A good summary of what was known was contained in the *Port of Spain Gazette* of December 19th, which gave a good idea of the situation. No official notice had been given of the blockade, though it was supposed to be imminent. Trading vessels were still proceeding to Venezuelan Ports, but sailed without proper clearance papers, the Venezuelan Consul having quitted his post and left no one in charge. The weather had been wet and rather too wet in some districts, but the Colony generally had benefited greatly by the rains. Prospects of the cocoa and sugar crops continued good.

For the past five mails in succession we are without a letter from our **Grenada** correspondent. We have also received no communication from our **Jamaica** correspondent.

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," January 2nd, 1903:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. Thom, Mr. T. Monro Nicol. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. R. Pogram, Mr. Hamilton Laird, Mr. D. R. Mackenzie, Mr. G. Murray. **JAMAICA.**—Captain Robinson, R.N., Mr. C. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. T. Deeb, Mr. S. Deeb, Captain Singleton, Mr. N. Johnson. **TRINIDAD.**—Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Stone, and two children, Mr. E. Corrie, Miss J. Lawrence, Mr. A. Herbert, Mr. M. Marti, Lieut. Geo. Gregory, R.N.R., Mr. A. G. Rickards, Mr. L. Bolland, Mr. Thomas Parry. **DOMINICA.**—Rev. Father Astier. **GRENADA.**—Mr. J. T. de Cotian, Mr. G. D. Humphrey, Mr. G. Paterson, Mrs. Patterson, Miss Paterson. **ST. LUCIA.**—Dr. St. G. Gray.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," January 7th, 1903:—**BARBADOS.**—Mrs. Burslem, Lieut. C. B. Fleming, R.A.M.C., Mr. M. A. Murphy, Capt. R. F. F. Willis, R.M.L.I., Mr. S. Boxill. **DEMERARA.**—Capt. and Mrs. Bruncker, Rev. J. G. and Mrs. Pearson, Mr. E. Stripp. **JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Thompson, Mr. G. C. Vasmer, Mr. S. Hawkins, Mr. W. Gamble, Mr. W. P. Purefoy, Qr.-Mstr.-Sergt. and Mrs. Ainsworth. **TRINIDAD.**—His Excellency Sir A. Moloney, K.C.M.G., and Lady Moloney, Mr. T. C. Fitz Herbert, Capt. J. H. Dulton, Mr. W. Burslem, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Berkeley and family, Mr. and Mrs. Hargreave, Miss A. Lamont, Miss L. H. Sutherland, Capt. Owen, R.N.R. **ANTIGUA.**—Miss Lewis, Mr. A. H. Kirby, Miss Metcalfe. **DOMINICA.**—Miss A. Joseph, Miss I. Osborne. **GRENADA.**—Dr. and Mrs. O'Neale, Rev. G. Clark, Mr. A. Duncan, Mrs. H. A. Trotter. **ST. KITTS.**—Rev. J. and Mrs. Price and child. **TOBAGO.**—Mr. H. Thornton. 65 Days' Tour.—Mr. H. J. Johnson and Mr. H. Harriman, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Roche, Mr. J. Wallace, Mr. Timmins and Mr. Sackville West, Mr. and Mrs. W. Brinton, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. West, Master F. K. and Miss P. E. West, Miss F. Weller, Mr. W. Wynn.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," 21st January, 1903:—**BARBADOS.**—Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Dillon, Capt. Thorne. **DEMERARA.**—Mr. J. Hewick, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. A. McKinnon and Family, Miss Lumsdon and Miss MacGibbon, Capt. W. and Mrs. Le Poor Power, Mr. C. Parker, Mr. A. Jeffrys. **JAMAICA.**—Mrs. R. Barrington Baker, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Dawson and the four Misses Dawson, Mrs. E. Macduff, Major General Brownlow, Colonel Blagrove, Mr. H. Bailey, General Slade, C.B., and Capt. M. Addison, Mr. H. C. Ellis, Mr. H. G. B. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Fowler, Mr. Fowler, Junr., Mrs. Lindsay, Miss Unthank, 2nd-Lieut. A. Burrows, R.G.A. **TRINIDAD.**—Very Rev. Father Shapcote, Mr. and Mrs. Christall, Mr. and Mrs. H. Crocker, Mr. Crocker, Junr., Dr. C. F. Lassalle, the two Misses Boucaud, Miss C. Croker, Sir M. Mitchell-Thomson and Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. C. F. Brown, Mr. W. S. Robertson, Mr. R. Wilson, Mr. R. Wilson, Junr., Mr. Kernahan. **ANTIGUA.**—Mr. and Mrs. F. Holborn and Family. **DOMINICA.**—Rev. C. L. and Mrs. Kennaway, Mr. G. Gordon, Mr. S. Ismay, Mr. A. P. Skeat. **ST. LUCIA.**—Lady Melville, two Misses Melville, Mr. G. D. Melville, 2nd-Lieut. R. H. Rowe, R.G.A. **ST. VINCENT.**—Mr. D. F. Porter. 65 Days' Tour.—Mr. and Mrs. King and servant, Mr. B. Emanuel and Mr. F. Emanuel Capt. and Mrs. X. Mahson, Miss Walton, Mr. A. J. Boulton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Taylor, Mr. W. A. Hill, Dr. and Mrs. Hough, Mr. W. Bowden and valet, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smetton, Sister Ramsay, Mr. Gibson, Rev. R. Cardwell, Mr. W. Cardwell, Mr. C. Wordsworth, Mr. and Mrs. Cribble, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Forster, Mr. A. Aspell, Mr. J. A. Heywood, Mr. and Mrs. R. Thom, two Misses Thom, Mrs. Sweatnam.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," December 23rd, 1902:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. St. John Clarke, Mr. A. Elder, Mrs. Fletcher and Infant, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hamilton, Mr. Keith Hood-Daniel, Mr. J. M. Mitchell, Miss Masson, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. S. Sedgwick, Mr. H. Tringham, Mr. A. H. Harper, Miss Jewell, Miss Jewell, Mr. C. J. Petheram, Mr. Zizecli.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," January 3rd, 1903:—**JAMAICA.**—Mr. and Mrs. T. Alexander, Mr. W. Bayne, Mr. Belas, Capt. A. Carpenter, R.N., Mr. F. G. Clarke, Mrs. E. M. Clayton, Capt. and Mrs. Carlisle Crowe, Mrs. E. A. Cundall, Mr. H. A. Hood Daniel, Mr. W. J. Davidson, Miss Ida Elliot, Lieut. T. E. Fielding, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Findlay, Lieut. A. E. Fitzgerald, Mr. R. S. Grant, Mrs. and Miss Hamilton, Major and Mrs. E. M. Hassard, Capt. G. E. Hewett, Miss M. L. Holden, Miss B. K. Hopkins, Mr. J. L. King, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Judge and Mrs. C. F. Lumb, Mr. and Mrs. D. MacLaren, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. MacMahon, Mrs. MacMillan, Sister Madeleine, Mr. A. Mallock, Master F. N. Moseley, Mr. M. McC. Grieve Neill, Mr. W. Grieve Neill, Mr. G. E. Pickering, Mr. J. W. Plaston, Mr. Herbert Reed, K.C., Mr. Frank Reed, Mr. Renwick, Major W. H. Robinson, Mr. J. A. Robison, Mr. Lovell Simons, Mrs. and Miss Sinclair, Miss A. F. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Walton, Mr. E. F. Wright, C.M.G.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," January 17th, 1903.—JAMAICA.—Rev. and Mrs. Thos. Adam, Mr. R. Adam, Mr. W. Adam, Miss A. Adam, Master E. Adam, Master J. Adam, Miss Amy Bull, Mr. and Mrs. C. Reid Campbell, Miss K. Johns, Mrs. L. St. John, Hon. Dr. James Johnston, Mrs. Kelly Lawson and Ch., Mr. W. N. Michelin, Mr. A. MacDowell Nathan, Mrs. Sidgwick, Rev. Dr. Turner, Mr. Turner, jun., Mr. and Mrs. Wildridge, Miss A. Young.

Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds
	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
BRITISH GUIANA—								
Jan. 1 to Dec. 15, 1902	114,441	102,243	—	26,107	13,410	1,611	97,297	12,230
" " 18, 1901	83,103	91,708	—	22,434	76,578	1,112	95,602	3,294
JAMAICA—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
						Cwts.	Bunches.	
Apr. 1 to Nov. 22, 1902	12,585	116,892	47,665	1,524,998	16,875,706	95,404	10,453,026	58,888,577
" " Nov. 23, 1901	10,932	11,766	23,147	1,215,923	12,353,660	52,000	7,843,683	63,164,812
TRINIDAD—	Bags & Brls.	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Tres.	Brls.
						Puns.		Tons.
Jan. 1 to Dec. 17, 1902	450,377	30,561,070	39,900	1,560	11,728,256	3,408	142	236
" " 17, 1901	471,952	20,424,830	20,800	1,606	10,645,886	3,657	158	566
								Asphalt.
								Tons.
								150,001
								157,971

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), January 5th. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." **BRITISH GUIANA**.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), December 24th, "Moderate rains generally." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Dec. 31st. "Weather favourable for cultivation."

The West India Committee.

No election has taken place since the publication of our last Circular. The next will be held on Thursday, January 8th next. We again confidently appeal to our friends to help us strengthen the position of the Committee by submitting the names of candidates for election. Subscriptions for the current year are now due, and Members will greatly oblige by forwarding a remittance to the Secretary at their *earliest convenience*.

Mr. Edward Kynaston's "West India Circular."

West Indians will learn with regret, that Mr. Edward Kynaston has decided to discontinue the publication of his West India Circular. With the abolition of Bounties and Kartels, by means either of the Convention or Countervailing Duties a practical certainty, he feels that there is no need for him to write further on that subject. Moreover, he considers that the *West India Committee Circular* has rendered the publication of fortnightly circulars by individual brokers, all more or less on the same lines, superfluous. In a valedictory Circular, published on January 1st, Mr. Kynaston in the following terms, pays a graceful compliment to the West India Committee.

The work so persistently done by the West India Committee deserves the warmest thanks of all those who benefit now, and who in the future will benefit still more, by the untiring exertions of these gentlemen to throw light on all subjects, not bounties only, affecting the West Indies generally. It seems not out of place herein to state that it would be a wise action on the part of everyone interested in West Indian affairs to become a member of this most useful Association, the trifling cost of which is 21s. per annum, entitling the subscriber to a post-paid copy of its Circular, issued each mail. Whilst on the subject of this Circular, so ably compiled under the supervision of the Executive Council, and its able Secretary, it appears to the writer that with all the valuable information contained therein, including reports on the various Markets and other interesting matter, the publication of West India Circulars by individual Brokers, all more or less on the same lines, has become superfluous. With this view firmly impressed on his mind, the writer desires to intimate that the issue of this old West India Circular has ceased, and to express the hope that it may have been found of some use in times past, and, further, that it may in a small degree have assisted the West India Committee to win its victory against Foreign Bounties. For the future, records of prices and movements of crops, etc., will be kept in this office, and will always gladly be placed at the disposal of anyone interested in such subjects.

On our part we are grateful for what Mr. Kynaston has done in the past, and can safely say that when Bounties are finally abolished, no small share of the credit will be due to him, who in his "*Petit Bleu*" (as his Circular was, from the colour of its ink, appropriately called), has for over 40 years so ably voiced our cause. A little encouragement goes a long way, and while we hope to embody in the *West India Committee Circular* some of the features of the old West India Circular, we shall endeavour to show ourselves worthy of the mantle which has fallen upon our shoulders.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Beet.—It argues well for the position of sugar, that, in spite of the influence of the holidays, the reopening of navigation, and the attacks made against the Brussels Convention, the market has been steady. In France, all the factories have finished work, and the weather which has been mild and rainy, will have no effect on the final result of the crop. Winter sowing has been facilitated, and dry and cold weather is now wanted. Fabricants are compelled to offer lower prices for beets than last year, and with the price of alcohol high, a fresh set-back in the cultivation of sugar beet is anticipated in more than one direction. In other countries, the campaign has ended and is nearing a close. The weather has been mild, damp and unfavourable for the preservation of the beet still remaining to be worked. We are indebted to Herr F. O. LICHT for a copy of his Annual Report dated January 3rd, 1903, which can be inspected at the West India Committee Room.

88 per cent. Beet.—As we go to press, 88 per cent. beet is quoted: January 8s. $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; May 8s. 3d.; August 8s. $\frac{5}{8}$ d.; Oct/Dec. 8s. $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The Visible Supply of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1902 Tons.	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.	1898 Tons.
United Kingdom, 27th December	119,605	114,894	65,549	57,815	76,930
France, 1st December	742,964	596,563	559,216	598,265	490,000
Germany, 1st December	1,146,653	1,172,586	939,579	854,053	851,293
Hamburg, 31st December	102,530	163,780	109,600	78,800	93,900
Austria-Hungary, 1st December	614,518	620,476	553,999	461,419	520,486
Holland, 15th December	97,297	116,635	95,106	72,169	76,646
Belgium, 1st December	170,457	104,453	68,349	85,308	114,001
	2,994,024	2,889,387	2,391,398	2,207,829	2,223,256
United States, 31st December, Total Stocks	136,000	130,633	62,134	209,868	116,093
Cuba, six principal ports, 31st December, Total Stocks.	52,000	29,904	7,249	9,395	4,512
Cargoes afloat, 31st December	46,508	10,268	23,429	27,473	63,037
Total.....	3,228,532	3,060,192	2,484,210	2,454,565	2,406,898

Crystallised Sugar.—After being suspended on December 16th, the Auctions were resumed on January 2nd. Demerara and Trinidad crystallised selling at 14s. and 15s. Only a small quantity was offered and this met with a slow demand. A small quantity of Crystallised Demerara good to fine light yellow realised 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d., and Crystallised Trinidad low middling dull yellowish 14s.

Rum.—With a holiday time ruling throughout the fortnight and dealers stock-taking, business is at standstill, and sales of an unimportant character. The question of the terms upon which Rum is sold in London is still under the consideration of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, who are in communication with the London and India Docks Joint Committee on the subject.

Cocoa.—No auctions have been held and privately the market has been very dull. Small business has taken place at steady prices, including Ceylon, chiefly good to fine at 70s. to 80s. The public sales will be resumed to-morrow. The deliveries in London last week show a comparative increase of about 250 bags, but the landings exceed those of the corresponding period last year of about 1,500 bags, while the stock, which is only a few bags in excess of the previous week, shows the relative deficiency of about 16,000 bags.

Coffee.—Futures have ruled quiet and only moderate sales have taken place at generally $\frac{1}{2}$ d. decline. Santos March 27s. 3d. and 27s. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and value, May 28s. to 27s. $\frac{10}{8}$ d. and value, July 28s. $\frac{7}{8}$ d. to 28s. 6d. sellers. September 28s. $\frac{10}{8}$ d. and value, December 29s. $\frac{7}{8}$ d. and value.

Arrowroot.—Quiet, with only small sales of St. Vincent at previous rates. We append statement of Imports and Deliveries for the last two years, and Stocks on December 31st.

	Imported.		Deliveries.		Stocks.	
	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.
Barrels ...	19,975	20,410	14,570	20,863	12,224	7,747
Boxes and Tins...	1,740	1,570	1,082	1,152	1,413	755

Spices.—Auctions will be resumed on the 7th.

Ginger.—Has continued in slow demand and little business has been done. Cochin washed rough quoted 38s. to 40s., with very small sales. Japan, spot sellers 33s. 6d.

Nutmegs.—Have continued in demand with fair sales at dearer rates. Penang 80's selling at 1s. $\frac{5}{8}$ d. to 1s. 7d., and 110's at 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and buyers.

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

NEAT SPRING-BACK CASES FOR FILING THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, 26 EACH OR POST FREE 3.-.

West India Committee Circular.

No. 88.

Telegrams :
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4th Edition.
Telephone :
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BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, January 19th, 1903.

Two Notable Lives.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the passing away of two notable lives prominently associated with the West Indies; those of our late Deputy-Chairman, Mr. Quintin Hogg, and Lord Pirbright, better known as Baron de Worms. Mr. Hogg died suddenly on Saturday morning at the Regent Street Polytechnic Institution, of which he was the founder and to which he devoted the greater part of his life and fortune. Till the previous evening he had appeared to be in his usual health, and none but his immediate family and his doctor knew that he was suffering from weakness of the heart, which had developed under the stress of work of many different kinds. With Mr. Hogg's work as a philanthropist we need not deal, so fully has it been recorded by the Press. His first connection with the West Indies was many years ago, when he entered the well-known firm of West India merchants, Bosanquet, Curtis & Co., subsequently known as Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co. He took a keen interest in the sugar industry, especially in British Guiana, where he owned by inheritance and purchase several of the most valuable sugar properties. He was for some years Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee but retired from that position on May 26th, 1898, when he severed his connection with the Colonies. He however remained a Member of the Executive Committee to the last and continued to take interest in all matters affecting the welfare of the West Indian Colonies. The West India Committee will be represented at the funeral which will take place on Wednesday at All Souls' Church, Langham Place, at one o'clock, and the remains will subsequently be cremated at Finchley Cemetery.

Lord Pirbright, whose death took place on the 9th inst., at his residence, 42, Grosvenor Place, was the third son of Solomon Benedict de Worms, hereditary Baron of the Austrian Empire. His maternal grandfather was a West Indian Merchant, whose fortune, inherited by Lord Pirbright through his Uncle, Mr. George Samuel, added a considerable sum to his patrimony. In 1880 he was returned as Conservative Member for Greenwich, whilst in 1885 he fought and won the Toxteth (E) division of Liverpool. In 1885, in Lord Salisbury's first administration, he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. In 1888 he was appointed Under-Secretary for the Colonies, a post which he retained till 1892. In the same year (1888) he was raised to the Privy Council, and named with the then Prime Minister as one of the plenipotentiaries of this country for the purpose of the International Conference on Sugar Bounties. Baron Henry de Worms prepared the way for the conference by several visits to foreign capitals. He presided at the conference in London, and with Lord Salisbury signed the Abolition Treaty for Great Britain. In his speech on the termination of the conference Baron Henry de Worms, as president, laid stress upon the fact that the conference had confirmed unequivocally and without any reserve on the part of the representative of any nation their entire concurrence in the principle of the abolition of bounties. But economical and political influences prevented the convention thus negotiated from ever coming into force. Lord Pirbright continued, however, to show a deep interest in the Bounty question, and within a few weeks of his death communicated several letters to the "*Times*" with reference to the Brussels Convention regarding the terms, of which his views did not entirely coincide with our own. As a mark of appreciation of the manner in which he paved the way for the abolition of bounties the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, on February 5th, 1902, passed a cordial vote of thanks to the deceased Peer for his services, and during his last illness, telegrams of sympathy were sent to him. "*Requiescat in Pace.*"

The Bounties.—Hearing the End.

The first Dutch Chamber on January 9th unanimously and without discussion agreed to the Brussels Convention. On the 7th the Dutch Government addressed a note to the Chamber, in which it pointed out that the differences of opinion which had arisen were not of sufficient importance to cause Holland to take the initiative in suggesting the postponement of the date upon which the Convention should come into force. Russia has recently assumed a less hostile attitude, and while expressing regret that Great Britain refuses to refer the dispute about the most favoured nation treatment to arbitration, passes over in cold silence Lord Lansdowne's offer to denounce the commercial treaty, saying that the question had better remain open for the present, and that further discussion should be suspended until the International Commission has settled whether the Russian system is, or is not, equivalent to a bounty. All the Powers with the exception of Austria, whose decision is now daily expected, have now agreed to ratify, and on the 16th we were able to announce that Germany had actually ratified the Convention. This is a step nearer the end, and with this good news to hand we may reasonably expect that in less than nine months' time the abolition of Bounties will actually become a *fait accompli*.

New Members and Premises.

That the proposals of the Committee which were embodied in the last Circular of the old year, for providing improved accommodation for members have met with approval, is shown in a gratifying manner by the significant increase in the number of candidates who have presented themselves for election. To enable us adequately to carry out our suggestions we must still further add to our list of members, and it is with some degree of confidence that we invite our Members to assist us by bringing forward candidates. The next election will take place on January 22nd, and forms of Application for Membership can be obtained from the Secretary. For the convenience of our friends in the West Indies, arrangements have been made for the West India Committee Circulars to be posted to candidates pending their election. At a Meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, January 8th, the following New Members were elected:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
J. W. BRANDAY, Esq. (Jamaica)	W. Gillespie, Esq.	E. A. De Pass, Esq.
W. BURSLEM, Esq. (Trinidad)	G. Carrington, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
A. H. HICKS-BRATT, Esq. (British Guiana)	H. K. Davson, Esq.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
R. H. EMPTAGE, Esq. (Barbados)	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	Percy Haynes, Esq.
JAMES R. GREIG, Esq. (Trinidad)	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	G. McG. Frame, Esq.
T. M. MARSHALL, Esq. (British Guiana)	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	H. K. Davson, Esq.
FRED. L. MYERS, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. A. De Pass, Esq.	W. Gillespie, Esq.
H. S. OSMENT, Esq. (St. Lucia)	E. L. Marshall, Esq.	W. Goodwin, Esq.
A. STEWART, Esq.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	H. K. Davson, Esq.
HERBERT BESANT TASKER, Esq. (Dominica)	James Henderson, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
H. de R. WALKER, Esq.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	H. K. Davson, Esq.
THE MONOCANE SUGAR Co., LTD.	W. P. B. Shepherd, Esq.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

A Special General Meeting was held on January 7th, to elect two Directors to fill vacancies caused by the retirement of Mr. A. O. Lumb, and Admiral A. J. Chatfield. Sir James Ferguson presided, and in the course of his opening remarks explained that the suspension of the 5 per cent. dividend in the second-half of 1901, was mainly caused by the extreme depression of business in the West Indies. The high price of coal and the competition of the Elder Dempster Line were also adverse conditions. The new Manager, Mr. Williams, had been successful in the conduct of an Atlantic Steamship Company, and there was every reason to believe that he had the qualifications needed for the purposes of this Company. Already Mr. Williams had proposed certain changes, which the Board had made, and he had others in view which were likely to prove advantageous. More modern ships were wanted, but there were ways of paying for them without calling up the liability on the shares,—a course the Directors never had had any idea of adopting, and if by any arrangement

of capital they could get rid of the liability he would advocate that course. He concluded by moving the election of Mr. Bernard Byrne, as a Director, and Sir Joseph Savory seconded, while Mr. Cortis proposed the election of Mr. Owen Philipps, who was he remarked one of the largest proprietors and Chairman of the King Line, Mr. Kenny seconded, and on a show of hands 46 were held up for Mr. Byrne, and 52 for Mr. Philipps. The Chairman next proposed, and Mr. E. Norton seconded, the election of Mr. Lund; and Mr. Austin moved and Mr. Claud Bishop seconded the election of Mr. James Head. On the propositions being voted on, Mr. Lund secured 63 votes and Mr. Head 40. A Shareholder suggested that either side having secured the election of one of their nominees, the result of the show of hands should be taken as final. The Chairman replied that the Board would agree to that, but Mr. J. W. Philipps and Mr. Austin would not consent. A poll was thereupon demanded, which resulted as follows:—For Mr. Owen Philipps, 535 votes; for Mr. Head, 505 votes; for Mr. Lund, 488 votes; and for Mr. Byrne, 472 votes. Mr. Philipps and Mr. Head were consequently elected.

Colonial Reports—British Guiana.

The report of the Colonial Secretary on BRITISH GUIANA for 1901-2 (No. 378) has been laid on the table for the information of Members of the West India Committee. The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1897-1898	505,368	12	3	564,556	9	3	Deficit
1898-1899	525,865	1	2	525,387	10	6	Surplus
1899-1900	538,838	14	3½	525,542	17	2½	
1900-1901	509,950	8	0	505,492	11	3	
1901-1902	531,506	10	8½	522,631	13	1	

We append a comparative table of the amounts and value of exports of local produce from British Guiana during 1900-1 and 1901-2.

Articles.	1900-1901.		1901-1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar Tons ..	94,745	1,127,457	105,695	1,038,163
Rum Galls. (Proof)	4,023,828	299,392	4,122,546	160,846
Molasses Galls.	230,063	12,371	124,320	4,403
Timber Cub. feet ..	287,640	18,203	313,571	18,685
Shingles No. ..	2,863,150	2,642	1,474,500	1,001
Ballata Lbs.	425,371	19,585	387,576	23,653
Bullion (Raw Gold) Ozs.	108,522	393,084	101,709	371,492
Hides No. ..	5,441	1,726	5,539	1,820
Cattle Head ..	756	2,509	1,413	5,122
Charcoal Bags ..	65,593	7,336	67,186	7,186
Cocoa Lbs.	16,898	509	121,553	3,308
Diamonds Carats ..	906½	2,683	7,507½	19,055
Fish Glue Lbs.	10,205	927	10,229	829

The tone of Mr. J. Hampden King's (the Assistant Government Secretary) general observations is hopeful in view of the success of Brussels Conference, which "has done much to relieve the feeling well nigh of despair that had come to those interested directly or indirectly in the sugar industry. The crisis is by no means passed, and there must remain a considerable period of struggle and anxiety, but there can be little, if any, doubt that the good effects of the convention will in time manifest themselves in a tangible way by increasing public confidence in the industry, and securing the more ready assistance of much needed capital." During the period under review the movement in the direction of a cultivation of products, other than sugar cane, was fairly maintained, and as regards sugar cane it is noted that some 1,200 acres of land are being planted by farmers, who will sell to the sugar estates for manufacture.

Grenada.

Mr. Edward Drayton's (the Colonial Secretary) Report on Grenada for 1901-2 (No. 376) points to steady progress being made by this Colony. The financial position of the Colony is shown by the following comparative table:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1897	50,973			58,549			Deficit.
1898	62,875			57,612			Surplus.
1899	68,757			59,359			
1900	70,363			62,718			
1901-1902	70,075			65,490			

The following comparative Table gives the value of exports from the Island over a period of five years :—

Produce Exported.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
	£	£	£	£	£
Cocoa	132,642	227,655	234,611	269,931	265,979
Spices	13,503	22,107	21,761	30,153	26,714
Cotton and cotton seed ..	2,720	3,134	2,641	4,622	4,905
Live stock	1,230	1,211	1,088	1,133	1,147
Firewood	605	476	513	560	428
Fruit	540	427	672	404	326
Poultry	226	166	497	283	262
Turtle and turtle shell ..	270	406	337	267	351
Kola nuts	88	43	96	203	331
Coffee	283	59	13	5	126
Logwood	302	54	25	39	48

There has been a steady growth of imports from Canada, wheaten flour appearing for the first time in 1901 among the imports from the Dominion. It is hoped that Canada will, before long, in turn begin to take the Colony's staple products of cocoa and nutmegs, and samples of these have been sent with this object, to be shown at the Toronto Exhibition. Barbados and Trinidad claim most of the trade with the other British Colonies. The United States is, however, the principal customer of the Colony, 74 per cent. of the trade of 1901 being with that country. Direct steam communication with New York three times a month has resulted in a steady increase in the import of manufactured articles from the United States, which, in return, furnishes a valuable and still-expanding market for the staple products of Grenada. The cocoa crop of the Colony for 1900-1901 was up to the average, but much improvement in methods of cultivation will be necessary before the output reaches its full dimensions. A drought in the early months made the crop of spices somewhat deficient; the cotton crop was satisfactory. An important departure in land policy in Grenada was inaugurated in 1901. The Government gave notice to certain owners of large sugar estates, which have remained intact, but practically useless to their possessors, since the collapse of the Colony's sugar industry some 30 years ago, that it intended to acquire these under the provisions of a special law, with the object of re-selling them in small lots for the settlement of peasant proprietors thereon. When once these lands are set free a large number of lots should be placed under cultivation, and a great stimulus thus given to the industry and prosperity of the island. A good deal of useful work has been done for the Colony by the Botanic Station, and the Imperial Department of Agriculture has secured visits of investigation and inspection from various experts.

Banquet to the Lord Mayor.

As announced in our *Circular*, No. 86, the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will be entertained at a banquet by the West Indian Club at the Hotel Cecil, at 7 for 7.30 p.m., on January 28th next. Among those who have accepted invitations to be present upon this occasion are Lord Onslow, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Stamford and Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G. The West Indian Club having courteously extended the privilege of attending the banquet to Members of the West India Committee, tickets 10s. 6d. each (wine excluded) can be obtained from the Secretary, West India Committee, or direct from W. A. M. Goode, Esq., Hon. Secretary, West Indian Club, Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, Strand.

Memorial to the late Queen in Barbados.

Mr. H. T. Bosdet, for several years Director of the Government school of design at Islington, and now a Member of the teaching staff of the Royal Academy, has courteously extended an invitation to Members of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE to view at Inglewood Studio, Grove Park Terrace, Chiswick, W., Friday next, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. a window, which he has executed as a Memorial of the late Queen for Barbados. The window is one of a series which decorate the Hall of Legislative Assembly in Barbados. This consists of a half-length portrait of Her Majesty, Queen

Victoria, in Royal Robes, and bearing the Orb and Sceptre. The Queen wears a black dress, and the blue sash of the Garter, and stands against a richly coloured canopied background of many toned ruby and soft green. On either side are Armorial Shields, against a ground of varied greenish white enriched with satin.

The Nevis Circuit Court.—A Memorial.

The people of Nevis have solicited our assistance with regard to the Bill which has been passed by the Legislative Council of the Colony to amend the Acts constituting the Supreme Court of the Colony. It appears that one of the provisions of the Bill is to abolish the Circuit Court of the Island of Nevis so that thenceforth, suitors, witnesses and jurors must travel across the sea to the Island of St. Kitts to await the trial of causes. A largely and influentially-signed Memorial, which was received by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE by the Mail, affirms that no sufficient reason was advanced for putting the people of Nevis to the expense, worry, inconvenience and risk which this would involve. It is pointed out that the journey from one Island to the other often takes about 12 hours, while the need of medical evidence might compel doctors to visit St. Kitts, leaving Nevis unattended during their absence. Upon receipt of this Memorial, enquiries were at once instituted at the Colonial Office, and we are glad to be able to announce that we received an assurance that arrangements would be made to obviate the inconveniences complained of. Several suggestions as to how this might best be effected were under consideration, and would be dealt with at the earliest possible moment.

West Indian Mail News.

The Royal Mail Steamer "Tagus" reached Plymouth at 2.15 a.m., on Wednesday, January 14th, 1903, and mails were delivered in London at 2 p.m. on the same day. As she subsequently approached Southampton Water, a slight accident occurred, the lower pressure steam chest bursting as she passed the Lepe Buoy. She was expected to reach Southampton about 1 o'clock, having been signalled from Hurst Castle two hours earlier, but as no news of her was received at the docks by 3 p.m. a tug was sent down the river and in the course of the evening landed the mails and passengers, with the exception of about 120 troops, who remained on board overnight. Later two tenders towed the Tagus into dock. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Steamer "Port Morant," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth early on Tuesday, January 6th. The news arrived by mail continues, on the whole, favourable, as will be seen from following extracts from the letters of our Honorary Correspondents:—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Sband), December 30th, 1902. At a meeting of the Legislature on December 18th, Sir Gerald Strickland sketched out his line of policy which, if adhered to, would cause general satisfaction. The full text is contained in the *Antigua Observer* of Dec. 18th. His Excellency, it appeared, was a strong advocate of central factories, and proposed to introduce a measure exempting from import duties all machinery used in the manufacture and cultivation of sugar, and building materials imported for the erection of such factories. No income tax or additional taxation would be imposed, but retrenchment effected where possible. The weather had been favourable for the growth of the 1903 crop, as good rains had fallen generally. Those unfortunates left with standover cane to reap had been manufacturing sugar under serious difficulties, and would be left without fuel with which to commence the new crop.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne), January 3rd, 1903. On the whole, December proved a favourable month. During the first ten days the showers were rather light and scanty, but during the last three weeks they were copious and frequent. The total rainfall had varied very much in different parishes, from five to eight inches, and even more on some few estates. Canes had naturally much improved, but it was feared that very few ratoons would make a profitable yield: still, the continuation of showers for another month would help them materially. The cases of small-pox under treatment on January 3rd were only 28. Between December 19th and January 1st, only nine fresh cases occurred, being one less than in the previous fortnight. There had been one death only and 37 discharges. Quarantine weighed heavily on the Island and especially on owners of lighters and their employees. The past year had been a distressing one for Barbados in every way.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), December 31st, 1902. A further decline in the American Sugar Market was reported and the last sale was made at \$2.02½. The cable was still interrupted but the repairing steamer was at work on the break. The weather was favourable generally although dry as compared with the same season in other years. At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, on December 18th, Mr. F. I. Scard was elected President, Mr. Luke M. Hill, Vice-President; Mr. S. A. H. Culpeper, Hon. Secretary; and Mr. C. Wieting, Hon. Treasurer; with Messrs. George Garnett, D. G. Garraway, and A. Summerson, Managing Directors for the ensuing year. Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock was appointed Resident Director of the Society in London. 4,888 oz. 6 dwts. and 22 grs. of gold valued at \$85,540.81 were shipped by the R.M.S. "Solent" on December 17th.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), December 30th, 1902. The night school for adults started some 3½ years ago by Dr. H. A. Nicholls and the writer had, he regretted to say, been closed owing to falling off in the attendance. Good however had been done, and many men who entered the school absolutely illiterate left with a decent elementary education. The weather which had been very rainy, and on December the 21st there was a gale from the N.W., some trees had their branches broken, and the rivers rose high, but little damage was done.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas) December 30th, 1902. The weather during December had not been as cool as it usually was at that time of the year. There had been frequent showers during the month, which had interfered a little with the drying of the cocoa, but, as compared with the experience of December last, cocoa drying had proceeded with little difficulty and no anxiety. The explanation being that they had only 9 inches of rain during the past 30 days, as against 18 inches and 16 parts during the corresponding month of last year. "Thrips" were again exciting alarm among Cocoa Planters as they were seen to be seriously affecting young Cocoa trees,—trees varying in age between six months and three years. Their life history was still obscure, and no very satisfactory remedy had been discovered, in spite of the zealous efforts of Mr. Maxwell Lefroy, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Dr. Morris had just paid this island a visit, and at a special meeting of the Grenada Agricultural Society he urged that measures should be adopted with the view of destroying infested imports on arrival in the island, and of treating imports of plants generally by fumigation, or in such other way as will not lower their value. According to Mr. Lefroy, there were 29 insect pests, and nine pests other than scale-insects, in the island. Sir Robert Llewelyn was interesting himself most actively in all that related to the destruction of these pests. Cane cultivation was being gradually extended on lands unsuited to the cultivation of cocoa. The health of the island was excellent.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), December 29th, 1902. The weather had on the whole been seasonable. Trade had been brisk in all branches during the month, and appearances pointed to a considerable improvement in the financial condition of the Colony. A hearty vote of thanks had been passed by the Agricultural Society to Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., for the gift of a Prize Bull, which was doing splendid work. (Sir Alfred Jones has also presented a Prize Bull to Dr. Johnson, who was leaving by the "Port Morant" for use in his district. A.E.A.)

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), December 29th, 1902. The weather had continued rainy, almost flooding, but the crop would be tackled notwithstanding. The need of central factories was, with the approaching abolition of bounties, becoming increasingly important.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) Captain Young, the Volcano Relief Fund Commissioner, returned by the Mail. He made no announcement before his departure from the Island. No fresh eruptions of the Soufrière had occurred. Various proposals had been made for the emigration of the sufferers from the Volcanic Disaster to other Islands, and negotiations had been proceeding with a large firm interested in Dominica for the transfer of labourers to that Island, but the Vincelonians appeared quite unwilling to leave the Island.

Tobago.—(W. J. S. Tucker, Esq.), December 31st, 1902. The want of population due to emigration to Trinidad was receiving attention, and the question of the settlement of sufferers in St. Vincent on the land had been mooted. (Note the unwillingness of the Vincelonians to emigrate is referred to above. A.E.A.)

Trinidad. (Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) January 2nd, 1903. No reliable news and very little of any kind had been received direct from Venezuela for some time, the English papers and telegrams being the principal source of Trinidad information. More severe fighting was reported, and it was said that one portion of Castro's army had been entirely routed, and that 7,000 Revolutionists were closely investing Caracas. The Orinoco Shipping Co.'s S.S. "Bolivar" had received the Admiral's permission to proceed again to Bolivar (this being the second time since the proclamation of the Blockade), but other vessels including those of the Orinoco Company had been refused. It was generally understood that the permission which would not be repeated was given to the "Bolivar" in return for valuable assistance rendered to H.M.S. "Fantome," when she ran aground in the Orinoco. The weather had been wet during the greater part of the fortnight, but fine for the past few days. There was some appearance of settled weather, and grinding was expected to be general about the 15th January.

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), January 19th. "Seasonable weather."
BRITISH GUIANA—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Jan. 8th. "Weather dry but not as yet unfavourable in most districts." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), Jan. 8th. "Weather too dry." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), Jan. 10th. "We have had some showers since last message, but more rain is wanted." Jan. 16th. "Nice rains have fallen."

Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses	Gold.	Diamonds
	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
BRITISH GUIANA —								
Jan. 1 to Dec. 30, 1902	119,526	102,243	—	29,401	13,410	1,611	102,185	12,230
" " 30, 1901	92,997	95,308	—	25,309	76,602	1,528	101,014	4,406
JAMAICA —		Cwts. <td></td> <td>Galls. <td></td> <td>Pimento. <td>Bananas. <td>Oranges. </td></td></td></td>		Galls. <td></td> <td>Pimento. <td>Bananas. <td>Oranges. </td></td></td>		Pimento. <td>Bananas. <td>Oranges. </td></td>	Bananas. <td>Oranges. </td>	Oranges.
						Cwts. <td>Bunches. <td></td> </td>	Bunches. <td></td>	
Apr. 1 to Dec. 6, 1902	12,681	12,452	51,647	1,527,831	18,153,356	101,786	11,573,708	75,971,027
" " 7, 1901	11,010	12,841	31,492	1,220,375	12,981,439	56,329	8,211,975	69,206,537
TRINIDAD —	Bags & Bils. <td>lbs. <td>lbs. <td>Puns. <td></td> <td>Molasses. <td></td> <td>Asphalt. </td></td></td></td></td>	lbs. <td>lbs. <td>Puns. <td></td> <td>Molasses. <td></td> <td>Asphalt. </td></td></td></td>	lbs. <td>Puns. <td></td> <td>Molasses. <td></td> <td>Asphalt. </td></td></td>	Puns. <td></td> <td>Molasses. <td></td> <td>Asphalt. </td></td>		Molasses. <td></td> <td>Asphalt. </td>		Asphalt.
						Puns.	Tons.	
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1902	457,597	33,268,490	39,900	2,210	11,764,556	3,408	142	153,132
" " 31, 1901	471,952	21,884,790	20,880	1,606	11,278,576	3,724	158	160,185

The Mails.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Tagus," January 14th, 1903:—**BARBADOS**.—Lieut. Moore, Mr. G. R. Moore, Mr. W. H. Hesketh, Mr. W. Earhart. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. C. H. Easton, Mr. H. R. W. Greig, Mr. W. J. Phillips. **JAMAICA**.—Mr. J. G. Cowan, Col. and Mrs. Bell, Mrs. S. A. Gooch, Mr. R. N. Greenwood, Miss Greenwood, Sup-Staff R. E. Sergt.-Major Attenborough. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. P. N. H. Jones, Mr. J. E. Lickfold, Mr. F. S. Storey, Mr. K. Kalisch, Mrs. Greathed, Miss Clive, Mr. W. S. Nisbett. **ANTIGUA**.—Mr. E. G. M. Dupigny. **DOMINICA**.—Mr. L. H. Müller. **St. Kitts**.—Mr. S. Branch. **St. Lucia**.—G. S. S. Major Keyes and Mrs. Keyes. **St. Vincent**.—Capt. Young, C.M.G., and about 120 Troops.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Nile," January 21st, 1903:—**BARBADOS**.—Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Dillon, Capt. Thorne, Mr. H. L. Garrett. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. J. Hewick, Miss Lumsdon and Miss MacGibben, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. A. McKinnon and Family, Capt. W. and Mrs. Le Poor Power, Mr. C. S. Parker, Mr. A. Jeffreys, Capt. Smith, Mr. W. A. Colley, Mr. P. S. McAdam. **JAMAICA**.—Mrs. R. Barrington Baker, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Dawson and the four Misses Dawson, Mrs. E. Macduff, Major-General Brownlow, Colonel Blagrove, Mr. H. Bailey, General Slade, C.B., and Capt. Hall, A.D.C., Mr. H. C. Ellis and Mr. H. G. B. Ellis, 2nd-Lieut. A. Burrows, R.G.A., Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Fowler, Mr. Fowler, Junr., Mrs. Lindsay, Miss Unthank, Mr. and Mrs. Freise, Mr. S. M. Cover, Mr. C. J. Flight, Mr. J. Staal, Miss V. Robinson, Master E. C. Dawson, Rev. T. Goudge. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. and Mrs. Christall, Mr. and Mrs. H. Crocker, Mr. Crocker, Junr., Dr. C. F. Lassalle, Miss Boucaud, Miss V. Boucaud, Miss C. Croker, Sir M. Mitchell-Thomson and Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. W. S. Robertson, Mr. R. Wilson, Mr. R. Wilson, Junr., Mr. Kernahan, Acting Lieut. R. V. Peel, R.N.R., Naval Cadet Hon. B. Cary, R.N., Naval Cadet A. E. P. Lyons, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. Schöner, Miss L. Gubb, Mr. T. Prentice, Mr. A. Bradfield, Mr. L. D'Abadie, Mr. and Mrs. S. Dreyfus and Family. **ANTIGUA**.—Mr. and Mrs. F. Holborow and Family. Mr. R. W. Leeming, Mr. H. A. Tempany. **DOMINICA**.—Rev. C. L. and Mrs. Kennaway, His Hon. H. Hesketh Bell, Mr. G. Gordon, Mr. S. Ismay, Mr. A. P. Skcat, Miss L. Nicholls, Mr. J. Creig. **GRENADA**.—Very Rev. Father Shapcote, Mr. P. Otway. **St. Lucia**.—2nd-Lieut. R. H. Rowe, R.G.A., Lieut. T. Bullock, W. I. Regiment, Mr. E. Lord (late A.S.C.). **St. Vincent**.—Mr. D. F. Porter. **Tour**.—Mr. and Mrs. King, Mr. B. Emanuel and Mr. F. Emanuel, Capt. and Mrs. X. Mabson, Miss Walton, Mr. A. J. Boulton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Taylor, Mr. W. A. Hill, Dr. and Mrs. Hough, Mr. W. Bowden and valet, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smetton and Sister Ramsay, Mr. W. Gibson, Rev. R. Cardwell, Mr. W. Cardwell, Mr. C. Wordsworth, Mr. and Mrs. Cribble, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Forster, Mr. A. Aspell, Mr. J. A. Heywood, Mr. and Mrs. R. Thom, Mrs. Sweatnam, two Misses Thom, Rev. T. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Peters, Rev. and Mrs. H. Harries, Mrs. Kemp and nurse.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," February 4th, 1903:—**BARBADOS**.—Mrs. L. Pile, Miss Pile, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, two Misses Gibbons. **DEMERARA**.—Mr. J. W. S. Barklie, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron and ch. **JAMAICA**.—Hon. E. Ellis, His Honour Mr. Justice and Mrs. Thornton, Mr. A. L. Cohen, Mr. H. E. Beddington, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cull, Mr. W. Harwood, Mr. and Mrs. E. Tootal Broadhurst, Miss H. G. Broadhurst, Miss K. C. Brooks, Mr. C. H. Bovell, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson and daughter, Mr. A. M. Barkworth, Mr. J. Tytler, Capt. Chetwynd, Hon. Mrs. Chetwynd and Lady M. North. **TRINIDAD**.—Mr. G. E. Bryant, Mr. E. Rudolph. **GRENADA**.—Mr. J. B. Thelwell and Mrs. A. E. Gay, Lord Barrymore. **St. Lucia**.—Capt. T. S. N. Hardinge, R.G.A., and Mrs. Hardings. **Tour**.—Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Miss Campbell, Mr. W. Eristowe, Mr. A. E. Stearns, Capt. and Mrs. Goddard, Mr. T. Phelps, Miss Phelps, Col. Sanford, Mr. Pole Carew, Miss Sanford and Miss Williams, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bradford, Miss E. Longman.

IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," January 6th, 1903:—**JAMAICA**.—Miss Bryant, Mr. M. Byrne, Mr. E. Cadmann, Mr. J. B. Capper, Mr. E. Glanville, Mr. E. G. Horton, Rev. and Mrs. F. B. Meyer, Mr. E. J. Neall, Mr. E. L. Paine, Mr. H. J. Spear, Master Tatem, Mrs. and Miss Walker, Mr. Geo. D. Cutts, Mr. Saml. Jones.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," January 17th, 1903:—**JAMAICA**.—Rev. and Mrs. Thos. Adam and family, Miss Amy Bull, Mr. and Mrs. C. Reid Campbell, Mr. Deaholm, Mr. Duran, Mr. J. C. Gerrard, Miss R. Johns, Hon. Dr. James Johnston, Mr. J. L. King, Mrs. Kelly Lawson and Ch., Mr. W. N. Michelin, Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, Master McDowell Nathan, Mr. R. Schult, Mrs. Sidgwick, Rev. Dr. Turner, Mr. D. C. Turner, Miss Walker, Mr. and Mrs. G. Wildridge, Miss A. Young, Mr. T. S. Fox, Mrs. Wyke, Sergt. and Mrs. C. H. Dickinson, Miss Dickinson.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," January 31st, 1903:—**JAMAICA**.—Mr. Joseph Adamson, Miss Adamson, Mr. and Miss Arnold, Mr. Barrow, Mrs. Barrow, Miss Catchpole, Mr. W. Conran, Mr. Henry Daniel, Mrs. Hood Daniel, Mr. G. F. Dewar, Mr. C. Dick, Mrs. C. Dick, Mrs. A. F. G. Ellis, Rev. — Hall, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Egerton Leigh, Miss Egerton Leigh, Major P. A. Maberly, Miss M. Maberly, Mr. C. E. Mellish, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Mellor, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Rev. T. Langford-Sainsbury and two daughters, Mr. Arthur Cutting, Mr. J. W. Ferguson.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Beet.—Early in the past fortnight the improvement of the year end was lost owing to January tenders, open navigation dulness in America, and Licht's estimate that though sowings would be less in France they would be more elsewhere. Latterly there was more speculative enquiry. The weather turned cold and navigation was once more suspended. Regarding the all-important question of sowings, nothing new can be said; fabricants everywhere are not inclined to give up the struggle in one year, but try to secure Roots even at the higher quotations and at some risk. What the ultimate result will be nobody can tell, except that an increase is expected in Germany, Austria, Belgium, &c., whilst it seems more than doubtful in France and perhaps Russia.

88 per cent. Beet.—As we go to press 88 per cent. Beet is quoted January, 8/1; May, 8/2½; August, 8/5½; October/December, 8/11½; Market quiet.

The Visible Supply of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1903 Tons.	1902 Tons.	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.
United Kingdom, 10th January	130,764	142,218	73,484	64,625	76,877
France, 1st January	820,000*	742,315	715,833	679,521	600,000
Germany, 1st January	1,305,144	1,414,676	1,096,123	1,009,077	1,010,625
Hamburg, 14th January	98,220	152,200	95,600	58,000	75,700
Austria-Hungary, 1st January	663,500	741,933	629,596	609,643	619,267
Holland, 1st January	102,485	142,697	110,888	77,455	84,813
Belgium, 1st January	195,720	154,279	103,864	120,366	132,971
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
United States, 14th January, Total Stocks.....	3,315,833	3,490,318	2,825,408	2,618,687	2,600,253
Cuba, six principal ports, 14th January, Total Stocks.	121,000	123,180	88,151	183,221	99,333
Cargoes afloat, 15th January	75,000	50,756	21,343	11,271	7,955
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	68,799	14,428	10,465	33,695	114,363
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.....	3,580,632	3,678,682	2,945,367	2,846,874	2,821,904

*Estimate.

Crystallised Sugar.—There has been a fairly good demand during the fortnight and considerable sales have been made, partly to the Government within the range of 14s. to 15s. 6d. for inferior grades to fine Sugar, being about steady prices, and the value of "average qualities" is 14s. 6d. or 10s. 9d. in bond.

Molasses Sugar.—Is in fair demand from 10s. 6d. to 13s. duty paid.

Muscovado.—None here. Quotations are about 11s. to 14s. for grocery kinds.

Rum.—There has been more demand and about 1,200 puncheons of Demerara sold at easier prices, chiefly 8d. to 8½d., with a few fine up to 10d. Jamaica is very dull, and 1/7 is the nominal value of Fair Home Trade Marks.

Cocoa.—TRINIDAD.—The market reopens after the Xmas holidays on the 6th inst., when 1,515 bags were offered at public sale; there was a good demand at steady rates to an advance of 1s., and about a thousand bags changed hands. At the subsequent sales held on the 13th inst., the advance was about maintained, but since then prices of fine quality have given way 1s., whilst there is no change in other descriptions. Total sales amount to 25,000 bags at 58s. to 63s., for middling to good middling, and 64s. to 68s. for fine. GRENADA.—The large supply of 4,269 bags was brought forward on the 6th inst., and with importers willing to meet buyers, almost the entire quantity was disposed of at a decline of about 2s. per cwt., prices ranging from 54s. to 56s. for fair to good fair, and 56s. 6d. to 58s. for middling to fine. On the 13th inst. only 51 bags were offered, and these were sold at unchanged rates.

Coffee.—The following are the latest returns for the United Kingdom:—

	Home Consumption.		Export.		Stock.	
	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.
For the week ended January 10th	310	416	272	190	25,739	13,092
For 2 weeks ended January 10th	502	703	491	333	—	—

Arrowroot.—Dull, but a firm business has been done in St. Vincent, chiefly from 2½d. to 3d. for manufacturing kinds. The higher grades are entirely neglected.

Ginger.—Jamaica steady. Good ordinary at 37s. 6d. to 38s.

Mace.—West Indian steady; a few packages sold well, fair palish at 1s. 9d., fair red at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. Privately, holders continue firm and ask extreme prices, and this has checked business.

Nutmegs.—West India were of rather indifferent quality, and sold at about previous rates. The following dealings are recorded: 69's, slightly wormy and split, at 1s. 8d.; 74's at 1s. 8d.; 78's, limed, at 1s. 4d.; 89's at 1s. 2d.; 91's to 93's at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d.; 102's at 1s. 1d.; 107's, slightly wormy and split, at 8d. to 9d.; 110's at 11½d.; 112's at 11d.; 114's at 10¾d.; ditto, limed, 9½d.; 125's at 9d.; in shell, 71's to 90's at 6d.

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

No. 89.

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LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, February 2nd, 1903.

Resolutions of Condolence.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 22nd ^{ult} ~~inst.~~, Mr. Henry K. Davson, Deputy-Chairman, in the absence of Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., said : Gentlemen,—We have a melancholy duty to perform before proceeding with the ordinary business of the day. We have lost two staunch friends of the West India Colonies, our former Deputy-Chairman, Mr. Quintin Hogg, and Lord Pirbright. Reference has already been made to both in the *West India Committee Circular*, which you have all read, and as I cannot add anything to what has been said there, I shall in the absence of our Chairman, who I am sorry to say is prevented by indisposition from attending to-day, at once move resolutions of respect and condolence, which I feel will be unanimously endorsed by all present. The following resolutions were then adopted unanimously :—

"That this Committee having heard with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. Quintin Hogg, formerly their Deputy-Chairman, and for many years an active and zealous supporter of all interests connected with the West Indies, desires to convey to Mrs. Hogg and the family, the expression of their sincere sympathy and condolence at the loss they have sustained."

"That this Committee having heard with the deepest regret of the death of the Right Honourable Lord Pirbright, formerly Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and for many years a staunch supporter of West India interests, desires to convey to Lady Pirbright and the family, the expression of their sincere sympathy and condolence at the loss which they have sustained."

The Brussels Convention.

The United Kingdom, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France and Holland, have now handed in their ratification of the Brussels Sugar Bounties Convention. His Majesty's Government ratified on the 31st ultimo, on the condition that they should not in any case be bound to penalise bounty-fed sugar from British Colonies. It is understood that Austria-Hungary has also ratified with a reserve, but the nature of this has not at present been made known.

In the course of a speech at a Banquet, given by the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce on the 30th ult., Lord Cranborne, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that he could not regret that one of the effects of the Sugar Convention recently concluded was to shake the confidence of all foreign Powers in the purely passive attitude of the British Government (hear, hear). The Sugar Convention was principally dictated by two motives, viz., in order to welcome these hitherto bounty-giving Powers to the bosom of the Cobden Club, and in order to help certain Colonies of Great Britain who were in dire straits. That was an Imperial object. He claimed that the Sugar Convention was conceived in an Imperialistic spirit. The Government had come forward to help those wretched West Indian Colonies, and he thought in that they had done well. Nothing would induce the Government to penalise any Colony of Great Britain. The main object of the Foreign Office was the defence of British colonists, British interests and British subjects in all parts of the world.

New Members.

The following new members were elected at a Meeting of the Executive Committee on the 22nd instant :—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
Messrs. BARNARD, SONS & Co. (St. Lucia)	W. Gillespie, Esq.	H. Hales, Esq.
E. E. BROUGHTON, Esq. (Jamaica)	Col. A. H. Nourse.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
Messrs. CAREY & BROWNE	E. Kynaston, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
FRANK JOHN C. CURTIS, Esq. (Jamaica)	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.	C. A. Campbell, Esq.
Messrs. ROWNTREE & Co., Ltd. (Jamaica and Dominica)	W. Gillespie, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.

The names of candidates for election should be sent to the Secretary, from whom forms of

application for membership can be obtained. The next election will be on Thursday next, February 5th. A new List of Members being now in course of preparation, members are requested to notify to the Secretary any change of their address.

A Banquet to the Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor (Sir Marcus Samuel) and the Sheriffs were entertained on the 28th ult. at dinner at the Hotel Cecil by the members of the West Indian Club.—The Hon. Arthur Ponsonby occupied the chair, and the company present included the Earl of Stamford (Vice President), Lord Strathcona, the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Sir Montagu Ommanney, Admiral Sir Edmund Fremantle, Sir Walter Sendall, Sir David Evans, Sir A. L. Jones, Count de Mauny Talvande, Count Ward, Mr. C. P. Lucas (Assistant Under-Secretary for the Colonies), the Mayor of Southampton, Colonel Hozier, the Master of the Grocers' Company, Sir Albert de Rutzen, the Spanish Consul-General, Mr. J. G. Calmer, the Hon. C. A. Duff Miller, Mr. Arthur Lubbock (Hon. Treasurer), and Mr. W. A. M. Goode (Hon. Secretary). A number of letters and telegrams of apology for absence were read.

The French Ambassador wrote that he was sorry he was unable to attend to join with the representatives of the British West Indies in a demonstration of thanks for assistance rendered to the sufferers from the recent volcanic disaster. The loyal toasts having been duly honoured, the Chairman proposed the health of "The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs," and said the Mansion House had ever come to the assistance of the stricken West Indies.

The Lord Mayor, in response, said he could well understand their gratitude to those of his predecessors whose misfortune it was to have incidents occur in their terms of office which caused devastation almost beyond expression. He assured them that the Mansion House was ever at the disposal of those who needed its services in any good and deserving cause. (Cheers.) He trusted that the efforts of the Statesman who had assisted those Islands in every way in his power would be seconded by the people for whom the benefits had been initiated. He would be very much surprised if, in the near future, the trade routes to Australia and the East Indies were not *via* Mauritius and the West Indies. If every effort was made to develop trade in those Islands and to make it worth while for ships to call, he believed a great step would be made towards the closer federation of the whole of the Colonies under the jurisdiction of Great Britain. (Cheers.)

The Earl of Stamford next gave "The Colonial Office." Sir Montagu Ommanney, in reply, said that within 24 hours of Mr. Chamberlain's appeal to the Mansion House for help for St. Vincent the late Lord Mayor was able to cable out no less a sum than £20,000 (cheers). The amount altogether placed at the disposal of the Government, through assistance from all parts of the world, was more than £75,000. In the distribution of that fund the Government of the Windward Islands and the Colonial Office had had to contend with some difficulties and to avoid some dangers. There was the fear of a recurrence of the disturbances, and there was the danger of demoralising the population by the indiscriminate distribution of relief. Sir Robert Llewellyn, seconded by the local officials, had worked hard, and now they hoped, by the aid of the report of Captain Young, to be able to apply the considerable surplus in a way which would subserve the interests of the population on the whole (hear). He trusted that the period of depression in the West Indies was approaching its close (hear, hear). In view of their beautiful scenery, splendid climate, and extraordinary fertility, the Islands could not long remain unprosperous. Their value was likely to be enormously increased if the Isthmus of Panama was pierced by a canal. The Colonial Office was, in a sense, the trustee of the Empire, and it could have no higher duty than to see that the inheritance which had come down to them should be unimpaired. (Hear, hear.) No man was more impressed with that duty, with that patriotic ambition, than Mr. Chamberlain. (Cheers.) During the eight years he had held the

seals of the Colonial Office he had done much to bring the Imperial interests of the Colonial Question into their proper position of prominence in the eyes of his countrymen. (Cheers.) He was sure they were all watching with interest the progress of Mr. Chamberlain's mission in South Africa, and he trusted they were beginning to feel something more than a sanguine hope that the right hon. gentleman would find a solution for the difficulties with which he was faced that would not be unworthy of the tremendous sacrifices we had made to secure for South Africa the blessings of peace, of British government and of British freedom. (Cheers.)

Lord Strathcona proposed "Prosperity to the West Indies." Sir A. L. Jones, who returned thanks, expressed the conviction that the West Indies were entitled to all we could give them, because we ought never to have allowed the bounty system to go on so long as it had (hear, hear). He believed that, in the future, the Islands would be more prosperous than ever (cheers). The people of the Empire ought to look out for what they had got, and to get what more they could (cheers).

Mr. H. K. Davson, who also replied, said:—It might seem somewhat unusual that a single toast should meet with two responses. The excuse must be that the area of the West Indies was so scattered, and their industries so diverse that it was difficult for one man to be acquainted with the whole subject. It afforded him much pleasure to be associated with Sir Alfred Jones, who had done so much for Jamaica, and who took a general interest in the West Indies. The speaker being so was due to the fact of his being Deputy-Chairman of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, while at the same time his interests were bound up in the West Indies. His first acquaintance with the West Indies began in the reign of George IV. and had continued without a break until that moment, and his mention of this was appropriate at that time, as Lord Strathcona, who had so eloquently proposed the toast, for which he thanked him, was somewhat similarly situated with regard to a sister colony, but in his case he did not know whether Lord Strathcona was the more honoured in being, in their eyes, the embodiment of all that was progressive and imperial in the great dominion, or whether Canada was the more honoured in having Lord Strathcona as her Representative.

It had seemed to him sometimes that the history of the West Indies had moved with him throughout his life, for he remembered the days of slavery, when in the joy and *carpe diem* buoyancy of youth they revelled in their prosperity, for they had something like a monopoly in Sugar, and they vainly thought that it would last. He remembered when philanthropic England proclaimed emancipation, and he remembered the changes and vicissitudes that followed, vicissitudes that culminated in the European competition, when with clenched teeth and all the dogged determination of manhood they had to fight a bitter fight that meant a struggle for very existence, and now that the fight was over, thanks to the brave General who was at that moment fighting the battle of peace in South Africa, and who took up their cause and led them on to victory, they saw, as it were, in the autumn of their life the gleam of sunshine which revealed a prosperous future.

He did not propose to touch on any industrial or economic problem, rather would he spend the few minutes at his disposal in thanking Sir Montagu Ommanney for his reference to the West Indies, from which he gathered that he also looked forward to their prosperity. They did not believe that the abolition of the Bounties will make sugar permanently dearer. They did not believe that the British consumer would suffer one iota, but they did believe that with a fair field and no favour they would be able to hold their own against all comers, and that they would win back that great heritage which enabled them to rank among the brightest jewels of the British Crown, thereby putting themselves in line with the prosperous Colonies of Canada and Australia, and thus contributing to the increasing glory of this great Empire. (Cheers.)

On a suggestion made by Sir A. Jones, the following telegram was sent to Mr. Chamberlain:—"Over 200 West Indians, dining Lord Mayor and Sheriffs as token thanks for funds raised Mansion House behalf West Indies, send you grateful greetings for what you have done for us, and most heartily wish your complete success in your splendid mission in South Africa."

In the course of the evening, the following telegrams received from the Governors of Trinidad, Barbados and the Windward Islands by Mr. Kingsford, chairman of the West India and Panama Cable Company, were read :—

The Governor of Trinidad and Tobago begs to be allowed to be associated with the banquet given by the West Indian Club to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London, and with the important objects of which the Colony fully sympathises. Your distinguished guests are representatives of the capital of the world as well as of the heart of the Empire, and they have done great things from time to time to promote and increase the vitality of the West Indies, which have indeed much to be grateful for to the Citizens of London and the British public, who, at the initiative of the Mansion House, have so generously extended help to those Islands on several occasions in times of heavy sorrow and bitter need. With the abolition of sugar bounties and with other agencies of progress and consequent increase of commerce and communion with the mother country and her children, West Indians are hopeful that brighter and better times are in store for them, which God grant.—SIR A. MOLONEY, K.C.M.G.

Say to the Secretary of the West Indian Club :—Barbados remembers the help of the Mansion House on the occasion of the hurricane of 1898, and heartily concurs with this expression of gratitude to the Lord Mayor and citizens of London for their unflinching kindness to the West Indian Colonies in times of trouble.—SIR FREDERICK HODGSON, K.C.M.G.

Sir Robert Llewelyn regrets that cannot be present at banquet given by West Indian Club to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs London. He begs express briefly in this message his sympathy with the objects of the Club, and his thanks to the Lord Mayor and his predecessors for the great interest shown on two recent occasions in the Windward Islands, especially St. Vincent, when disasters have occurred and charitable assistance has been necessary.—SIR ROBERT LLEWELYN, K.C.M.G.

The following telegram was subsequently received from Mr. Chamberlain :—" Many thanks for kind greetings and for good wishes for success of mission."

The Committee and the Rum Trade.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on January 8th, a Sub-Committee, composed of Mr. Cyril Gurney representing Jamaica, Mr. A. McConnell, British Guiana, and Mr. W. Goodwin, the Islands, was appointed to confer with the leading rum dealers regarding the terms upon which rum has hitherto been sold in London, it being the wish of the dealers that rum should be purchased carrying 12 months' free rent instead of 16 weeks as at present. A Conference was subsequently held on January 26th, with Mr. C. H. Lamb (Messrs. Alf. Lamb and Son), Mr. C. Holden White (Messrs. Henry White and Company), and Mr. H. Williams Bailey (Messrs. Thos. Lowndes and Company), and as a result, Mr. Scott, of the London and India Docks Company, was requested to grant an interview to the Joint Committee of the West India Committee and to rum dealers. This was readily granted, and on Monday, January 26th the interview took place. A discussion, lasting over an hour took place, and though no definite decision was come to, it is hoped that eventually a *modus vivendi* may be arrived at.

Jamaica: the New Riviera.

The above is the title of an attractive guide by Dr. James Johnston, which has just been published under the auspices of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service. The feature of the book is a series of exquisite illustrations of Jamaica Scenery from whole-plate photographs and taken by the writer, one of which representing the Roaring River Falls was chosen by the Government for reproduction on the postage stamps. Dr. James Johnston gives a lucid and attractive account of the history, climate, towns, places of interest, hotel accommodation in the Isle of springs, and it is safe to say that his book will enjoy a wide popularity and be the cause of many, in search of health or pleasure, visiting the "New Riviera."

* Jamaica: the New Riviera, 3s. 6d. (Cassell).

West Indian Mail News.

The Royal Mail Steamer "Trent" reached Plymouth at 6.45 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28th, and the Mails were delivered on the same evening. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Steamer "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth early on Thursday, Jan. 22nd. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), January 13th. The weather had been dry, enabling planters to make good progress with their preparations.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne), January 15th. The Barbados Legislative had passed an address to Mr. Chamberlain, thanking him for his efforts towards the abolition of bounties. The Governor had with the consent of the Governor of Trinidad despatched Dr. Bridger to that Island *via* New York to report upon cases of illness in Trinidad, which were in Barbados currently rumoured to be small-pox. The cases of small-pox in Barbados were very few, so it was hoped that the end of quarantine was near. Between the nights of the 2nd and 16th only 4 fresh cases had occurred, being 5 less than in the preceding fortnight, while the deaths had been 2 and discharges 18, leaving 15 cases under treatment. Of these only 1 was on shore, the remaining 14 being at Pelican Island. Owing to prolonged quarantine the loss to the customs was even greater than was anticipated. The New Year came in very dry, and hardly any rain fell during the last fortnight. The last few days had, however, been productive of numerous light showers which would have been heavier had not high winds prevailed. These showers had been very useful, but hardly more than one inch had fallen for the month in most places. The spring of the young canes was uniformly beautiful; the position of the old was much as when last reported, though the plant canes were still under a good growth and some of the ratoons had improved. The local Agricultural Exhibition at Todd's in St. Johns had been a great success; and it was evident that great efforts were being made to cultivate minor products such as onions, and the like throughout the Island. Shipments of sweet potatoes and yams continued to be made to England, and the price obtained for small parcels compared favourably with those ruling in the local market. They were, however, by no means so good as what was usually ruling in the inter-colonial market, which, owing to the quarantine, was closed for the present. The weather was beautifully cool and it was unfortunate that visitors should for the same reason be debarred from visiting the Island, the climate of which was as near as possible perfect at that time. Major Todd, the new Sub-Inspector of Police, had at last arrived, but an announcement was still awaited as to the new Colonial Secretary. The planters of Barbados could not be praised too highly for their courageous attitude during the past year. They reaped but a moderate crop and sold it at the lowest price ever known. They hoped for an Imperial grant and received instead what was practically a 6 per cent. loan. They had to contend with a terrible drought in the critical months of September and October, leaving them with a certainty of a crop for 1903 far below the average. The Island had been ravaged with small-pox, which had caused the contraction of an immense amount of employment of labour and internal expenditure, while the harbour had been denuded of the Royal Mail Steamers, and almost all classes of shipping. Customs duties had woefully decreased, so they had to bear increased taxation for the sake of the revenue, yet with all this against them they still endeavoured to be cheerful, confident in the hope that the eyes of H. M. Government were at last opened to the wrongs under which they had so long suffered and determined to suppress Kartels and Bounties, which had so long crippled them. They were looking about to help themselves, much aided in this direction by the *Imperial Department of Agriculture*. But their hopes lay in the rehabilitation of the sugar refiners of the United Kingdom, and to their finding their natural market in the Mother Country. Should their hopes be wrecked by any action of the Government, a feeling of bitterness would arise which would never be erased.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), January 14th. No meetings of the Legislature were held during the fortnight, the Governor having been indisposed. The weather had been showery and favourable in Georgetown and the neighbourhood. In Essequibo it had been much too dry, and in the Berbice River Districts rain was wanted badly for the May and June Canes. Estates were nearly all at a standstill. Very little, if anything was doing in rething crystals, and the price quoted, \$2, was purely nominal. The report of the Sugar Cane Experiments Committee was published in the Official Gazette of January 3rd. Tables were given, prepared from data submitted by plantations in British Guiana, which were taking part in the seedling cane experiments. The Sugar Cane Experiments Committee being impressed with the danger which underlay hasty deductions from agricultural experiments conducted over the crops of only one year, even when carried out on the relatively large scale these have been, refrained from making any observations on the results, and from drawing any deductions therefrom. The data were placed on record for comparison with those which might be obtained in later series of experiments. The values of the data varied greatly, the results recorded where the experiments had extended over large areas and on several plantations being generally more reliable than where, as in the cases of Nos. 625 and the Sealy variety, the areas were small and the number of experiments reported were few.

The mean yields in tons of commercial sugar per acre reported, were as follows:—

	Tons per acre.
1. No. 625	2.95
2. Sealy	2.49
3. No. 95	2.24
4. Bourbon	2.18
5. No. 145	2.17
6. White Transparent	2.03
7. No. 74	2.03
8. No. 147 B	1.99
9. No. 109	1.91
10. No. 78	1.39

It must be borne in mind that in the cases of the majority of the results recorded, the varieties, other than the Bourbon, had been grown on land on which the latter cane did not flourish, while the Bourbon returns were, as a rule, from land of fair average quality.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), January 13th, 1903. During the last few years the only cacao exported from Dominica was "unsweated" cacao. However prices for "shop and plantation" cacao were varying to a far greater extent than formerly, and the best prices approximated more closely to those of Trinidad. A few months ago the writer sent

home a sample bag of the variety supplied by the Botanic Department, and which was being grown by most planters. It was valued in London at at least 10s. per cwt. more than the present quality exported. The bridge over the Layou river which was one of the bridges promised during the administration of Sir W. Haynes Smith, but which had been left to rust on the bank of the river, was opened to the public on January 14th. The S.Y. "Argonaut" was in Port on the 2nd and 3rd. Unfortunately as it was not generally known that she was coming, few arrangements had been made for the reception of the tourists. A cricket match, resulting in a win for the Island, was played one afternoon.

Montserrat.—(C. Watson, Esq.), January 13th, 1903. The rainfall for the past year was favourable and the cane crops were expected to be above the average. Reaping had been commenced with a density of ten degrees in some places, which was better than usual at that season. The cultivation of cotton was being tried with every prospect of success, and the improvement in the limefields of the Montserrat Co., which were destroyed by the hurricane of 1899, was remarkable.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), January 12th, 1903. The weather was very wild and blustering, doing apparently no good to anyone or anything. There were, unfortunately, several cases of fever about.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), January 13th. (We regret to say that our esteemed Hon. Correspondent, Mr. Alex. Porter, was still confined to his bed when the mail left, and had been quite unable to attend to any correspondence for quite two months. All will wish him a speedy recovery.—A.E.A.) Arrowroot reaping was general on all estates outside the area affected by the eruptions, and everyone was anxiously awaiting to hear what the recommendation of Captain Young would be. The weather was very favourable, and the Crater seemed to have at last settled down.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) January 16th, 1903. It not having appeared in such of the correspondence between Great Britain and Venezuela as had been made public relative to the claims against the latter that the old standing grievance of the 30 per cent. surtax on all imports from the West Indies had been considered, it was brought to the notice of the Chamber of Commerce. A Deputation was appointed to wait upon the Acting Governor and urge upon him the necessity of communicating with the Imperial Government on the subject. Mr. Haggard, late British Minister at Caracas, was present at the interview, and kindly favoured those present with an account of the strenuous, but unfortunately unavailing, efforts he had made during the last five years to bring about the abrogation of this unjust and prohibitory tax. He was complimented and most cordially thanked by both the members of the Deputation and by the Acting Governor for his energetic interest in a matter so vital to this Colony. The Acting Governor undertook to cable immediately to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the following terms:—

"Chamber of Commerce urges vital importance to this Colony inclusion in British claims against Venezuela abrogation of 30 per cent. Differential Duty and trust that the favourable opportunity referred to in Lord Knutsford's despatch of July, 1889, may now be considered to have arrived, and also draw attention to Mr. Chamberlain's despatch of 1897."

Another matter brought to the notice of the Chamber of Commerce was the necessity of pressing the Government to increase the force of water police. The harbour of Port of Spain was acquiring an unenviable notoriety for the extent of pilferage of cargo in the course of discharging and landing. This was hardly a matter for surprise when it is remembered that the whole force available for policing this immense harbour consists of 10 men. Of this number there were frequently, if not usually, a couple on the sick list. One had to be on duty in the station, which for eight hours' watch meant three out of the remaining eight, and left only five for patrol work and every other work of their station. A force of 30/40 men at least was required, properly equipped with boats, and with a good "Look-out" station commanding the whole sea-frontage of the wharves. Feeling was much stirred by the announcement by the Government of its intention to remove a large fish and general market from its present site, where it was considered an intolerable nuisance, besides being in the way of necessary railway extensions, and place it right in the middle of the newly-created wharf on the reclaimed land at the south-west corner of the town. This was just the spot where all the heavy shipping work was carried on, and the one site of all others in the town where a market would be most in the way. Remonstrances made to the Government had proved, so far, unavailing, so a strongly worded protest had been addressed by the majority of the unofficial Members of the Council to the Secretary of State, and an equally strong resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce.

The weather had been rather wet for some days, but this had been rather beneficial than harmful, and it was not expected that the rains would retard the start on sugar-making which was expected to start within the next week or ten days. (We are glad to note that our esteemed Hon. Correspondent has been decorated with the Coronation medal.—A.E.A.)

British Guiana.—A Forecast.*

Under the above title Mr. Edward R. Davson, has contributed to the February issue of the *Empire Review*, an able article regarding the future of British Guiana. Pressure on our space precludes us from doing more than advising our Members to possess themselves of a copy of this Magazine, the Imperial tone of which is so well maintained under the Editorship of Mr. C. Kinloch Cooke.

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), February 2nd. "Light partial showers."
BRITISH GUIANA.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Jan. 23rd. "Some showers have fallen but more rain wanted." (Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co.), Jan. 27th. "Rain is wanted on the East coast." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), Jan. 27th. "Weather too dry." **TRINIDAD.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), Jan. 20th. "Weather fine for harvesting." (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), Jan. 23rd. "Weather favourable. Crop progressing satisfactorily." **JAMAICA.**—(The Direct West India Cable Co.), Jan. 30. "Weather fine."

* "The Empire Review," Vol. 5, No. 25 (Macmillan & Co., Ltd.), 1s. net.

Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds
	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
British Guiana—								
Jan. 1 to Jan. 12, 1903	4,590	7,380	—	1,950	24	300	—	—
" " 15, 1902	4,691	3,892	—	3,596	28	1	—	—
Jamaica—								
Apr. 1 to Jan. 3, 1903	13,347	15,947	46,649	1,538,038	19,694,856	107,143	12,274,193	87,345,347
" " 4, 1902	11,179	18,321	66,984	1,224,696	14,038,739	62,497	8,836,114	74,422,987
Trinidad—								
Jan. 1 to Jan. 15, 1903	956	2,588,420	1,280	—	549,600	76	1	24
" " 15, 1902	209	1,110,950	2,000	—	97,000	165	—	—

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," January 28th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Master M. Bourcier. **Demerara.**—Mr. W. Dallas, Mr. V. del Vecchio. **Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Todd, Mr. R. A. Borck, Major Wilson, Major C. W. Bell, Mrs. J. Hammond. **Trinidad.**—Mr. G. Kelaides, Mr. F. Sellmann, Lt. G. H. Jellicose, Mr. B. de Benidetto, Mr. J. Hercules, Mr. J. Harris, Lt. H. D. G. Ford, Mr. G. Damiao, Dr. Hassard, Mr. H. Capriles, Mr. H. Pereira. **St. Lucia.**—Sergt.-Major Milne, Qr.-M.-Sergt. A. Dingley.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," February 4th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. C. K. Gibbons, two Misses Gibbons, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Browne, Mrs. L. Pile, Miss Pile. **Demerara.**—Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, Mr. C. Algernou Campbell, Mr. E. R. Davson, Miss Doyle, Madame Genon. **Jamaica.**—Hon. E. Ellis, Mr. A. L. Cohen, Mr. H. E. Beddington, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cull, Mr. W. Harwood, Mr. H. Tietz, Mr. and Mrs. E. Tootal Broadhurst, Miss H. C. Broadhurst, Miss K. C. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson, Mr. A. M. Barkworth, Mr. J. Tytler, The Hon. the Master of Ruthven and the Hon. Mrs. Ruthven, Mr. H. L. Wilson, Mrs. J. Jesson, Mr. J. T. Gibbins, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ranch, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Arnott, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. C. H. Bovell. **Trinidad.**—Mr. G. E. Bryant, Mr. E. Rudolph, Lieut. J. P. de Montmorency, R.N., Dr. C. Bovallius. **Antigua.**—Mr. J. Purser, M.D. **Dominica.**—Mr. H. Walker, Mr. R. A. Bloxham. **Grenada.**—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Gay, Miss M. Page. **St. Lucia.**—Capt. T. S. N. Hardinge, R.G.A., and Mrs. Hardinge, Mr. J. B. Thelwell, Corporal Goodhugh, R.F.A., Mrs. J. Collins, Mr. C. Phillips, Mrs. Earle's nurse. **Tour.**—Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Miss Campbell, Mr. W. Eristowe, Mr. H. E. Stearns, Capt. and Mrs. Goddard, Mr. T. Phelps, Miss Phelps, Col. Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. Pole Carew, Miss Sanford and Miss Williams, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bradford, Miss E. Longman, Major D. Corsar and Dr. E. T. Harris, Mrs. Corsar, Mr. Gordon Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dobie, Mr. and Mrs. A. Spottiswoode Ritchie, Mr. McNeight and Miss McNeight, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Mason, and Mrs. Mason, senr., Miss E. Hardy.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," February 18th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mrs. Hepworth Hill, Mr. & Mrs. P. Wand, Mr. C. E. Jarvis. **Demerara.**—Mr. T. Wrigglesworth. **Jamaica.**—Mr. D. G. Cannell and Mr. A. White, Mr. & Mrs. L. Verley and family and 2 Misses Auvray, Mr. & Mrs. Carter, Miss Watts, Miss McKechnie, Mr. J. Clarke, Mr. J. Stuart, Miss Stuart, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Thornton, Miss Thornton, Mr. A. Sonenthal. **Trinidad.**—Mr. W. M. Russell. **Antigua.**—Mr. E. K. Lane, Mr. & Mrs. N. Scott Johnson & Infant, Mrs. Holme, Mr. H. T. Holme. **Tour.**—Mr. C. E. Wainwright, Mr. A. W. T. Channell, Miss Channell, Mr. & Mr. G. M. Cox, and Mr. T. G. Luis.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," January 22nd, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. T. H. Brinkley, Mr. L. Carvalho, Miss M. Cover, Major and Mrs. Freeman, Mr. W. M. McKean, two Misses Olivier, Mr. G. H. L. Spicer, Mr. and Mrs. Thorburn, Mr. H. G. Wheeler.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," January 31st, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Miss Adamson, Mr. Joseph Adamson, Mr. Harry Arnold, Miss Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Barrow, Mr. L. M. Bennett, Lt.-Col. R. E. Boothby, Miss Catchpole, Mr. W. Conran, Mr. Hugh C. Dalgleish, Mr. Walter Dalgleish, Mrs. H. A. Hood-Daniel, Mr. Henry Daniel, J.P., Mrs. Dennis, Mr. G. F. Dewar, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Dicks, Mr. E. E. Evans, Rev. Harold F. Flynn, Miss Furnace, Alderman W. Huntington, Mr. J. B. James, Rev. and Mrs. C. Grote-Joyce, Miss Leigh, Mr. O. B. Leigh, Mr. Egerton Leigh, Dr. Lewis, Mr. W. Livingston, Major P. A. Maberley, Miss M. Maberley, Mr. C. E. Mellish, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Mellor, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. O'Brien, Mr. John M. Pringle, Mr. C. Sadler, Rev. T. Langford-Sainsbury and two daughters, Mrs. Sandeman, Capt. A. D. Skinner, Miss Olive Thompson, Col. E. D. Way, Mr. Arthur Cutting, Mr. R. M. Davies, Mr. F. W. Fergusson, Mr. and Mrs. T. Grout, Miss M. Grout, Mr. J. Jenkins, Mr. J. R. Mellis, Mr. H. G. Palmer, Miss Peacock, Mr. J. Roberts, Mr. W. Roberts, Mr. T. B. Sawyer.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," February 14th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. A. R. Appach, Capt. and Mrs. Bennett, Miss S. C. Collinge, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. J. Fletcher, Miss A. French, Miss B. French, Master A. Garson, Miss E. Jackson, Miss N. Jackson, Miss Jones, Mr. A. Joynson, Mr. and Mrs. Lockett, Mr. Mackay, Miss Mackay, Miss H. Norfolk, Miss Portal, Capt. W. W. Rhodes, Miss Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Robinson, Mr. Robinson, jun., Miss Robinson, Dr. and Miss Turton, Mr. N. White, Alderman W. Woods, Miss Woods, Mr. Cook and three daughters.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar.—88 per cent. Beet.—Prices are slowly receding, with frequent fluctuations generally in an adverse ratio. This is probably a reaction after last autumn's advance of 2s. 6d. per cwt., 88 per cent. from June to September last year having worked on a pivot of 6s., reaching early in December 8s. 6d. The moment's quotations are:—February 7s. 10d.; May 8s. 0½d.; August 8s. 3¼d.; and October/December 8s. 9½d.; all free on board Hamburg.

Comparative prices for five years are as follows:—

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
7s. 10d.	6s. 8½d.	9s. 2½d.	9s. 10d.	9s. 10½d.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom, 24th January	130,412	146,449	65,861	60,455	69,816
France, 1st January	829,360	732,278	715,853	679,521	600,000
Germany, 1st January	1,305,144	1,414,676	1,096,123	1,009,077	1,010,625
Hamburg, 28th January	89,330	146,900	71,900	35,100	58,700
Austria-Hungary, 1st January	654,089	741,933	629,596	609,643	619,267
Holland, 15th January	107,687	145,309	112,785	82,960	82,648
Belgium, 1st January	195,720	154,279	103,864	120,366	132,971
United States, 28th January, Total Stocks	3,311,742	3,481,824	2,795,982	2,597,122	2,574,027
Cuba, six principal ports, 28th January, Total Stocks	129,000	102,817	98,935	162,916	107,827
Cargoes afloat, 29th January	101,000	102,471	37,285	25,000	18,406
	56,706	14,428	10,465	25,302	98,133
Total.....	3,598,448	3,701,540	2,942,667	2,810,340	2,798,393

Crystallised Sugar.—In sympathy with the declining prices of Beet-root, the market for this sugar has become unsatisfactory again, and during the fortnight scarcely any business has been done, quotations being nominally unchanged. The general range is from 13s. 9d. to 15s. 6d., average qualities being worth about 14s. 3d. or 10s. 6d. in bond. A cargo of 96 Centrifugals to coast for orders would command about 9s. 3d. in bond. Dyed Bounted and Kartel-Fed Beet, colored in London, is selling slowly at about 14s. 3d., and white Continental Granulated costs also about 14s. 3d. duty and carriage paid throughout England for delivery up to October next.

Molasses Sugar.—Is in steady demand from 10s. 6d. to 13s.

Muscovado.—We have no stock and quotations are uncertain, brown kinds 10s. 6d. to 11s., grocery 12s. to 14s.

Movements of Vacuum Pan Sugar in London—entire years:—

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Imports	59,000	45,000	43,000	46,000 Tons
Deliveries	43,000	41,000	40,000	43,000 "
Stocks 31st December	28,000	12,000	8,000	5,000 "

Rum.—There has been a good business doing in Demerara during the fortnight, chiefly again at 8d. to 8½d., with some inferior quality at 7½d., but supplies are in excess of the demand, and there is a lot of Rum yet to be disposed of. The value of fair marks is 8d. proof. Jamaica remains a dead letter with absolutely no demand except in retail and the quotation of 1s. 7d. for approved Standard Home Trade Marks is purely nominal. Cuba and other foreign kinds are quoted at 5d. to 7d. proof, according to quality and package.

Board of Trade Returns for three years:

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	8,135,000	6,719,000	6,289,000 Gallons.
Home Consumption	4,285,000	4,386,000	4,460,000 "
Stocks, 31st December	9,277,000	7,211,000	6,926,000 "

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for three years:

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	25,978	23,571	23,503 Tons.
Home Consumption	20,377	18,908	16,888 "
Stocks 31st December	4,895	5,921	7,767 "

By the above it will be seen that the consumption of Cocoa in this country makes steady progress, which is as well, considering the expanding production throughout the world. The market remains steady and our chief manufacturers are buying more freely. The latest business done being on the following basis: Trinidad.—"Fair collected" 59s.; estate marks 59s. to 63s.; for ordinary to good and a few fine up to 67s. Grenada.—Fair native 55s.; fermented 56s. to 58s.; fair native Cocoa from other Islands being worth about 53s.

Coffee.—Recent business in Jamaica has been as follows: good to fine ordinary pale greenish 33s. 6d. to 37s.; low middling to middling colory 45s. 6d. to 52s.; good bold 64s.; peaberry 60s.

Autmegs.—Steady. Fair sales of West India from 148 to the lb. at 6d., up to 2s. 6d. for good quality 66 to the lb.

Mace.—West Indian firm and sales have been made of broken at 1s. 6d., and fair pale and reddish 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d.

Arrowroot.—Figures for 12 months:—

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Imports	19,075	20,410	25,383	11,629 Barrels
Deliveries	14,570	20,863	19,842	14,975 "
Stocks 31st December	12,224	7,747	8,100	2,521 "

Stocks are heavy and arrivals liberal. The tone of the market is weak and Importers are accepting reduced prices, viz., 2½d. per lb. for good quality. The nominal value of fair manufacturing is 2d., but buyers seem quite indifferent. Some business has been done indeed at 1½d.

Algernon E. Aspinall,

Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

No. 90.

Telegrams:
"CARIB" LONDON.

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Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, February 16th, 1903.

West Indian Sugar in the United States Market.

There still appears to be a widely spread impression that British West Indian Sugar will be at a disadvantage in the United States market when the bounties are removed, because there will be no longer a countervailing duty on Continental Beet Sugar in that market. It is perfectly obvious on reflection that this view is wholly erroneous. When bounties are removed, West Indian Sugar will compete with Continental Beet Sugar on precisely the same terms as at present. The countervailing duties on Beet Sugar will be taken off at the one end, and so also will the bounty be taken off at the other, and as the countervailing duties and the bounties are *ex hypothesi* equal in amount, Beet Sugar will be in no better and no worse position than at present. We pointed this out clearly in the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 7, as far back as August, 1898.

Mr. F. Platt Higgins, M.P., on the Convention.

Mr. Frederick Platt Higgins, M.P., delivered a remarkably interesting speech to the Members of the North Salford Conservative Club, on Friday, January 30th last. Pressure on our space prevents us from doing more than summarise Mr. Platt Higgins' accurate and exhaustive remarks. He began by exposing the oft-repeated fallacy that a bounty of £5 a ton is a gain to the British consumer of £5 a ton, or £7,500,000 per annum. This has been eagerly swallowed by the man in the street, by the whole of the Liberal party, and, unfortunately, by a few Unionists who will not take time to think. Mr. Platt Higgins demolishes it with ease and with great clearness. "No man," he says, "who knows anything about business would fall into such a blunder. The beet root producer's cost price is 8s. 9d. per cwt., and the West Indian's 8s. 6d. The one knows that the other cannot sell below 8s. 6d. except at a loss. Does he, therefore, immediately drop his price by 5s. per cwt., and sell at 3s. 9d.? Not at all! He proceeds to offer at 8s. 5d. His competitor refuses to sell below prime cost and the consumer gets only 4d. of the 5s., the remainder, 4s. 8d., being retained by the astute German sugar traders. At present prices of 8s., f.o.b. Hamburg, or 8s. 8d. landed in London, the German sugar trader is not giving away any of his 5s. bounty; it is all going into the pockets of the German sugar trade." The real danger is that the consumer will soon find himself in the hands of a German monopoly of the sugar trade. Cane sugar used to form 85 per cent. of the world's production, now it only forms 33 per cent. The consumption of the United Kingdom consists now, to the extent of 92 per cent., of Continental beet-root sugar. The naturally dearer article is, in fact, rapidly driving out the naturally cheaper article. If bounties were to continue not only would cane sugar be driven out, but also French, Belgian and Dutch beet-root sugar. The French cannot afford to sell at present prices, and have retired from the market. American lard went down to 17s. a few years ago, production fell off, a trust got hold of it and put prices up to 58s. 6d., treble the lowest point. The production of sugar this year, we know, has fallen off by a million tons, owing to the low prices. We know what such a shortage means in the cotton trade, and yet there are people who regard with satisfaction the prospect of our supply of sugar becoming a German monopoly. People talk of sugar becoming dearer when bounties are abolished. The question naturally arises, dearer from what? No responsible person has dared to predict that the average price of the next ten years will be higher than that of the last ten years. Anybody is foolish who expects to get any article permanently at less than its natural price, governed by free competition and the cost of production. The present system is just as if we ourselves had charged cane sugar with a special import duty, which cannot be regarded as

free trade. Under the Convention every source of supply will be freely opened, and sugar will remain at its natural price, whereas without it we have good reason for fearing that sugar will be run up to double or treble its natural price, as lard actually was, for who will care to compete against an illegitimate advantage of 5s. on an article selling at 8s. to 10s. The Convention will substitute natural for artificial conditions. It is quite evident that Mr. Platt Higgins has thoroughly mastered the subject, and will be well able to meet all the fantastic fallacies of our opponents if they reappear in the House of Commons next session.

The Reciprocity Treaties.

The American Committee of Trade has forwarded to the President, Members of Congress, the State Department, and the British Ambassador, an emphatic protest against the clause in the proposed treaty with Cuba, which provides that no sugar shall be imported into the United States from other foreign countries at a lower rate of duty than is imposed by the Act of July 20th, 1897, for a period of five years. It is pointed out by the petitioners, who represent an export trade with the British West Indies of over \$10,000,000 annually, that this trade with all the West Indies is as important as that with Cuba. For over three years the exports to the British West Indies have averaged \$10,000,000 annually, and the imports as much as \$17,000,000. The reciprocity treaties with the British West Indies have now been favourably reported on by the Committee of Foreign Relations, and the time for their ratification extended. The petition bears the signatures of Messrs. John Farr, C. P. Armstrong, and W. P. Lough, on behalf of the Committee of West India Trade.

Obituary.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death at the advanced age of 87 of the oldest living Member of the West India Committee, Sir George Henry Chambers, D.L. For over seventy years Sir George Chambers had been prominently associated with commercial life in the City of London. At the Fortnightly Meeting of the Executive Committee on February 12th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. presiding, a resolution marking the esteem and respect in which Sir George Chambers was held by the West India Committee, and expressing sympathy with Miss Chambers and the family was adopted unanimously. We have also to announce, with sincere regret, the death at 4 p.m., on Saturday last, of Mr. Alexander Porter, our esteemed correspondent for St. Vincent, the news of which has reached us by cablegram as we go to press. Mr. Porter, who had been in failing health for some considerable time, never really recovered from the shock of the disastrous volcanic eruptions of May last, the effect of which reacting on an already enfeebled constitution hastened the end which will be so generally deplored.

New Members.

During the month of January, 17 new members were elected to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE. We trust that this number may be exceeded during the current month, and hope that Members will bring forward candidates for election, in order that the proposals of the Committee for acquiring better premises may be adequately carried out. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on February 5th, the following new members were elected:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
Messrs. ALSTON, ARBUTHNOT & Co. (Trinidad)	W. Gillespie, Esq.	W. Middleton Campbell, Esq.
Dr. JOHN HUTSON (Barbados)	A. Cameron, Esq.	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.
Messrs. KERR, NEWTON & Co.	H. Crum Ewing, Esq.	James R. Greig
H. F. PREVITÉ, Esq. (Trinidad)	J. W. Previte	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
ADAM SMITH, Esq. (Trinidad)	H. H. Dobree, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
Messrs. WALLACE, WILKIE & Co.	H. Crum Ewing, Esq.	James R. Greig, Esq.
H. WITHSTANDLEY, Esq. (Barbados)	Fred Browne, Esq.	John Hinkson, Esq.
WALTER WOOLLISCROFT, Esq. (Jamaica)	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.

With the current *Circular* the new List of Members is posted to Members. The next election will take place on Thursday next, the 19th instant.

Planting in Dominica.

The letters recently addressed to the *Times* by his Honour H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator of Dominica, have led to considerable attention being paid to that Island, where the prospects of the Cacao, Coffee and Lime industries appear to be particularly bright. Our esteemed correspondent for Dominica, Mr. E. A. Agar, has favoured us with some figures relative to planting in the Island. He is of opinion that £2,000 is the smallest capital with which it would be safe to start an estate. So far, no remunerative catch crop has been found, but from experiments already made it would seem that onions are likely to do well in this respect. If this proves the case the outlook will be altered and new planters will advance far more quickly than at present.

The figures of the cost of cultivation on Crown lands which Mr. Agar gives, are interesting.

1ST YEAR—

To 100 acres at 10s.	£50	
„ Fees	20	
„ House, &c... ..	100	
„ Horse, Donkey, &c.	30	
„ Clearing 20 acres and planting 10-in. cacao and 10-in. limes, with the necessary shade plants, &c.	100	
„ Weeding at 10s. per acre	10	
„ Staff, &c.	50	
„ Living Expenses	80	
	<hr/>	£440

2ND YEAR—

To Weeding 20 acres at 30s.	30	
„ Staff and Sundries	75	
„ Living Expenses	80	
	<hr/>	185

3RD YEAR—

To Total Expenses	185	
	<hr/>	185

4TH YEAR—

To Total Expenses	185		
„ Temporary Lime Works	120		
	<hr/>	305	
			By 2 Hhds. Con. Lime Juice
			£18
			<hr/>
			£18

5TH YEAR—

To Total Expenses	200		
„ Cacao Drying House	100		
	<hr/>	300	
			„ 6 Hhds. Con. Lime Juice
			54
			„ 3 Bags Cacao
			15
			<hr/>
			69

6TH YEAR—

To Total Expenses	225		
	<hr/>	225	
Total Expenditure over 6 years	£1,640		
Proceeds of Sale of Produce	225		
	<hr/>	225	
Total outlay in 6 years	£1,415		
			„ 12 Hhds. Con. Lime Juice
			108
			„ 6 Bags Cacao
			30
			<hr/>
			138
			Proceeds of Sale of Produce
			£225

It will be seen that the actual cost of cultivation is, on a small estate, not a large proportion of the total expenditure. In fact, the sum laid out on the 20 acres is only £300 up to the seventh year, when in the ordinary course of events receipts should balance expenditure. Cacao is a more remunerative crop than limes, but takes longer to come into bearing, and requires a much richer soil. Lime works would have to be extended as the crop increased, but if well constructed in the first instance, a comparatively small outlay only would be incurred.

The Department of Agriculture and the West India Committee.

With a view to furthering the admirable work being done by the *Imperial Department of Agriculture*, we recently offered to receive for sale or distribution its publications. This offer has been cordially accepted by Dr. D. Morris, who in a letter, dated Jan. 17th, expressed his deep appreciation of the offer made by the Committee to assist in the work of the department. The Secretary of the West India Committee will accordingly be pleased to forward to Members, or others interested, copies of the undermentioned publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture upon a receipt of a remittance for their cost. In every case stamps for postage must be enclosed.

The Agricultural News. (one Penny per copy.)

Vol. I., Nos. 10 to 18.

Vol. II., Nos. 19 to 21.

The West India Bulletin. (Sixpence per copy.)

Vol. II., Nos. 1 to 4.

Vol. III., Nos. 1 to 3.

Pamphlet Series.

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|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| No. 3. Seedling and other Canes at Barbados, 1900. 2d. | No. 13. Seedling and other Canes at Barbados, 1901. 3d. |
| „ 5. 2nd Edition. General Treatment of Insect Pests. 3d. | „ 14. Screw Worm in Cattle at St. Lucia. 2d. |
| „ 6. Sweet Potatoes from the West Indies. 2d. | „ 15. Plain Talk to Small Owners. 2d. |
| „ 7. Scale Insects of the Lesser Antilles. Part I. 4d. | „ 16. Hints on Onion Cultivation. 2d. |
| „ 9. Bee-keeping in the West Indies. 4d. | „ 17. General Treatment of Fungoid Pests. 4d. |
| „ 12. Seedling and other Canes in Leeward Islands, 1901. 2d. | „ 18. West Indian Yams. 2d. |
| | „ 19. Seedling and other Canes at Barbados, 1902. 4d. |
| | „ 20. Seedling and other Canes in Leeward Islands, 1902. 2d. |

British Grown Cotton.

In connection with the experiments in cotton growing now being conducted in the West Indies, it is interesting to note that an important meeting was held in the Manchester Town Hall, under the auspices of the British Cotton Growing Association, at the close of last month. The Association was formed in the middle of last year on the initiative of the Oldham Chamber of Commerce with the object of broadening the basis of supply of all grades of cotton, and on the belief that the British Colonies and dependencies afford excellent opportunities for experiments in cotton growing. Operations are not to be confined to any particular place. The Association has already made a start on the West Coast of Africa, with the aid of the Governors, and hopes are entertained that it will shortly be at work in the West Indies, in the Soudan, and in British East and Central Africa. The Association proposes to raise a guarantee fund of at least £50,000 to conduct these experiments in the next five years, and towards this over £20,000 has either been subscribed or promised. After the Lord Mayor had welcomed the gathering, Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., took the Chair, and in the course of an interesting address, expressed the conviction that some day in the not far distant future, they would see a great export of raw cotton from West Africa, and that before long, England would be receiving raw cotton from Jamaica. The following resolution, proposed by Mr. Alfred Emmot, M.P., and Mr. C. McArthur, M.P., respectively, were adopted unanimously :—

“ That in view of the frequent disorganisation and consequent loss to the cotton trade of the United Kingdom owing to the uncertain supply of raw material, it is incumbent on all those interested in the prosperity of the industries of this country to use every effort to increase the growth of cotton.”

“ That the British Cotton Growing Association, formed for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the growth of cotton, more especially within the British Empire, deserves the support of spinners, manufacturers, machinists, merchants, shippers, and all interested in the trade of the United Kingdom.”

The West Indies and the Press.

Under the above heading we propose to mention the date and titles of articles of interest which appear in the Press during the fortnight, in order that our friends in the West Indies may be enabled to refer to them without difficulty. The *Times* Feb. 4th, "The Triumph of Trinidad"; the *Morning Post* February 3rd, "The New Jamaica," by Archibald R. Colquhoun; "The National Review," February, "The Brussels Sugar Convention," by the Hon. Matthew W. Ridley, M.P.; "The Empire Review," February, British Guiana "A Forecast," by Edward R. Davson; *Punch* Feb. 11th, "Summer Land in Winter Time," Grenada; Extracted from the Travel Diary of Toby, M.P.; The *Times*, Feb. 14th, "A Windward Island."

West Indian Mail News.

The Royal Mail Steamer "Atrato" reached Plymouth at 3.15 a.m. on Wednesday, January 11th, and the Mails were delivered first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Steamer "Port Royal," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, February 4th. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne), January 29th. Quarantine still hung over the Island like a pall, and it remained to be seen whether it would affect the shipment of produce. Cases of small-pox under treatment were reduced to 13, and the Island would have had a clean bill of health, had not four new cases, since increased to seven, broken out in St. George. As usual, these were unvaccinated persons hidden away when diseased, who contaminated their friends. To meet such cases, the Governor in Executive Council, drafted a Bill declaring such an area infected, and ordering compulsory vaccination within it. The Bill had been before the House of Assembly for several weeks, but only on Tuesday, January 27th, upon the Governor sending down an urgent message, was it given urgency on the following Tuesday week. After absorbing the surplus from the preceding year, and in spite of the heavy increase of taxes, the deficit on the year would be £6,000, and it was a problem how that was to be met. Dr. Bridger was to stay some days in New York, en route to Trinidad, to study the quarantine regulations there, with a view to assist the efforts of a commission which the Governor had appointed to endeavour to get the Islands to agree upon some combined system, instead of each having regulations of its own.

One gratifying feature of the season had been the paucity of cane fires which had been very few and insignificant. This was no doubt due to the Governor's published speeches and actions, and also to the heavy reward offered for the conviction of the incendiary. Until the last week there had been a continuance of nice showers, but more were wanted, as they were in no case heavy. The canes had manifestly improved, and even some of the ratoons in districts which gave little hope a short time ago showed signs of recovery. The spring of young canes for 1904 was uniformly beautiful, and they were growing rapidly. Many estates had begun making sugar, not because the canes were ripe, but because a few plants were wanted for supplying and cane tops for the stock. In spite of the unripeness of the canes, the juice was sweet and augured well for future months. Barbados yams were still obtainable from Messrs. Pink & Company, Southampton. The appointment of Hon. S. W. Knaggs, late Receiver-General of Trinidad, as Colonial Secretary of Barbados was announced.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), January 28th. The market for refining crystals had fallen to pieces and not more than \$1.88 was obtainable. The weather generally had been too dry. Fairly good showers had fallen in Georgetown and the neighbourhood, and also in some parts of Essequibo, but Berbice was sadly in want of rain for canes of all ages. 2,785 Coolies had been applied for for the coming season, showing an increase of nearly 900 adults upon the preceding year (1,920); it was still below the average of recent years.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), January 29th. Owing to the unusually heavy list of cases before the Circuit Court which was to open on the 30th, it was found that the Court-house would not be available for the Annual Agricultural Show. The planters in the Lasoye district were organising a local Show and it was hoped that their example would be followed some day throughout the Island.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas) January 28th. Mr. Henry Lucy ("Toby, M.P.") recently paid Grenada a visit; he professed himself charmed with the island—the country districts in particular. A special meeting of the Agricultural Society was convened on the 23rd instant by Sir Robert Llewelyn to meet Mr. W. Weldon Symington, the Chairman of Messrs. Thomas Nash & Co., fruit brokers of Plymouth, who explained with lucid fulness the scheme which

he had devised, and of which Mr. Chamberlain had approved, for developing the culture of fruit in Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Dominica, and for securing an assured market for fruit now grown in these islands. The Society passed a resolution declaring its approval of the scheme and pledging its support in every way. If it was granted that Mr. Symington would succeed in inducing the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to provide sufficient and proper accommodation for carrying the fruit, then the scheme might safely be pronounced to be workable in every detail, and a fair one to the islands concerned. It afforded beyond a doubt, a stupendous contrast to the scheme with a similar object that was carried out in Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson's time. That scheme involved the island into the liability of paying an annual subsidy of £1,000, for a period of years, to an American Steam Ship Company as consideration for simply carrying to New York fruit which, in value, never reached half of the subsidy paid. No other consideration was given for so large a subsidy. Mr. Symington's Company would undertake to establish receiving depôts in the districts wherein its agents would purchase for cash fruit offered for sale by peasants or anyone else; it would also provide a competent person to teach the peasants how best to grow fruit; and inform them what were the best kinds to grow for the English markets. Altogether, the scheme was an admirable one, containing the seed of permanent and substantial prosperity, and, therefore, deserving the support of Mr. Chamberlain and of the West India Committee, and demanding the active co-operation of the islands it proposed to embrace. The health of the island was good, and the weather continued favourable.

Jamaica—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), January 26th. With the exception of Vere, where a short sugar crop was expected in consequence of the drought Jamaica had enjoyed seasonable weather. The ginger crop was coming to market. A large crop would be reaped. The tourist season was in full swing and the Hotels were quite full. Most of the visitors were from America.

Montserrat—(C. Watson, Esq.), January 26th. The weather had been favourable for reaping, occasional light showers keeping the canes healthy.

St. Kitts—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), January 26th. The Government at a Meeting of Council has passed a Bill limiting the already small amount to be given in aid of the sugar industry under an Act passed last year. The land Tax 3s. per acre was suspended for two years, ending 31st December next, while the export Tax 4s. 8d. per ton and Wharfage Dues were suspended until the 31st September. Under the new Law the Land Tax was suspended for only the first six months of the current year, and the other taxes would again be renewed on the 30th August. Reaping had now fully started, and the sugar was of excellent quality and full of shining grain with no dampness or stickiness. The weather was blustering with occasional driving showers.

St. Lucia—(Hon. E. DuBoulay) January 29th. The weather had of late been showery. Crop would soon be beginning.

St. Vincent—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), January 27th. Things were much more settled in the Island, and people were gradually returning to their old districts, there being no further talk about emigration. The weather was everything to be desired, fine rains falling almost daily, which was quite unusual for the time of the year.

Trinidad—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) January 31st. Mr. W. H. Lucy ("Toby M.P.") had arrived from Grenada on a visit to H. E. Sir Alfred Moloney. The weather was still very showery and wet, but not wet enough to interfere seriously with sugar manufacture. Most estates in the Colony had made a start. The crop was expected to be somewhat under the average, partly on account of a too dry autumn, but principally because ordinary cultivation expenses were severely restricted. A record Cacao crop was expected. The estimate for January being close upon 20,000 bags. The amount being carried by the Trinidad Railway showed a considerable increase. Mr. Norman Lamont had been entertaining the Danish Commission at the Palmiste Usine, South Naparina. On the 21st they were shown over Clare experimental station by Mr. Hart, and in the afternoon visited the Hon. W. Gordon's Moka Estate in Mararaval, and on the 30th they left for Grenada.

Weather Telegrams.

BARBADOS—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Feb. 16th. "Weather dry." **BRITISH GUIANA**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), Feb. 9th. "Fine with occasional light showers." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Feb. 16th. "Weather dry, rain wanted." **TRINIDAD**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), Feb. 3rd. "Weather fine for harvesting." Feb. 12th. *Idem*. **JAMAICA**—(The Direct West India Cable Co.), Feb. 13th. "Weather fine. Max. 82, Min. 71."

Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
British Guiana—								
Jan. 1 to Jan. 29, 1903	9,167	7,380	—	4,918	24	300	1,508	819
" " 24, 1902	14,173	8,692	—	3,891	28	1	7,365	562
Jamaica—								
Apr. 1 to Jan. 10, 1903	13,468	Cwts.	69,128	Galls.	20,173,706	Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
" " 11, 1902	11,523	19,133	49,811	1,538,939	14,234,989	Cwts.	Bunches.	90,204,597
		16,237		1,234,898		62,657	8,971,064	74,887,837
Trinidad—								
Jan. 1 to Jan. 29, 1903	Bags & Brls.	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
" " 29, 1902	1,081	4,600,550	1,360	—	552,600	Puns.	Tons.	5,720
	260	3,630,690	2,640	—	180,500	Trcs.	Brls.	5,310
						191	7	

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," February 11th, 1903.—**Barbados**.—Major Deane, Miss Eva Niccolls, Mr. M. Petermann, Mr. P. de Bourdice, Mr. Nicolas Berthon, Mr. Louis Eustache. **Demerara**.—Mr. W. H. Davies, Mr. Shaik Mogul Jan, Mr. Simon Gill, Mr. E. Chambers, Mr. J. Jallings, Major W. Cook Daniels. **Jamaica**.—Major and Mrs. Scott and three ch., Capt. S. W. Sweetnam, Miss Stamper, Mr. T. W. Ashworth, Mr. H. D. Pearsall, Mr. L. Hollingsworth, Mr. A. B. Lucy, Mr. MacLachlan, Miss P. Stefany, Mr. S. Hawkins, Mr. J. J. Roberts. **Trinidad**.—Mr. F. W. Gardner, Sub-Lieut. C. G. Brodie, Lt.-Col. Bourke, Dr. Ireland, Dr. M. A. Ganey, Dr. S. A. Ali, Dr. M. Israil, Dr. S. Jahirala, Mr. John E. Phillips, E.R.A., Geo. Brock, P.O., Mr. Joseph Abdullah, Mr. Gerald Simpson, Mrs. E. Dickinson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Lucy.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," February 18th, 1903.—**Barbados**.—Mrs. Hapworth Hill, Mr. and Mrs. P. Wand, Mr. C. E. Jarvis, two Masters Lynch, Mr. A. H. Easty. **Demerara**.—Mr. T. Wigglesworth. **Jamaica**.—Mr. D. G. Cannell and Mr. A. White, Mr. and Mrs. L. Verley, family, and two Misses Auvray, Mr. and Mrs. Carter, Miss Watts, Miss McKechnie, Mr. J. Clarke, Mr. J. Stuart, Miss Stuart, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Thornton, Miss Thornton, Mr. A. Sonenthal, Mr. E. F. Brinkley, Mr. Batty Smith, Mr. J. Drew, Mr. A. Ralston, Mr. E. St. L. Walker, Rt. Hon. the Earl of Erne, Capt. the Hon. G. Crichton, Mr. M. F. Miller, Dr. and Mrs. H. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Williams and family, Miss Fox, Miss Malden, Miss M. Hall, Mr. J. P. Manning, Mr. G. O. Blacker, Mr. S. L. Verley, Corpl. D. Smith. **Trinidad**.—Mr. W. M. Russell. **Antigua**.—Mrs. E. K. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Johnston, Mrs. Holme, Mr. H. T. Holme, Dr. Oliphant, Dr. C. M. Rolston. **Dominica**.—Mr. W. Molineux. **St. Lucia**.—Mr. G. D. Melville, one Sergeant, A.O. Corps. **Tour**.—Mr. G. E. Wainwright, Mr. A. W. T. Channell, Miss A. Channell, Mr. and Mr. G. M. Cox, and Mr. T. G. Luis, Mr. Thoms, Mr. and Mrs. S. Daw, Miss Imray, Col. Howell, Miss Howell and Miss Phillips.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," March 4th, 1903.—**Barbados**.—Lieut. M. J. Hamilton, Lieut. S. M. Adye-Curram, R.A.M.C. **Demerara**.—Rev. and Mrs. MacGill and family. **Jamaica**.—Mr. F. H. C. Cramerus, Lieut. E. French, R.A.M.C. **Trinidad**.—Midshipman W. H. Diggle, R.N. **Dominica**.—Mr. W. Brown. **St. Kitts**.—Mr. H. D. Spooner. **Tobago**.—Mr. and Mrs. R. Bruce Archibald, Miss Bruce Archibald.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," February 4th, 1903.—**Jamaica**.—Miss R. Ansell, Miss Brewin, Miss Capper, Miss M. Capper, Major E. H. Foster, Mrs. E. H. Foster, Mr. J. MacMonies, Mr. John Milne, Capt. C. S. Paulet, Mrs. C. S. Paulet, Mr. G. E. Pickering, Miss Lilian Trench, Mr. S. Valentine, 1 Warrant Officer, Wife and 3 children.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," February 14th, 1903.—**Jamaica**.—Mr. A. R. Appach, Capt. C. D. Barrow, Capt. and Mrs. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Bowring, Mr. Newton Byerley, Major Bonham-Carter, Miss S. C. Collinge, Mr. H. Conder, Miss Corty, Major and Mrs. Dittmas, Mr. Dunlop, Mrs. Allan Edwards, Mrs. A. F. G. Ellis, Miss Lily Eyton, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. J. Fletcher, Miss A. French, Miss B. French, Mr. P. Hannay, Mr. R. S. Hinckes, Miss E. Jackson, Miss N. Jackson, Mr. Hardy Jackson, Miss Adeline Jones, Mr. Fisher-Jones, Mr. Norman Joynson, Capt. T. M. Keogh, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lockett, Mr. C. McNeil, Mr. St. John Miles, Mr. Hugh Mortimer, Miss G. Nevatt, Miss H. Norfolk, Mr. M. C. Norman, Col. Thrale-Perkins, C.B., Miss Hilda Thrale-Perkins, Miss Portal, Miss Shirley Power, Captain W. W. Rhodes, Miss Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Robinson, Mr. Robinson, jun., Miss Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair, Mr. Robert Sinclair, Miss May Sinclair, Miss Marie Solomon, Mr. H. Spicer, Miss Spicer, Mr. F. D. Thomas, Mr. Lionel Thompson, Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Turton, Mr. N. White, Alderman W. H. Woods, Miss Woods, Mr. Barclay, Rev. H. E. Sampson, Mrs. Sampson and child, Miss K. Sampson, Mr. Arthur L. Smyly, Mr. S. G. Wright.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," February 28th, 1903.—**Jamaica**.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Birchall, Mrs. C. F. Dodsworth, Mr. and Mrs. Green-Haigh, Mr. R. Green-Haigh, Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Marriott, Sir Patrick Keith Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Murray, Miss Reed, Mr. R. Simpson, Miss Smith, Staff-Sergt. Hanley, and Mrs. Hanley.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar.—88 per cent. **Beet.**—With the usual fluctuations prices are fractionally firmer for the fortnight, viz., February 7s. 11½d.; May 8s. 2½; August 8s. 4½d.; and October/December 8s. 10½d.; all free on board Hamburg. Nothing will be known about sowings for next crop for at least three months, so it is useless discussing the question. Comparative prices for 5 years:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
	7s. 11½d.	6s. 8d.	9s. 2½d.	10s. 0½d.	9s. 5½d.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows in the different countries:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom, 7th February	128,510	162,351	70,393	59,799	63,986
France, 1st January	829,300	732,278	715,853	679,521	600,000
Germany, 1st January	1,305,144	1,414,676	1,096,123	1,009,077	1,010,625
Hamburg, 11th February	81,110	132,880	60,050	49,600	53,400
Austria-Hungary, 1st February	636,542	680,071	618,240	620,585	600,010
Holland, 1st February	101,982	137,097	107,866	92,870	76,855
Belgium, 15th January	194,817	158,868	113,789	121,979	128,351
	3,277,465	3,418,221	2,782,314	2,633,431	2,533,234
United States, 11th February, Total Stocks	127,000	85,232	128,143	156,320	99,698
Cuba, six principal ports, 11th February, Total Stocks ..	145,000	172,982	72,617	48,667	30,698
Cargoes afloat, 12th February	57,785	17,068	15,765	25,182	131,553
Total	3,607,250	3,693,503	2,998,839	2,863,609	2,795,183

Crystallised Sugar.—There has been more buying on the part of the Trade Importers accepting rather easier prices. Present quotations are:—inferior grades 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.; low to good yellow 14s. to 14s. 6d.; fine sugar 15s., with retail lots of choice up to 16s. The value of average qualities is 14s. 3d. or 10s. 6d. in bond. A cargo of 96 Centrifugals would command about 9s. 3d. in bond. Dyed Bounty and Kartel-Fed Beet-root is selling slowly in London in the form of imitations at 14s. 3d., and white Continental Granulated for delivery from now to October next at 14s. 6d. duty and carriage paid throughout England.

Molasses Sugar.—In demand from 10s. 6d. to 13s.

Muscovado. None here and quotations nominal.

Movements of Vacuum Pan Sugar to date:—1903.

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	4000	4300	5300 Tons
Deliveries	6500	4500	5300 "
Stocks	9700	8200	5700 "

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for January:

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1901.
Imports	625,000	1,057,000	1,089,000	Galls.	9700
Home Consumption	389,000	403,000	418,000	Galls.	8500
Stocks, 31st January	9,408,000	7,691,000	7,532,000	"	8000
					28,992
					23,402
					5590

Stocks in London: 1903. 1902. 1901.

Jamaica	9700	6800	7500 Puns.
Demerara	8500	8000	8700 "
Total of all kinds	28,992	23,402	5590 "

For fair marks of Demerara Importers have readily accepted 7½d. per proof gallon where obtainable, but even at this reduced price there is no animation in the demand, and many shipments remain unsold. As to Jamaica, we are absolutely without a market, and it is quite problematical if even 1s. 5d. per liquid gallon would find a buyer for approved standard Home Trade Marks, the price of 7½d. for Demerara working out at 10½d. liquid. Cuba and other foreign kinds are quoted nominally 5d. to 7d. proof, according to quality and package.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for January: 1903.

	1902.	1901.
Imports	3098	4150
Home Consumption	1622	3512
Stocks 31st January	5859	6030
Stocks in London	83,500	87,600

2602 Tons.
2520 "
7394 "
94,200 Bags.

It may be accidental, and probably is, but the deliveries for home use during January, as shown by the Board of Trade figures given above, are not pleasant reading. The market, however, has taken little heed of this, and during the fortnight there has been a good demand from our chief manufacturers, resulting in liberal purchases, not in all cases 58s.; estate marks 58s. to 63s.; with a few choice up to 67s. Grenada.—Fair Native 54s.; fermented 56s. to 57s.; fair fermented from other Islands about 54s.; with Native cocoa about 52s.

Coffee.—Steady. Jamaica, fine fine ordinary 48s. to 50s.; good to fine ordinary 37s. to 45s.; greenish 50s. to 65s.; colory 70s. upwards.

Nutmegs.—West India steady, with sales of 69's at 2s. and 99's at 1s. 2d.

Mace.—A few lots West India sold, fair to good pale 1s. 11d. to 2s. 2d.

Ginger.—Business doing in Jamaica. Ordinary to good ordinary 35s. to 38s.

Pimento.—Barely steady. Recent sales have been at 2½d. to 2¾d. for ordinary to good.

Arrowroot.—January figures:—1903.

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	2121	2330	952
Deliveries	1195	1558	1058
Stocks 31st January	13,150	8519	7994

1041 Barrels
1280 "
2292 "

The market is dull and with the large stocks shown above and the poor consumption, our chief buyers show little or no disposition to operate, anticipating lower prices as the season progresses. During the fortnight some 1000 barrels of good manufacturing quality have been sold at 2d. to 2½d per lb., prices which Importers are generally willing to accept, but which, for the moment, are not obtainable.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, March 2nd, 1903.

Testimonial for Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

The decision arrived at by the Executive Committee on the 19th ult., to present a testimonial to our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., in recognition of his services on behalf of the West Indian Colonies, will without a doubt meet with the cordial and unanimous approval of our Members. For over 19 years Sir Nevile Lubbock has occupied the position of Chairman of the West India Committee, of which he has been an active Member for more than 30 years, and it is only those who have worked with him, who can realise to the full extent the zeal and energy with which he has applied himself to the problems affecting the welfare of British Guiana and the West Indies. It will be within recollection that in the year 1899, Her late Majesty Queen Victoria marked her approval of his "services in connection with the West Indian Colonies," by conferring on him the honour of Knighthood of the most distinguished order of St. Michael and St. George.

The work performed by Sir Nevile Lubbock in connection with the Foreign State Bounties ever since their blighting effect on the Sugar Industry of the British West Indies first manifested itself, will be more widely appreciated now that the proceedings at the recent Brussels Conference have resulted in the ratification by all the participating Powers of a Convention for their abolition. But it is in other directions also, as for example, by the inauguration of the prosperous cane farming industry in Trinidad, that our worthy chairman has earned the gratitude of all who have the welfare of the West Indies at heart. It is proposed that the testimonial shall take the form of an illuminated address and such appropriate gift as funds may permit, and that the presentation shall be made at a Banquet in June or July next, when many of our friends in the West Indies will be visiting this country. Further particulars can be obtained from Mr. Henry K. Davson, Mr. Robert Rutherford, or the Secretary, who have been appointed a sub-committee to deal with this matter.

New Members.—A Steady Increase.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, February 19th, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis presiding, the following new members were elected:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
H. B. G. AUSTIN, Esq. (Barbados)	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.	S. Browne, Esq.
W. C. C. PARK, Esq.	W. Gillespie, Esq.	Edward G. Barr, Esq.
Messrs. WILLIAM SMITH & Co.	Edward G. Barr, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
A. F. TURNBULL, Esq. (Trinidad)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.

For the information of our new members, of whom 28 have been elected since the beginning of the year, we may repeat what we stated in our *Circular* 86 at the close of last year. We have decided to acquire in June next more commodious premises. In the new Committee Rooms 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 support us 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. Forms of application for membership can be obtained from the Secretary. The next election will take place on Thursday, March 5th.

Dock Charges on Rum.

We have received the following letter from the Chairman of the London and India Docks Co., regarding the above subject.

DEAR SIR,

21st February, 1903.

With reference to our recent correspondence and to the conference held here on the 26th ult., on the subject of the present charges on Rum, I have to inform you that the views then expressed by

the representatives of the Importers and Buyers who were present, have been submitted to the Members of my Board, who, after giving the matter very careful consideration, have decided that they see no reason for making any reduction in the charges in question.

The application was made mainly upon a comparison of the rates in London as against those in Liverpool, but it was pointed out at the conference, that the circumstances are so different as not to admit of any fair comparison, and further that the charges specially applicable to the Buyers of Rum in London are unremunerative, and considerably less than charges for similar services in Liverpool.

I desire also to remind you that the several suggestions made on behalf of the Dock Company for commutation of the rent charge to cover extended periods beyond that included in the Consolidated Rate were rejected by the representatives of the trade.

Yours, &c.,

(Signed) CHAS. H. SCOTT,
Chairman.

The King's Speech to Parliament.

The King's Speech at the opening of the third session of his first Parliament on Tuesday, February 17th ultimo, contained the following brief reference to the Brussels Convention:—"Measures will be introduced for the purpose of carrying into effect engagements arising out of the Convention for the Abolition of Bounties on Sugar which has recently been ratified at Brussels."

The Consumption of Sugar.

We have received from one of our Members an extract from an article which recently appeared in a Continental Sugar Organ, regarding the consumption of sugar. Pressure on our space prevents us from giving this in full, but the views of the writer can be gathered from the following brief abstract:—France, Germany and Belgium are about to make a considerable reduction in their sugar duties when the Brussels Convention comes into force. There is every reason to believe that this reduction will lead to a corresponding increase in the home consumption, and thus assist in relieving the market of a portion of the present surplus production in those countries. In the meantime, with the prospect of these lower duty-paid prices after 1st Sept., consumption will, no doubt, be temporarily checked, and it is quite possible that the usual yearly increase in consumption will not take place this year. But, as the world's production has been reduced by about a million tons, the visible stocks on the 1st September next will be reduced, even with no increase in consumption, to about 800,000 tons. As there will be a quick rebound in the rate of consumption with the reduced duties after that date, the writer argues that this reduced surplus will be rapidly absorbed, and that, therefore, there is no need for any reduction of sowings at the present time.

The Brussels Convention.

In the House of Commons on February 23rd ult., in answer to Mr. Gibson Bowles, Lord Cranborne said: "On January 13th His Majesty's Government despatched a circular informing the Powers signatory of the Convention that they would not consent under any circumstances to be bound to penalise bounty-fed sugar imported into the United Kingdom from any of the self-governing British Colonies, and that they were not prepared to accept any reference of this question to the Permanent Commission. We have received official replies from the German and Austrian Governments only. The German Government differ from us and reserve their liberty of action, but consider that the difference of opinion has no practical significance. The Austrian Government have said that they presume that in practice the case contemplated will not arise, but that they reserve their full liberty of action. The Dutch Government have sent no reply. The Italian Government, we understand, do not dispute our view. The Belgian Government consider the point of no practical interest. The French Government have expressed no opinion on the subject. Our ratification has been deposited on the express condition that we shall not be bound to penalise bounty-fed sugar from our self-governing Colonies. We have, therefore, incurred no treaty obligation to do so. Papers are being prepared and will shortly be laid on the table."

The learned Professor added : "This is an excellent example of feeding stuffs of its class. If used judiciously it will be found a highly advantageous addition to the ordinary feeding stuffs of the farm." It is worthy of note that Dr. Voelcker, the Consulting Chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society, in his report for 1902, states :—"While the use of beet-sugar molasses has been considerably developed in the manufacture of compound feeding cakes and in special preparations, it may be well to mention that recently a handy form for utilising and exporting sugar-cane molasses has been found in the absorption of the molasses with inner part or pith of the sugar-cane itself. Sugar-cane molasses is not open to the objections that may be taken to beet-sugar molasses, as it is free from the excessive saline matters which the latter contains, and it has also a much more pleasant taste."

Fruit Packing in the West Indies.

We have always urged in the *West India Committee Circular* the importance of the careful selection and packing of West Indian Fruits for the British Markets, and a letter communicated to *The Times*, of to-day's date, by Mr. Edward Berwick of Pacific Grove, California, fully emphasises our point, besides giving some useful hints on cultivation. In California, labour, especially skilled labour, is very costly. "Machinery is speedily invented to meet every chance for its application. Boxes are nailed, cans cut and soldered, prunes dipped and graded, oranges brushed and sorted, and trees sprayed by steam power.

"The orange, especially in districts where black scale (*Lecanium oleæ*) prevails, is subject to become disfigured by "smut." Special machines have been designed, and are in common operation in our citrus-fruit districts, to cleanse the rind without bruising it, and to sort the fruit as to size. As to packing, orange boxes contain from 96 to over 300 specimens. These boxes are 25¼ in. × 12 in. × 12 in. The sides are of ½-in., and the ends and centre partition of ¾-in. lumber, pine or spruce. On one end is an attractive label, and in one corner is plainly marked the number of fruits contained in the box. Each fruit is wrapped in thin paper, on which is frequently printed the grower's name and address. The wrapping and packing are usually done by women or girls, who become very deft and speedy and earn good wages. The boxes are packed a little overfull, so that the lid when nailed keeps the pack from shaking. This is very important, because if loose the oranges bruise in transportation. It would probably pay the Jamaica growers to send an emissary to this State to learn our methods of cultivation and marketing, as much attention has been given to citrus-fruit culture, our present output being some 30,000 car-loads of ten tons each, with a gross value of about £5,000,000, or near threefold the value of the whole of Jamaica's exports.

"The destruction of prejudicial insects by the importation of their appropriate parasite has also been made a special study here, with notably successful results in the case of the *Vedalia Cardinalis*, which has entirely destroyed the cottony cushion scale (*Icerya Purchase*) that one time threatened to ruin the citrus industry. The *Rhizobius Ventralis* has also scored a partial success in checking the ravages of the black scale (*Lecanium oleæ*), which preys on many deciduous as well as citrus-fruit trees, and which, I believe, proved fatal 40 years ago to all the orange groves in the Azores. Many special methods and implements of Californian invention for spraying, fumigating, and otherwise caring for the growing plantation would also merit their attention and reward the enterprise of any visiting Colonial horticulturist, and add largely to Jamaica's revenue."

The West Indies and the Press.

Under the above heading we propose to mention the date and titles of articles of interest which appear in the Press during the fortnight, in order that our friends in the West Indies may be enabled to refer to them without difficulty. The *Times*, February 18th, "The King's Speech and the Debate on the Address." The *Times*, February, "Russia and the Sugar Question."

The West Indian Mail.

In spite of extremely boisterous weather, which she encountered when five days out from Barbados, the Royal Mail Steamer "Para" anchored off Plymouth at 3 a.m. on Thursday, February 26th, six hours before her scheduled time. The Mails were delivered in London at 1.45 p.m. in the afternoon on the same day. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service's Royal Mail Steamer "Port Morant," from Kingston, Jamaica, reached Avonmouth on Wednesday, February 18th. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne), February 12th. The death of Sir George Chambers was deplored in Barbados. Though he only once visited the West Indies, his life was bound up in them, and he had their interests truly to heart. For years he worked hard on the West India Committee, and there was hardly a deputation to any Government Official on subjects of West Indian interests in which he did not take part. He was an active supporter of his partner, the late Chairman of the West India Committee, Mr. Thomas Daniel Hill, and rendered great service throughout the prolonged campaign against the bounties. There still remained a few cases of small-pox under treatment, chiefly from St. George; but as the House of Assembly had at length passed a Bill which drew a cordon round an infected area, and allowed no one to leave that area, unless he had been vaccinated or re-vaccinated, it was probable that the disease would be very shortly stamped out. Nine fresh cases were reported, being one more than in the previous fortnight. There had been one death and seven discharges, leaving sixteen cases under treatment at Pelican Island. Very few showers had fallen during the month, and the canes were showing signs of ripening. Many mills had been at work during the week and it would not be long before some sugar was ready for the market. Molasses was quoted at 12.1 per gall. The months of December and January had considerably improved the prospects for the crop. The first crop canes as a whole were good, and the second crop canes in the old ratooning parishes of St. Thomas and St. John might be relied on to do well, but in St. Philip and part of Christ Church and St. George it was feared that they would make a poor show. On the 6th inst., Dr. Morris, C.M.G., gave a most interesting address in the Planters' Hall, on the subject of the growth of Cotton and Onions in the island, specimens of them, which had been grown as experiments, were shown and favourably commented on. (A report of the lecture appears in the *Agricultural Reporter* of Feb. 9th, *et seq.*; and the *Barbados Advocate* of February 14th. A.E.A.). It would be necessary to raise a loan of £8,000 to cover the deficit in the Revenue of the island. The prospects of the young crop were excellent. A Committee of the Agricultural Society had been formed to enquire into the alleged mixing of Barbados molasses with inferior sorts in Canada, the mixture being subsequently sold under the head of "Barbados Molasses." The new Colonial Secretary, Mr. Knaggs, was expected on the following Saturday.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), February 11th. The weather was fine with light showers, but generally it was much too dry, and good rains would be beneficial. In Berbice, it continued very dry. Refining crystals were quoted at £1 85, but there was very little being done.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), February 8th. His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, the Administrator, met with a hearty reception on his return to the Island. Three triumphal arches were erected by the Agricultural Society, the Philharmonic Society, and Messrs. Grell & Didier, while most of the houses on the line of route from the Jetty to Government House, were decorated with bunting. The band of the Philharmonic Society escorted the carriage, from which the horses were taken. The welcome was entirely spontaneous and quite unprecedented. No one could say that it was not well deserved.

The abolition of the office of second Puisne Judge had allowed a large accumulation of Summary Jurisdiction work to be dealt with by the first Puisne Judge then in the island. The consequence of this was that the Court House was not available for the holding of the Agricultural Show. The Committee were at first afraid that the Show would have to be either postponed or abandoned; however, Mr. Frampton, the manager of Messrs. L. Rose & Co., Ltd., generously came forward and placed their premises at the Bath Estate, at the disposal of the Committee. These buildings which had been cleared by Mr. Frampton, were far more commodious than the Court House, and being but a few minutes walk from Roseau, should ensure the success of the show.

The Hon. H. A. Nicholls, M.D., C.M.G., forwarded to us by the same mail under date February 11th, some figures which clearly show the continued steady progress of Dominica towards prosperity. The Treasury balance sheet to the end of last year showed an excess of assets of £7,186 4s. 2d., and this was without any "doles" or increase of taxation; and the following items—just supplied to Dr. Nicholls by the Treasurer—indicated a remarkable increase of volume in the principal articles of export of the Island.

	1901.		1902.
Cacao	lbs. 1,006,786		1,368,283
Concentrated Lime Juice	gall. 88,644		136,546
Raw Lime Juice	" 206,563		263,915
Oil of Limes	" 608		948
Essential Oil of Limes	" 3,299		4,761
Bay Leaves	bales 111		140
Oranges	barrels 1,872		2,145

It should be remembered that this table represented for the most part the efforts of the older planters who had borne the heat and burden of transferring the old cane fields into thriving plantations of cacao and limes. The results of the industry of the new European settlers would not be seen for several years, but then the exports would increase by leaps and bounds, and Dominica would begin to take its true position at the forefront of the Lesser Antilles.

(We are indebted to Mr. F. Sterns-Fadelle, Bachelier-es-Sciences of the University of Paris, for a copy of a pamphlet "Dominica, a Fertile Island," of which he is author, published at the office of *The Dominican*, 1s. This work will doubtless do much towards bringing the possibilities and prospects of this "highly gifted country" before the notice of the public and the press.—A. E. A.)

Jamaica—When the mail left it was reported that Small-pox of a very mild type had made its appearance at Duan Vale in the parish of Trelawney. The place however was far removed from any sea-port and 70 miles from Kingston, so no apprehension need be felt. The patients had been removed to an isolation hospital and were reported to be doing well. Saturday 14th February was the second anniversary of the inauguration of the Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service. The first vessel to sail from Avonmouth was the "Port Morant," on February 16th, 1901. It was gratifying that the expectations formed with regard to this service had been realised, and although there was not so much direct interchange of English and Jamaican products as there might be, a large and steadily increasing business had been done. In the two years 1,200,000 bunches of bananas had been brought to Avonmouth, and although at first the sale was somewhat restricted by the high prices charged by fruiterers, the appearance on the streets of barrow-men has wonderfully popularised this fruit. Rum was still one of the leading exports of Jamaica, and 10,000 puncheons had come over by the Direct Line vessels, in addition to which there had been large consignments of coffee, dye-woods, oranges and other products. The sugar trade had been rather disappointing, for, in spite of the offer by Sir Alfred Jones to bring over sugar free, only 1,100 tons had been imported under this arrangement. Pedigree stock were being taken out free of freight, to improve the Jamaican herds. Three thousand passengers had been carried during the two years, and the tourist traffic was steadily growing. An interesting experiment was about to be made in the cultivation of cotton, for which it is believed the soil and climate of Jamaica are suitable.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), February 9th. Sir Gerald Stickland after communication with the Secretary of State had offered for competition among groups of Estates in Antigua the sum of £15,000 for the improvement of machinery to manufacture a better grade of sugar. His offer would have to be accepted before September, but nothing of a similar nature had been offered to St. Kitts. The island had just received a visit extending over several days from the Atlantic Squadron of the United States Navy. The Squadron was under the command of Rear-Admiral Higginson. The Flagship "Kearsage," and six or seven first-class battle-ships of about 11,000 tons each, and a small gunboat. The island was kept very lively during the stay of the ships, and the Admiral being charmed with the beauty of the island, and the salubrity of the climate, had promised to include Saint Kitts in the future in the annual winter cruise. The crops were progressing on all estates, and so far the sugar appeared to be of good quality. A severe epidemic of sore throat was prevalent in the island. In his address to the Legislative Council on January 21st, His Honour Charles T. Cox, the Administrator, announced that the Colony still maintained its condition of solvency reached last year. Watchful and sustained economy was still however necessary. In view of the successful issue of the Brussels Conference, he strongly urged the advisability of amalgamating these properties and so getting capital to come in.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay) February 12th. Sugar crops were beginning. The weather was favourable. The cacao output promised to be considerably in advance of that of the preceding year, and if improved prices could be secured for the staple of the Island, prospects generally would be decidedly better than the same period in 1902.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), February 10th. Contrary to many predictions the Volcano seemed to be quieting down, and as the weather was everything that could be desired, the population generally were returning to their old districts. The R.M.S. "Eden," instead of remaining at St. Vincent between the Mails as had been customary since the Venezuelan blockade, had proceeded to Tobago from St. Vincent direct, but failed to get many passengers, which clearly indicated that the Vincentonians were unwilling to emigrate.

Trinidad.—The Hon. W. S. Knaggs was entertained at the Queen's Park Hotel on the 12th of February, the eve of his departure to assume the duties of Colonial Secretary of Barbados. Receipts of cocoa from the country continued on a very large scale and shipments for the fortnight had been exceedingly heavy. This was likely to continue until the middle of March, after which there would be a falling off until June when the new crop would begin. The shipments for January were 8,000,000 lbs., double that of the highest previous record. The sugar crop was in full swing. The weather during the fortnight had been very warm and dry, quite in keeping with the period of the year, and permitting cutting and other operations in the field to go on unimpeded. The fifth gallery constructed by the Vistabella Manjack Syndicate struck the seam at a depth of 200 feet on Feb. 5th. The former galleries struck at 65, 85, 105 and 125 feet respectively.

The manjack obtained in the last gallery was said to be a better quality than any which the Syndicate had yet obtained. There were many thousands of tons of manjack in the mine, for which the proprietors were offered \$50,000 a short time ago. They had just secured a standing order for 5,000 tons a year in addition to others. The manjack winning industry seemed to have a great future before it.

Weather Telegrams.

BRITISH GUIANA.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), February 25th. "Weather too dry."

JAMAICA.—(Direct West India Cable Co.) Feb. 27th. "Weather fine. Temp. Max. 84, Min. 72."

TRINIDAD.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), February 18th. "Weather fine for harvesting."

Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds
	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
British Guiana—								
Jan. 1 to Feb. 9, 1903	15,118	11,580	—	6,123	24	457	4,166	1,147
" " 11, 1902	22,663	12,432	—	6,879	528	11	9,301	562
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
Apr. 1 to Jan. 24, 1903	14,114	20,254	74,826	1,552,100	20,860,506	110,643	12,731,697	94,244,397
" " 25, 1902	11,736	18,212	62,279	1,240,132	14,533,789	63,448	9,231,264	76,002,787
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls.	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses		sphalt,
Jan. 1 to Feb. 13, 1903	11,483	8,452,740	2,000	25	1,510,291	136	41	24
" " 13, 1902	2,106	5,732,570	9,360	64	1,222,500	642	34	25

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," February 26th, 1903:—**Barbados**—Mr. F. S. Smith, Miss B. L. Smith, Master F. Archer, Mr. H. M. Lefroy, Mr. G. L. Motte, Mr. F. N. Martinez. **Demerara.**—Miss P. Psaila, Mr. F. Gover, Mrs. J. de Cairos. **Jamaica.**—Mr. W. H. Dusseldorf, Mr. J. Playfair, Mr. W. Wyman. **Trinidad.**—Army details, &c., Mr. A. C. Gouda, Mr. H. Crocker, Rev. A. Hombersley. Naval details, &c. **Antigua.**—Mr. N. G. Cookman. **Grenada.**—Mr. H. A. Trotter.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," March 4th, 1903:—**Barbados**—Lieut. M. J. Hamilton, Lieut. S. M. Abye-Curran, Mrs. H. M. Alone, Lieut. A. A. Irwin, Major C. L. Jennings-Bramly. **Demerara.**—Rev. and Mrs. MacGill and family. **Jamaica.**—Mr. F. H. C. Cramerus, Lieut. E. G. French, Lieut. C. C. Tracey, Lieut. E. Powell, Mrs. Powell, Lieut. E. C. Wright. **Trinidad.**—Mr. T. Orde, Mr. A. Sola. **Dominica.**—Mr. W. Brown, Mr. A. Davenport. **St. Kitts.**—Mr. H. D. Spooner. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. G. D. Melville, Lady and Miss Melville. **St. Vincent.**—Dr. Branch. **Tobago.**—Mr. and Mrs. R. Bruce Archibald, Miss Bruce Archibald, Capt. M. Short.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," March 18th, 1903:—**Demerara.**—Rev. R. and Mrs. Macnio. **Jamaica.**—Mr. C. H. Ward. **Trinidad.**—Miss Grainger. **St. Lucia.**—Sergt. F. Woodhams, Major W. B. and Mrs. Stansfield.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," February 18th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. G. C. Butler, Mr. Carpmal, Mrs. F. E. Court, Dr. Frank Cross, Mr. W. J. Davidson, Mr. G. F. Farmer, Mr. A. Mallock, Capt. Manable, Mr. G. W. P. Geer, Mrs. M. Warner.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," February 28th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. C. Birchall, Mr. P. Capern, Rev. E. Davies, Mrs. E. F. Dodsworth, Rev. W. A. Hall, Mr. J. Henderson, Lieut. E. V. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Marriott, Sir P. Keith Murray, Mr. and Mrs. G. Keith Murray, Mr. E. L. Paine, Mr. Patterson, Miss Reed, Mr. R. Simpson, Miss Smith, Mr. H. G. Stewart, Mr. C. Stockwell, Mr. E. Stockwell, Miss Ada Conery, Staff-Sergt. and Mrs. Hanley, Corporal and Mrs. Lavery.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," March 14th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. Ralph Dundas, Mr. Robert Dundas, Colonel M. B. Luby, Mr. J. Luby, Mr. Maycock, Mr. T. G. Somers.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar.—88 per cent. Beet.—A good deal of discussion is going on as usual as to the probable sowings for next season. Opinions of course differ widely, but the preponderance is towards no increase over last year, and Herr Licht seems to favour this view. That this should be so is only reasonable, as a crop of too large dimensions would only result in disappointment to the growers who are quite intelligent enough to realise the situation. During the Kartel system, this was a matter of no moment, but from the 1st September next this noxious weed is destroyed, and sugar growing will at last be placed on an equal footing. In the meantime prices are slowly creeping up to the natural cost of production and are as follows—March 8s. 4½d.; May 8s. 6½d.; August 8s. 9d.; and October/December 9s. 2½d.; all f.o.b. Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
	8s. 4½d.	6s. 8d.	9s. 2½d.	9s. 9d.	8s. 8½d.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows:—

	1903 Tons.	1902 Tons.	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.
United Kingdom, 21st February	123,748	197,501	76,921	58,221	57,107
France, 1st February	811,040	699,331	652,867	634,514	590,000
Germany, 1st February	1,220,302	1,382,250	1,048,493	989,546	969,014
Hamburg, 25th February	80,270	117,900	51,650	49,400	58,300
Austria-Hungary, 1st February	636,542	680,071	648,240	620,585	600,010
Holland, 15th February	99,530	133,032	101,450	86,462	70,372
Belgium, 1st February	180,234	159,781	108,588	116,984	122,265
Total	3,151,666	3,359,866	2,658,209	2,555,712	2,467,068
United States, 25th February, Total Stocks	153,000	83,549	146,248	149,501	136,824
Cuba, six principal ports, 25th February, Total Stocks	203,000	241,500	115,120	77,000	44,822
Cargoes afloat, 26th February	53,385	17,068	15,765	22,844	107,659
Total	3,561,051	3,711,983	2,935,342	2,805,057	2,756,373

Crystallised Sugar.—In sympathy with the late improving tendency in the European Beet markets, the demand for this Sugar has expanded, resulting in a partial hardening of prices and a better outlet than we have experienced for some time past. The latest sales have been as follows:—Inferior grades 13s. 9d. to 13s. 10½d.; low to good yellow 14s. to 14s. 6d.; fine sugar, in small quantities, 15s. to 16s. The value of average qualities is still 14s. 3d. or 10s. 6d. in bond. A cargo of 96 centrifugals should realise about 9s. 6d. on floating terms. Dyed Beet Crystals are selling in London at 14s. 6d. and White Continental Granulated at 14s. 10½d., duty and carriage paid throughout England for delivery from now to September next.

Molasses Sugar.—In better demand from 10s. 6d. to 13s. 6d.

Muscovado.—Quotations are difficult to give in the absence of supplies.

		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
West Indies	(Imports to date	2200	5000	5000	6500
	Deliveries ..	6200	8100	6600	7000
	Stocks ..	24,800	9100	7000	5200

Rum.—Stocks in London.

		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Jamaica	9300	6400	7100	8500	
Demerara	10,700	9200	10,000	5200	
Total of all kinds.	30,698	24,283	6,415	Puns	

A small business has been done in Demerara chiefly at 7½d. per proof gallon, which is the nominal value of fair marks but not too easily obtainable. Jamaica shows no signs of revival and a lot of last year's crops, in excess of what was sold to arrive, remains undisposed of, although probably 1s. 4d. would be accepted in more than one instance for fair Standard Home Trade Marks. Cuba and other Foreign kinds are worth 5d. to 7d., according to quality and package. Low as these prices are the large accumulation of stocks are a plain excuse for them.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
St. Thomé Crops for 8 years:—	80,100	90,200	80,000	77,800
1895	5600	Tons	1899	11,000
1896	6300	..	1900	11,000
1897	7200	..	1901	13,000
1898	8300	..	1902	15,000

The rapid extension in the growth of Cocoa is well illustrated by the above figures of one of the many producing countries, and is a feature to be borne in mind by Proprietors in other sources of origin. Fortunately, so far, consumption keeps in stride with production, and there is no reason at present to anticipate its lagging behind. Still, it is as well to stop, and think from time to time if this equal balance can be preserved for ever. The general market remains steady, and with a fair demand from our principal manufacturers, a good business is doing chiefly in Trinidad at about steady prices. The latest sales have been on the following basis: Trinidad.—“Fair collected” 58s.; Estate Marks 58s. to 64s. and 67s.; Grenada.—Fair Native 54s.; Fermented 56s. to 57s.; Fermented from other Islands 53s. to 56s., with Native Cocoa 50s. to 52s.

Coffee. Quiet. Sales of Jamaica, ordinary palish 29s. to 30s.; good ordinary greenish 37s.; low middling brownish 44s. 6d.; fair bold ditto 55s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. Sales of West India 64 to the lb. 2s. 8d.; 66, 2s. 6d.; 83/100 1s. 6d. to 1s. 4d.; 98, 1s. 2d.; 103/110, 1s. 1d., and 114/136 11½d. to 9½d.

Mace.—A few lots sold, good curly red 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d.

Ginger.—About steady. Jamaica common 35s. to 39s.; washed small to fine 40s. to 50s.

Pimento.—Slow. Business in fair 2½d.

Arrowroot.—Prices have further declined with business in manufacturing quality from 1½d. to 1¼d. per lb. The demand is extremely languid and there is no confidence anywhere. What this may lead to, unless an improvement takes place, is not pleasant to contemplate. Our two large consumers show no disposition to buy, even at current prices.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

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

Monday, March 16th, 1903.

The Brussels Convention.

Now that Mr. Chamberlain has returned from South Africa it is hoped that the measures for the purpose of carrying into effect the engagements arising out of the Convention for the abolition of Bounties on Sugar will shortly be introduced into Parliament. It is, however, probable that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be anxious to get his Budget through before introducing the Bill. There seems also reason to believe that the Brussels Surveillance Commission will very shortly be called together, probably in the course of the next month.

Two questions arising out of the Convention have already cropped up, and will have to be dealt with at once by the Commission, both of them having reference to Austria. The first is, whether the *Contingentirung* brings Austrian sugar under the Penal Clause; the second, whether sugar stored in August and thus entitled to a bounty can be exported subsequently to the first of September without being penalised. It seems to be the general opinion that the Austrian law of *Contingentirung* will bring Austrian Sugar under the Penal Clause, but it would appear doubtful whether sugars stored in August and which receive a bounty would be subject to penalty. Much may, however, possibly depend upon when the bounty upon these sugars is given.

"Vires Acquirit Eundo."

"Vires acquirit eundo" may be truly said of the West India Committee. Our Membership steadily mounts up, and already during the present year forty-one Members directly interested in British Guiana and the West Indies have been elected. In view of the arrangements being made to acquire better premises, we confidently appeal to Members to strengthen our position by bringing forward fresh candidates. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on March 5th inst., Mr. Henry K. Davson presiding, the following new members were elected:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
G. H. ARTHUR, Esq. (Barbados)	S. Browne, Esq.	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.
MESSRS. ARTIME & CO. (W. I. Merchants)	Rodolph Hankey, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
F. DE ARTIME, Esq. (W. I. Merchant)	Rodolph Hankey, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
PAUL DE ARTIME, Esq. (W. I. Merchant)	Rodolph Hankey, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
JOS. CONNELL, Esq., Jr. (Barbados)	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.	S. Browne, Esq.
C. A. HAMPTON, Esq. (James Nourse, Ltd.)	W. H. Alty, Esq.	Robert Kirke, Esq.
H. L. HUMPHREYS, Esq. (British Guiana)	Guy C. Wyatt, Esq.	A. McConnell, Esq.
MESSRS. F. LEYLAND & Co. (1900), Ltd.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.	H. K. Davson, Esq.
CHARLES PACKER Esq. (Barbados)	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.
G. PERCH, Esq. (British Guiana)	Guy C. Wyatt, Esq.	C. S. Parker, Esq.
M. H. SMITH, Esq. (Barbados)	S. Browne, Esq.	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.
CHARLES E. YEARWOOD, Esq. (Barbados)	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.

The next election of Members will be held on Thursday, March 19th, at 3 p.m. Forms of application for membership can be obtained from the Secretary. We take this opportunity of reminding Members that subscriptions for the current year became due on January 1st last. We earnestly hope that those gentlemen who have not already done so will forward a remittance for the amount of their subscription at their earliest convenience.

The Testimonial to Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

We are glad to be able to report that excellent progress is being made with the arrangements for presenting a testimonial to our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., in recognition of his services to British Guiana and the West Indies. Frequent meetings of the testimonial sub-committee, which consists of Mr. H. K. Davson, Mr. R. Rutherford and the Secretary have been held, and as was only to be expected, the Circular on the subject, which has been posted to all Members, has met with a most gratifying response. We hope very shortly to be in a position to make a definite announcement as to the form which the testimonial will take.

In our reference in last *Circular* to the services rendered by our Chairman to the West Indian Colonies, we omitted to remind our members that it was Sir Nevile Lubbock who inaugurated the Central Sugar Factory System, upon which the welfare of the Sugar Industry of British Guiana and the West Indies must in the future depend. Had it not been for the existence of Central Factories, the sugar industry could not have survived as it has done the years of acute depression and fluctuation of prices caused by the Foreign Bounty Systems. It was in the year 1872, that, through the enterprise of Sir Nevile Lubbock, the first central factory was begun, this being the Usine St. Madeleine, of Trinidad. The first crop was taken off in 1874. A few years later, the Central Factory, at Windsor Forest Estate, in British Guiana, was started, and the principle of burning the Megass direct from the mill was speedily adopted by other proprietors until now it has become general throughout the Colony.

The Fruit Export Industry.

We are now in a position to give details of the proposals of Mr. W. Weldon Symington for developing the fruit industry of the Windward Islands and Dominica. Mr. Symington, acting on behalf of Messrs. Thomas Nash & Co. of Plymouth,—who already have a large fruit supply trade in the south and middle of England, attended a large meeting of the Dominica Agricultural Society on the 13th inst. and outlined his scheme to the members, as follows:—

1. Depôts are to be established at various convenient places along the coast at which fruit will be bought by the fruit Company at remunerative rates to the growers.
2. As the Company will be their own distributors, the middleman and his profits will be done away with, and so higher prices can be offered to growers.
3. An expert will be stationed in the island to teach the people how to pick, grade and pack properly the fruit for export, and to prevent the sending away of inferior fruit tending to lower the reputation of the island produce.
4. Arrangements will be made with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to make Dominica the last port of call of certain of their vessels, which will have properly constructed fruit rooms for the storage of the fruit, and which will make fast passages.
5. To help to defray the initial expenses, the fruit Company ask for a subsidy of £1,000 for three years for their operations in four of the islands, viz., Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada. The Company say they cannot offer a guarantee for the first year, as their operations then will probably show a considerable loss, but that they are willing to offer guarantees for the second and third year.
6. The Company propose to purchase, on a large and increasing scale, bananas, oranges, pine-apples, grape fruit, and any other fruit that can be sent home at a profit, thereby utilising vast quantities of produce which are now allowed to go to waste or are sold at unremunerative prices.

* i.e., £250 a year for each Island.

Mr. Symington's scheme has all the elements of success in it, and, if it be carried out properly, it will undoubtedly help on Dominica in the path of progress the island has already entered upon. Many of the peasant proprietors are looking forward to the realisation of the scheme with eagerness and they will consider it a Godsend to them. The meeting of the Agricultural Society was the biggest since the inauguration of the institution, and it represented fully all classes of the community. After a long discussion a resolution, the text of which will be found on p. 7, was passed, cordially approving the scheme, and pledging the members to do all they could in its furtherance, and it is hoped that Mr. Chamberlain will see his way to provide the small and reasonable subsidy asked for by Mr. Symington.

Report of the Trinidad Asphalt Commission.

The Colonial Office has forwarded for the information of the West India Committee, copies of the Report of the Trinidad Asphalt Industry Commission and of the Minutes of the proceedings of the Commission.

The Commission was appointed by the Colonial Office, in order that the Secretary of State might be advised as to the best method of dealing with the many disputes which had arisen between the Government of the Colony, the Concessionaires of the Pitch Lake (the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Limited) and certain private owners of land in the Village of La Brea. These disputes had led to a great amount of litigation, and in this and in other ways took up an undue amount of the time of the judicial and executive authorities in Trinidad, besides involving all parties concerned in much expense. The Commissioners, Mr. J. W. Gordon, Barrister-at-Law, and Mr. Henry Louis, Professor of Mining at Durham University, visited Trinidad, personally inspected the lands which are the subject of the disputes, and held an exhaustive enquiry, extending over a period of five weeks, during August and September of last year. Their conclusions and recommendations appear now in their Report which is dated 7th January, 1903, and is of a voluminous character. They give answers to the various questions which were put before them in their instructions, and deal with various points raised in evidence or in argument during the enquiry. In conclusion, with regard to the digging of asphalt on the lands adjacent to the Pitch Lake they recommend certain legislation, which will in no way interfere with rights of private owners, or with the privileges enjoyed by the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company under the deed of Concession. They suggest that this legislation should provide, (1) for the codification of the established usage of pitch digging, and its regulations under the supervision of an Inspector of Mines appointed *ad hoc*, (2) for a re-survey of the village lands and the establishment of fixed points of reference, (3) for the establishment of a Sanitary Authority with adequate powers in the village of La Brea.

It may be of general interest to note that, without saying that the question has been settled absolutely beyond controversy, the Commissioners decided that there is probably no existing source of fresh supply of asphalt at all, either on the lake or on the adjacent lands. They conclude, however, that at the present rate of extraction of, say 120,000 tons per annum from the pitch lake, this deposit should still have a life of over a century.

Cacao and Copra in Samoa.

In his report on the trade of the German Colony of Samoa, for the year 1901, which has just been published by the Foreign Office (Diplomatic Consular Reports, No. 2,745 Annual Series), Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Trood refers to the inauguration of the cacao-growing industry in the Island. He reports that the Samoa Estates Limited has just commenced operations in cacao planting, and that great things are expected from it, which bid fair to be realised. Mr. Hart, F.L.S., of Trinidad, recommended in his work on cacao the planting of *hevea* rubber trees between the rows as shade

plants. Some of the experienced planters in Samoa did not favour this, on the ground that the *hevea* rubber tree was not profitable to cultivate, and said that the *castilloa elastica* was better; they also thought that the rubber tree should not be planted amongst the cacao. However this might be, it might be regarded as certain that large planting companies should cultivate the *castilloa elastica* rubber tree, which he was informed, thrived in Samoa equally as well as cacao, and yielded a return in from six to eight years, some said. It was not as subject to disease as the cacao, and could be planted, as experts might recommend, either between the cacao rows or in another part of the plantation. Whether it withstood hurricanes better than cacao, which was a very fragile tree, he could not say. Mr. Trood strongly advised the companies which intended to carry on planting operations in Samoa, not to depend solely on cacao, but to plant as well india-rubber trees, with other tropical products, suited to the soil. Kola, too, bearing in 10 years, should be cultivated by small planters. Country lands, owing to cacao cultivation, were steadily rising in value. The value of copra exported in 1901 amounted to £35,000. This included about 1,000 tons shipped to Australia. It was £90,000 in 1899 and £46,000 in 1900.

Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., and Jamaica.

Undoubtedly the energy and enterprise of Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., and the Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service are largely responsible for the increasing interest which is being taken in the West Indies, and especially Jamaica. In our last *Circular* (No. 91, p. 6) we referred to the work accomplished by the Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service during the first two years of its existence, a record of which Sir Alfred Jones may well feel proud. In order to popularise the Island, he recently offered as a prize, a first-class passage to Jamaica and back, to the readers of *Tit-Bits*, for the best essay on "Jamaica as a Home for Englishmen." We are informed that 150 essays, of a high degree of merit, have been sent in, and that the winning essay will be published in *Tit-Bits* on Thursday, 19th inst.

The World's Sugar Production and Consumption.

We have received an important paper dealing with the World's Sugar Production and Consumption, which has been recently issued by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department of the United States. This publication, compiled by Mr. O. P. Austin, Chief of the Bureau, shows the statistical position of sugar at the close of the Nineteenth Century, and deals at great length with the growth of the beet sugar industry, the History of European Bounty Legislation, Sugar Conferences and Anti-Bounty Legislature, etc. It is to be noted that the chapters dealing with the British West Indies are taken *en bloc* from the report of the Royal Commission of 1897. A copy of this paper, which not only historically, but for the purpose of reference, will prove of great value, has been laid on the table for the information of Members.

Manurial Experiments in British Guiana.

The following is a *résumé* of the results arrived at from the manurial experiments with the sugar cane conducted by Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., in British Guiana, which we extract from the "Agricultural News," Vol. II., 23 :—

1. Nitrogen in the forms of sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, raw guano, and dried blood exerted a favourable influence upon the yield of the sugar-canes and is without doubt the manurial constituent the supply of which mainly governs the yield of the plant.

2. When supplied in quantities capable of supplying not more than 40 lb. of nitrogen per acre there was practically no difference in the effects of sulphate of ammonia and of nitrate of soda, but on the whole the former is, in my opinion the preferable salt to apply. Dried blood and raw guano were inferior to each of these. In the earlier crops of the experiments the

best results were obtained by a mixture of one-third nitrate of soda and two-thirds sulphate of ammonia, but during the latter years this mixture has not proved more efficacious than either sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda alone.

3. Where applied in quantities supplying more than 40 lb. of nitrogen per acre, sulphate of ammonia is the best source of nitrogen for the sugar-cane on the alluvial soils of British Guiana.

4. The sugar-cane made more effectual use of the nitrogen supplied by 200 lb. per acre of sulphate of ammonia and by 250 lb. of nitrate of soda than it did of that supplied in heavier dressings. On the whole, dressings of from 2 to 3 cwt. of sulphate of ammonia per acre appear to be the most certainly profitable applications of nitrogen, although at favourable season the use of still higher proportions may prove successful.

5. The application of superphosphate of lime to plant-canes gave increased yields when added to manurings of nitrogen and potash. But little, if any, advantage was gained by the use of phosphates with ratoon-crops, and I am of opinion that manurings with superphosphate of lime or with other manures containing phosphates should be restricted to plant-canes, the ratoons being manured with nitrogen only.

6. Mineral phosphates to give increased yields must be applied to the soil in such heavy dressings as to render their use decidedly unprofitable.

7. As far as the experiments indicate, Thomas' phosphate powder (slag-phosphate) is the preferable source of phosphates for application to plant-canes in lieu of superphosphate of lime.

8. The addition of potash when applied either as sulphate of potash or as nitrate has exerted little or no effect. The normal weathering of the constituents of the soil sets free for each crop potash in excess of the quantity necessary for the requirements of the plants. This holds good under the conditions existent here, where the greater proportion of the potash taken up by the plants is directly returned to the soil, but where practically the whole of the produce is removed from the land, it is probable that partial potash-exhaustion may take place in the course of a few crops.

9. The use of lime has resulted in largely increased yields. But whether or not its use will result in profitable increases depends on the price of sugar. Its action appears to have been principally mechanical in improving the texture of the land, and it is a question of much importance whether this effect could not be obtained at a lower cost and hence more profitably by the use of light ploughs or other cultivators.

10. The results confirm those of previous experiments that neither the addition of phosphoric acid, of potash, or of lime to the manures favourably effects the sugar-contents of the juice of the canes. The effects of nitrogenous manurings appear to be to somewhat retard the maturation of the canes and thus the juice of canes manured with them is as a rule not so rich in saccharose as is that of canes grown without manure. But this effect is far more than offset by the larger yields of produce resulting from the application of nitrogenous manures, and to the fact that the increases produced by the nitrogen are principally due to the development of the stalks in length and in bulk and not to abnormal increases in the amounts of tops and leaves or the production of new shoots to the stool. In this the effects of nitrogenous manures on the sugar-cane are very similar to those on others of the *Gramineæ*.

Notes of Interest.

The following and all back numbers (as scheduled in *Circular 90*, p. 4) of the publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture can be obtained from the Secretary of the West India Committee :— *The Agricultural News*, Vol. II., Nos. 21, 22 & 23, 1d. per copy. *Pamphlet Series*, No. 21, "Cotton and Onion Industries," 2d., "Soils of Dominica," 6d., "Information relating to Cotton Cultivation in the West Indies," 3d., "Report on the Experiment Station of Montserrat," 3d. A remittance to cover postage must be forwarded with application.

Remarkable success has attended the flotation of the well-known Sugar-refining business of Messrs. Henry Tate & Sons as a limited Company, with a share capital of £1,000,000. The issue of £500,000 £4½ per cent. First Mortgage Unredeemable Debenture Stock, was, we are informed, applied for 13 times over. The stock is now quoted at 8 premium.

Net personalty of the value of £3,220 has been left by Sir George Harry Chambers, of Redhill and 110, Cannon Street, E.C., for many years Chairman of the London and St. Katharine Docks Company, and Deputy-Chairman of the Income Tax Commissioners for the City of London. The total amount of his estate was returned at £4,653.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE on Saturday, March 14th, addressed a telegram to Mr. Chamberlain conveying to him their heartiest congratulations upon his safe return by the R.M.S. "Norman" from South Africa on that day.

It is satisfactory to learn that Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., who recently suffered from a slight stroke as a result of overwork, is making progress towards recovery.

Lord Stanmore, G.C.M.G., presided over a meeting of the Anti-Bounty League, on Thursday, March 12th inst.

The Annual General Meeting of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE will be held on May 14th next.

The West Indian Mail.

The Royal Mail Steamer "Nile" did not reach Plymouth until 1.20 p.m. on March 13th the mails being delivered by first post on Sat., Mar. 14th. Mr. J. M. Lloyd, Secretary of the R. M. S. P. Co., has informed us that the delay was due to the following causes. It appears that "Nile" arrived at Jamaica on Sunday, 22nd February, at 8 a.m., 24 hours before time, with a suspicious case of sickness on board among the saloon hands. It was considered by the Authorities to be small-pox, but it was not till 2.30 p.m., Monday, 23rd February that the Health Board allowed the ship to come up to the wharf to coal, a day and a quarter being lost in giving this decision. She commenced coaling 4.15 p.m., in strict quarantine, the coal having to be thrown by shore hands on ship's deck, and then removed by ship's company to the bunkers; and consequently was 28 hours late in leaving Jamaica for Trinidad. On that part of the voyage with head winds and sea, she was delayed further, but left Barbados for England only the 28 hours late that she lost in leaving Jamaica. At Trinidad the case was declared *not* to be small-pox and the ship received pratique. By the fuss made at Jamaica, the company is said to have lost many saloon passengers from that Island. Owing to heavy weather there was an impression that some more coal would be required, and St. Michael's (Azores) was, therefore, called at, which, of course, caused delay, but "Nile" reached Plymouth only the same time late as she left Jamaica and Barbados after time. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service Royal Mail Steamer "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth at 9 p.m. on March 5th. We make the following extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents :—

Antigua.—Sir Gerald Strickland was taking active measures to complete arrangements before September for the erection of a small Central Factory in the Island.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne), February 26th. Very high winds have prevailed during the fortnight, which had had the effect of making the rainfall very small. Numerous light showers had fallen, but they had been swept away by the wind, and few estates had marked much more than one inch for the month to date, excepting the high lands of St. Thomas and St. John. They had, however, kept the air cool and pleasant. A great number of estates had begun reaping their canes, either trimming round the fields, or cutting the worst ones. The result, so far, could not be deemed satisfactory. The canes did not seem to have recovered the terrific drought of September and October, and though presenting a good appearance were found very dry going through the mill. The majority of estates were giving little more than 1 hhd. to 1½ hhd. per acre, but better results were hoped for when the fields were thoroughly cut into. The last October "dust" was still very visible in the canes reaped, rendering the megass dirty, sometimes choking the pipes between the mill and the receivers, and having the effect of emery powder on the rollers, rendering them smooth and shiny, so that they would not bite the canes without frequent resort to a hammer.

The local market was quoted at \$1.35 and \$5.00 per hhd., and \$1.60 per bag, and 12 cents for Molasses, but very little had changed hands yet. A Committee had been formed by the Agricultural Society and the Commercial Hall to enquire into the undoubted custom in Canada of mixing inferior Molasses (not necessarily deleterious) with Barbados Molasses, and selling it as Barbados Molasses.

The origin, or prevalence of small-pox in the West Indies was becoming more and more complicated. A saloon hand on board R.M.S. "Nile" had been declared to have it, and she was quarantined at Jamaica; and a case had occurred among the stewards on board R.M.S. "Esk," which had been quarantined at Dominica. Neither of these two cases could possibly have emanated from Barbados, and yet Barbados was the only port declared infected. The laws respecting quarantine required to be overhauled and re-adjusted and assimilated, differing as they did in almost every island of the West Indies, and it was to be hoped that the Secretary of State would promote some enquiry as soon as he returned. To give an instance; Barbados was quarantined for small-pox, yet by its own laws, Barbados was bound to quarantine R.M.S. "Nile," for having, or having had, a case of small-pox on board, and so no passenger could be landed. Dr. Bridger was expected with his report from Trinidad, but, of course, now he could not come in her. The Legislature had now passed the Bill alluded to in his last letter, drawing a cordon around infected districts, and it was hoped that this would stamp out the disease shortly. There were still about 20 cases under treatment, all at Pelican Island. Between the 13th and 27th ten fresh cases were reported, being one more than in the preceding fortnight. Five were from St. George's, four from St. Michael's, and one from Christ Church.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), February 25th. The weather continued very dry and any signs of rain were blown away by the high winds which had lately been experienced. Generally, the cultivation to be reaped in May and June had been effected and results would consequently be short of estimates. The sugar market had advanced a little and at the time of writing \$1.90 would be given.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), February 23rd. The fifth Agricultural Show proved a success in every respect. The number and standard of exhibits showed an improvement, and owing to the organisation of District Committees, produce from all parts of the Island was represented. A large number of tourists visited the Show. A meeting, at which over 100 persons were present was held at the Court House, Roseau, under the auspices of the Dominican Agricultural Society on February 14th, to Mr. W. Weldon Symington's scheme for promoting a fruit trade between the West Indies and England. After a full discussion of the subject the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—

That the Dominican Agricultural Society do pledge itself to give all reasonable support to Mr. Symington's scheme for promoting a fruit trade between Dominica and the British market.

Further, that in the event of Mr. Symington giving guarantees that the magnitude of his operations in Dominica will warrant such a course, this Society do express the earnest wish that the Imperial Government will, through the Imperial Department of Agriculture, grant to Mr. Symington such financial assistance as he now asks for.

This resolution was forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., and Messrs. Thos. Nash & Co., Plymouth. (In another column we give the details of Mr. Symington's proposals.—A.E.A.) Some useful showers had fallen lately.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas) February 25th. At a meeting of the Grenada Agricultural Society to be held at an early date, a resolution of thanks would be proposed to Sir Neville Lubbock and Mr. George Martineau, for their untiring and successful labours with reference to the Brussels Conference, and its recent ratification by the Powers. The news of Mr. Quintin Hogg's death was received with great sorrow in Grenada, where he was personally known to many. Until four days ago February had been a very dry month, with the result that many of the young cocoa pods were arrested in their development and died off. Thin rains had been following every night during the week. The nutmeg crop promised to be an average one, but he doubted whether the cocoa crop for 1902-03 would reach the total of the 1901-02 crop. Whatever the deficiency, it would be inconsiderable. The report issued by Professor Harrison, C.M.G.,

on the agricultural work in the Gardens, and Government Laboratory of British Guiana for the years 1896 to 1901, was a mine of valuable information to sugar planters and planters generally. The results of his manurial experiments were most instructive, especially in so far as they pointed out what manures were likeliest to give an increased profitable yield, with sugar at its present price. All manures obviously gave an increased yield, but whether the increased yield was profitable or not to the owner was a question, which in Grenada, had been too readily decided in the affirmative. For a time the writer applied mineral phosphate to certain cocoa fields, and the consequent increased yield did not pay anything like a satisfactory dividend on the investment.

Jamaica—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.). The weather had been rainy on the north side and dry and windy on the south. Messrs. Elders and Fyffes reported that, in round figures, the consumption of bananas during the past two years—*i.e.* since Mr. Chamberlain's effort to aid Jamaica—had risen from one and a half million to three and a half million bunches per annum. It was manifest, therefore, that Mr. Chamberlain's initiative and the shipping enterprise of Sir Alfred Jones had had a most important effect already on the prosperity of Jamaica.

Montserrat.—(C. Watson, Esq.), February 24th. Light rains had fallen during the past fortnight, but not sufficient to retard reaping. There was to be an Agricultural Show on the 27th inst., under the auspices of The Imperial Department of Agriculture. The cultivation of Onions had met with fair success, but when grown it was difficult to find a market, there being very little communication between the Island and the outside world.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), February 23rd. On February 13th the Hon. George James Evelyn, the oldest Member of the Executive Council of the Presidency, and father-in-law of the writer, passed away at the ripe age of 92 years. Mr. Evelyn, who was universally respected, occupied for many years the office of Receiver-General, retiring on a pension in the year 1883. Everything was progressing favourably, but the blustering N.E. trade winds brought with them colds, sore throats, and fever.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay) February 26th. Crops were in full swing and the weather favourable both for cropping and the young plants, showers having fallen regularly.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), February 24th. Arrowroot reaping was generally disappointing, the yield of roots to the acre being the poorest for a great number of years. The crop, therefore, was not likely to be more than half the average. The weather was beautiful and very different from that usually experienced in February. Fine showers fell every day.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.) February 28th. The principal event of interest of recent occurrence is the raising of the blockade of Venezuelan ports by the Allied Powers. Without any definite knowledge of the terms of the Protocol agreed to by the Powers, the result appeared to be a hopeless fiasco. A promise had been obtained from President Castro to pay some money due to various creditors by small instalments; but in lieu of compensation for the countless outrages on the persons and properties of foreigners, especially the British, all the Venezuelan warships captured were not only to be returned, but Castro having notified our Government that he had neither officers nor crews available, British warships would have to tow them, and probably other prize vessels as well, to Venezuelan ports. Not only has the 30 per cent. extra duty against the West Indies not been removed, but Castro, it was reported, had just imposed a further import tax of another 30 per cent., which he contemplated collecting independently of the Customs Administration, the revenues of which were hypothecated. Castro and his Government had suffered nothing from the combined demonstrations of the Allies, and had scored diplomatically all along the line, and in the eyes of the public in Trinidad, covered the Allies with ridicule. Some hardship had been caused to the poorer classes in Venezuela, and to the owners of the small craft taken as prizes. The flagship and the rest of the British had gone North with exception of the "Pallas."

The plans and report of Mr. Jno. Coodo, regarding harbour improvements, were laid on the table at the last meeting of the Legislative Council. They would be submitted for consideration at an early date. The weather was fine for harvesting. For two days during the fortnight they had good rains—welcomed by agriculturists generally.

The Cocoa crop was nearing its end, after having proved in every sense a record one. The cargo of the S.S. "Maraval" on Wednesday, consisting of over 8,000 bags might be regarded as an indication of this. Prices in the local market varied from \$11 to \$11.90 for good red ordinary to \$12.50 and and \$12.75 for fine estate marks.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) March 3rd. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." March 16th. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island with appearances of more." **British Guiana**.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) March 11th. "Some rain has fallen generally since last message." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.)

March 11th. "Nice showers, but more wanted." (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.) March 12th. "There is a favourable change in the weather." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) March 13th. "We have had some showers since last message, but more rain is wanted." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 13th. "Showery and unsettled." **Jamaica.**—(Direct West India Cable Co.) March 13th. "Weather fine; temp., max. 79, min. 68." **Trinidad.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 3rd. "Weather fine for harvesting." March 9th. "*Idem.*" (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) March 10th. "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily."

Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses	Gold.	Diamonds
British Guiana—	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Jan. 1 to Feb. 21, 1903	21,754	14,430	—	8344	424	1292	6,720	967
" " 26, 1902	33,812	16,152	—	2136	528	114	12,677	2,040
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
Apr. 1 to Feb. 7, 1903	14,769	22,001	82,973	1,575,036	21,864,556	112,948	13,040,416	97,184,497
" " 8, 1902	12,417	19,374	67,383	1,302,142	15,238,919	64,331	9,541,627	77,657,087
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls.	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to Feb. 24, 1903	27,081	11,049,830	2000	25	2,039,890	254	84	15,892
" " 24, 1902	23,316	8,805,190	9760	64	1,626,704	749	34	14,428

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Nile," March 13th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. and Mrs. Hargreave, Mrs. Cecil Foley, Messrs. Ewen, Gratiet and Bernard. **Demerara.**—Mr. E. P. Wood, Mr. D. Beech, Mr. J. J. Quelch, Mrs. Glover, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. A. Golding, Messrs. P. Thompson, T. Richardson, Callender, R. N. Davis, Samuel Walker, Robt. Rodney, Isaac Boucher, A. Midas, Jos. Douglas, Chas. Green, Robt. Luke, Wm. Preston, B. Jupiter, and Rutland Vandukvy. **Jamaica.**—Mr. H. Harriman, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. Thos. Murphy, Mr. Wm. English, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. West, Miss J. Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Brinton, Mr. James Wallace, Mr. W. Ambrose Harding, Mrs. W. A. Harding, Mr. B. Lucey, Miss Hirst, Mrs. and two Misses Rathbone, Miss Lamport, Miss Clarke. **Trinidad.**—Three Naval Invalids, Mr. R. H. Black, His Ex. H. D. Haggard, Mr. Robt. Wilson, Mr. Francis Bornaynoli, Mr. Thomas Prentice, Mr. John Ferry, Mr. J. Weech, Mr. de Casa Ramos. **Antigua.**—Miss Metcalfe, Mr. R. W. Leeming. **Dominica.**—Mrs. and Miss Millar, Mr. W. M. Lewis, Mr. S. W. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Pearce. **Grenada.**—Mr. J. Henry Preston.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," March 18th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mrs. A. Evelyn. **Demerara.**—Dr. J. C. P. Widdup, Sergt. W. F. Saunders. **Jamaica.**—Mr. C. H. Ward, Lieut. E. G. Ffrench, R.A.M.C., Lieut. J. L. Stenhouse, R.G.A., Mr. J. S. Leach, 2nd Lieut. S. T. Polley, Rev. A. H. Courthorpe. **Trinidad.**—Miss D. Wyllarde, Miss Grainger, Rev. A. Hombersley, Miss Hombersley. **Grenada.**—Mr. A. J. Lines, **St. Lucia.**—F. Woodhams, R.E., Major W. B. & Mrs. Stansfield, Mechanist St. Sergt. E. E. Dodd, R.E., Mrs. Dodd and child.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," April 1st, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. J. Kenworthy. **Demerara.**—Major G. A. Porter, Mr. C. R. Porter, Mr. E. McLachlan, Mr. E. R. Anson. **Trinidad.**—Mr. T. P. Evelyn, Mr. R. V. Butt. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. and Mrs. Barnard.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service. Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," March 5th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Sir Joseph and Miss Adamson, Capt. Benson, Mr. J. T. Barnes, Capt. and Mrs. C. Crowe, Mr. and Mrs. A. Caulfield, Mr. W. A. Denholm, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. E. E. Evans, Mr. H. Bell-Irving, Mr. O. B. Leigh, Mr. E. Leigh, Miss Leigh, Major P. A. and Miss M. Maberly, Mrs. MacMillan, Mr. M. G. Neill, Mr. H. Reed, Mr. F. Reed, Mr. Wm. Schaus, Col. E. H. Way, Mr. and Mrs. C. Walton, Mrs. Cahill, Mr. J. R. Mellis.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," March 14th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. S. Becher, Mrs. M. and Master Berry, Mrs. F. Chluñd, Mr. S. Coalbank, Mr., Mrs. H. and Master C. Coote, Mr. R. Dundas, Mr. R. H. Dundas, Miss Eva Grey, Mr. G. Hulatt, Miss Hunter, Miss C. M. Johnson, Lieut. Col. M. B. Luby, Mr. T. Luby, Mr. R. Matthews, Mr. Maycock, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Cliff-McCulloch, Rev. F. G. G. Somers, Mr. W. A. Sturdy, Miss Thomas, Mr. D. Tyrer, Mr. Clare White, Mrs. and Miss Wright, Mr. C. Dickens, Mr. H. M. James.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," March 28th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. C. H. A. Isaacs, Mr. J. B. Lamb, Dr. and Mrs. J. R. McCrindle, Miss Ward.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar.—88 per cent. Beet.—Prices continue to gradually harden, and the feeling grows that sowings for next crop are not likely to be excessive. It is, however, impossible to fix any definite or reliable figure on this point at present, on which depends the course of prices for 1903-1904 season commencing in October next. To-day's values are March 8s. 5½d.; May 8s. 6d.; August 8s. 8½d.; and October December new crop, 9s. 2d.; all for Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

	1903. 8s. 5½d.	1902. 6s. 3½d.	1901. 8s. 11½d.	1900 10s. 0d.	1899. 9s. 11½d.
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The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows:—

	1903 Tons.	1902 Tons.	1901 Tons.	1900 Tons.	1899 Tons.
United Kingdom, 7th March	112,518	219,414	87,706	58,338	53,330
France, 1st February.....	811,040	699,331	652,867	634,514	590,000
Germany, 1st March	1,148,466	1,268,896	997,791	854,433	874,348
Hamburg, 11th March	94,000	142,100	57,320	42,300	53,200
Austria-Hungary, 1st March	580,300*	609,800	578,499	581,434	535,215
Holland, 15th February	99,530	133,032	101,450	86,462	70,372
Belgium, 15th February.....	171,488	155,041	101,485	112,399	116,735
United States, 11th March, Total Stocks.....	3,017,342	3,227,614	2,577,118	2,369,880	2,293,200
Cuba, six principal ports, 11th March, Total Stocks. ...	166,000	111,013	183,031	149,950	167,216
Cargoes afloat, 12th March	253,000	303,518	153,039	99,648	63,000
	47,322	10,640	15,765	25,864	97,858
Total.....	3,483,664	3,652,785	2,928,953	2,645,342	2,621,274

* Estimated, taking Hungary as last year.

Crystallised Sugar.—A good demand has been experienced for this sugar, resulting in large sales from 14s. to 16s., making the value of average qualities fully 14s. 6d. or 10s. 9d. in bond. This sugar is now displacing imitations which cannot be sold under 14s. 9d., to a large extent. A cargo of 96 centrifugals would command 9s. 6d. on floating terms. White Bounty-fed granulated costs 15s., duty and carriage paid throughout England, for delivery till September next.

Molasses Sugar.—In good demand from 10s. 6d. to 13s. 6d. and supplies are wanted.

Muscovado.—Nothing here. Grocery Barbados may be nominally quoted 13s. to 14s.

West India.

	1903	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date ..	2420	5800	5300	7100 Tons.
Deliveries ..	7800	9100	7800	8700
Stocks ..	23,400	8800	6500	4200

Hum.—Board of Trade Returns for 2 months:

	1903.	1902.	1901.	Stocks in London:	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ..	1,451,000	1,914,000	1,715,000	Jamaica ..	9000	6100	6800 Puns.
Home Consumption	709,000	842,000	1,137,000	Demerara ..	10,300	9600	9900
Stocks, 28th Feb.	9,885,000	7,968,000	7,324,000	Total of all kinds ..	1903.	1902.	Excess. "
					29,668	23,932	5736

Demerara remains steady, with moderate sales chiefly in fair marks 7½d., with better ones at 8d. to 8½d., but the demand is uncertain and there is a lot yet to be sold out of the recent landings. Week succeed week with but little business in Jamaica, except in retail. About 200 puns Standard Home Trade Marks have been sold at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. Cuba and other Foreign kinds are worth 5d. to 8d., according to quality and package.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for two months:

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ..	5000	7818	4627 Tons.
Home Consumption ..	3045	6762	5515
Stocks 28th February ..	5675	5814	5936
Stocks in London ..	76,800	83,700	85,100 Bags.

The figures for Home Consumption are misleading, the large amounts withdrawn from "bond" in 1902 and 1901, notably so in 1902, being in anticipation of an increase in duty, which did not come off. The two months' clearances in 1900 were 3,431 tons. The market remains steady with a fair demand from manufacturers. The latest sales in West India have been as follows:—Trinidad.—"Fair collected" 58s.; Estate Marks 58s. to 64s., and 67s.; Grenada—Fair Native 54s.; Fermented 56s. to 57s.; Fermented from other Islands 53s. to 56s. with Native Cocoa 50s. to 52s. Any material change from these prices is not anticipated at present.

Coffee.—Steady. Small sales of good ordinary greenish Jamaica at 36s. 6d.

Nutmegs.—A few West India sold, 78 to the lb. 1s. 8d.; 82 1s. 7d.; 104/8 1s. 1d.

Mace.—Quiet. No sales.

Ginger.—Firmer. A good business done in Jamaica: ordinary to good ordinary 38s. to 40s.; Rhatoon 36s. 6d.

Pimento.—More enquiry. Sales of fair 27½d.

Arrowroot.—London figures to 28th February:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports ..	3333	4021	2085	3724 Barrels
Deliveries ..	2205	3275	2418	3303
Stocks 28th February	13,352	8463	7767	2952

A moderate demand has been experienced during the fortnight, resulting in sales of manufacturing quality amounting to about 500 barrels St. Vincent, from 1½d. to 2d. per lb., and the market generally is quiet, with little disposition to operate on any extended scale. There are free sellers at 2d., a price not at present obtainable.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

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

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.,

Monday, March 30th, 1903.

The Cuban Reciprocity Treaty.

The United States Senate on March 19th, ratified the Cuban Reciprocity Treaty by 50 votes to 16, with various amendments, including the one which provides that no sugar shall be imported into the United States from other foreign countries at a lower rate duty than is imposed by the Act of July 20th, 1897, for a period of five years. Another amendment provides that a treaty shall not take effect until it has been ratified by Congress. Inasmuch as Congress does not reassemble until December, it is generally thought that unless the President accedes to the stipulation made by the Cuban Senate on March 28th, when they approved the Bill by 12 votes to 9, and calls an extra Session of Congress in the autumn, the latter amendment will kill the treaty. Meanwhile, America continues to keep Cuban prices down to a level which enables Europe, for special purposes, to compete to a small extent.

The Rioting in Trinidad.

Much concern was experienced on Tuesday, the 24th inst., when it was announced that a serious riot had occurred in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on the preceding day, involving the loss of several lives and the destruction of the Government Buildings. It appears that the trouble originated in the opposition which has been manifesting itself for some time against the new water works ordinance. With a diminishing local natural supply (owing principally to the denudation of the surrounding hills and lands) a rapidly increasing population, and the establishment of a Sewerage System, it became necessary to provide a large additional supply of water. The question has occupied the attention of the Government for several years past, and the advice of the best-known expert in Water Works followed. The Works recommended by him are now well advanced, in fact almost completed, and fears are entertained by many of the inhabitants of Port of Spain that after the expenditure of a very large sum of money the additional supply will fall far short of the estimate and of requirements. In the meantime, stringent measures have been enforced by the Trinidad Government, through the officers of the Public Works Department, to stop the waste of water that is habitual in almost every house and yard in the town. Stringent measures have been adopted (such as cutting off the supply) and under the new Ordinance it is proposed to make a charge on a sliding scale for all water used over a certain quantity.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE immediately caused enquiries to be instituted, upon hearing the news, and a request for information was cabled to the Governor, His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G. At 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning, the following telegram was received, and, later in the day, it was read by Mr. Chamberlain in the House of Commons:—"Considerable excitement has been caused during the last few weeks by the introduction in the Legislative Council of a new Water Works Ordinance, the provisions of which have been much misrepresented. This has been increased by several public meetings, called together by those who demand representative government and the whole excitement was turned in that direction. At the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 16th a crowd entered the Council Chamber in such numbers that the Bill could not be proceeded with, and the Council adjourned. It was decided, therefore, that admission to the adjourned meeting

should be by ticket only, as many tickets being issued as there was accommodation for. A public meeting was held on the 21st to protest against this, and the speakers at the meeting urged those assembled to refuse tickets, and to insist upon their supposed right to be present at all the meetings of the Legislative Council. Accordingly, at 11 o'clock the committee of the Ratepayers' Association presented themselves at the entrance of the Council Chamber, and, refusing tickets, demanded entrance. At the time there was a crowd round the door of about 1,000 persons. A large force of police were guarding the buildings. The Council proceeded with its business, though much interrupted by shoutings outside, until a quarter to 2 p.m., when stone throwing into the Council Room commenced with great violence. This continued for about three-quarters of an hour, completely wrecking everything exposed and sweeping the Council Room from side to side, wounding many present. At 2.30 the public building known as the Red House was fired in two places. The Riot Act was read twice from the galleries on each side of the building and the police were ordered to fire. The mob was rapidly dispersed. About this time a large force was landed from His Majesty's ship 'Pallas,' and a contingent of the local force arrived on the scene. All efforts failed to save the Red House, which was completely destroyed with all the records except those in the Registrar-General's vault. The casualties from the firing are nine killed and 40 wounded. The police barracks caught fire at the top of the tower, the entrance to which was burnt out, but the fire was otherwise prevented from spreading; 200 Lancashire Fusiliers are on the way from Barbados. Request immediate commission of inquiry." "In reference to this last sentence," Mr. Chamberlain added, "I think the matter is so serious that an enquiry is necessary, and I propose to appoint it at once."

That the situation is a serious one is shown by the fact that the Chamber of Commerce has telegraphed to Mr. Chamberlain urging the removal of the Governor and the principal officials "in whom the public have entirely lost confidence." On the other hand, private advices which we ourselves have received are in a measure reassuring, indicating as they do that no damage has occurred to private property.

The Sugar Convention and Consumers.

A memorandum has been prepared by Sir Nevile Lubbock regarding the sugar production of the World, which shows very clearly how much the abolition of bounties is to be desired, not only by the British Purchaser, but also in the interests of the Consumer. After giving in detail the figures for the different countries, which amount to about 13,000,000 tons, he then eliminates that portion of the production which would under no circumstances be available for the British Market, and concludes as follows:—

Thus we have of Beet and Cane Sugar available for supply of United Kingdom.

					1901-2.	1902-3.		
BEEF:	Germany and Austria	...	++	+++	...	2,115,000	1,590,000	Tons.
	Other	+++	...	...	...	951,000	50,000	"
						<u>3,066,000</u>	<u>1,640,000</u>	"
CANE:	British West Indies	++	+++	...	...	247,000	263,000	"
	Argentine, Peru, Brazil, St. Domingo, Mexico					738,500	582,500	"
	Egypt	...	...	...	...	96,000	90,000	"
	Java	...	...	...	...	767,000	842,500	"
	French Colonies	...	+++	...	...	110,000	104,000	"
						<u>1,958,500</u>	<u>1,882,000</u>	"

If bounties were allowed to continue, the whole of this cane supply would be jeopardised, and it is evident that we should have, practically, to depend entirely upon Germany and Austria. On the other hand, the abolition of bounties keeps the door open to this large quantity of sugar. These figures prove incontestably that the interests of the consumers of this country would have been most seriously compromised but for the Brussels Convention.

The Quarantine Regulations in the West Indies.

The anomalous nature of the quarantine regulations in the West Indies has been engaging the attention of the West India Committee for some time past, and in accordance with a resolution passed by the Executive Committee on March 19th inst., a letter has been addressed to Mr. Chamberlain on the subject urging that steps may be taken without delay to place the quarantine regulations of the respective West Indian Colonies upon a uniform basis. The following is the text of our letter :—

Sir,

March 27th, 1903.

We desire respectfully to call your attention to the lack of uniformity of the quarantine regulations in the British West Indies, and the loss of trade and the inconvenience which has resulted to certain Colonies therefrom.

2. The anomalous nature of these regulations has been shown in a striking manner during the recent epidemic of small-pox in Barbados, which is now happily coming to a close.

3. Stringent quarantine regulations have been imposed against Barbados by the neighbouring Colonies, though, as it has since transpired, an illness apparently similar to that in Barbados has been existent in one, if not two of them, during the greater part of the period of duration of the Barbados epidemic.

4. The result of this is that at the present moment Barbados is in the anomalous position of quarantining and also being quarantined by Trinidad.

5. We by no means wish to minimise the importance of the principle of quarantine, but we do most strongly feel that it should be conducted in such an equitable manner as to overcome insular prejudices, and the consequent friction which, owing to the present lack of uniformity in the system, is bound to arise.

6. We note, with satisfaction, from a despatch dated January 14th, 1903, from the Earl of Onslow, on your behalf, to the Governor of Barbados which has appeared in the press that, as soon as the Commission appointed in Barbados has presented its report, he proposes to consult the Local Government Board as to its terms, with a view to making it the text for inviting the British West Indian Colonies to establish a uniform system of quarantine regulations, "inasmuch as the present diversity and consequent friction is neither creditable nor advantageous."

7. Dr. Bridger, the Medical Commissioner, having now presented his report, we venture most respectfully to urge that steps may be taken in the direction indicated in Lord Onslow's despatch with as little delay as possible.

8. That this matter is one of considerable importance is sufficiently shown by the number of letters and representations regarding it which have been received by each mail for some time past, we therefore feel that no apology is needed for troubling you upon the matter.

We have the honour, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman*.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

British-Grown Cotton.

In the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 90, we referred to the work being done by the British Cotton-Growing Association. It will be of interest in this connection to put on record what is being done in the direction of the establishment of a Cotton Industry in the West Indies. Three years ago the officials of the Agricultural Department started a series of experiments in cotton cultivation

at St. Lucia. As Cotton has already been extensively and successfully cultivated in the islands there could be no question as to the suitability of the soil and climate, and the experiments therefore were directed more in the direction of the best varieties to be recommended and the most suitable manuring. The results obtained have been regarded by the planters as of such a satisfactory character that numerous orders for cotton seed were promptly sent to the Department, and before the end of last year St. Lucia had 105 acres under cotton, St. Kitts 324, Montserrat 160, and Antigua and Barbados had made a substantial start, 24 sugar estates in the latter island going in for Cotton growing on a small scale at first. Although it is beyond doubt that the West Indies are well adapted for the cultivation of Cotton, the Imperial Commissioner, Dr. Morris, impresses upon the colonials that Cotton growing is not likely to offer the prospect of greater gain or more congenial employment than sugar, if the prices of the latter are moderately good. It is only in localities where sugar growing cannot be carried on at a profit that the cultivation of Cotton on a large scale should be attempted. Fortunately, the planters are favourably regarding the prospect of at least a partial return to Cotton planting. In St. Lucia the cost of cultivation is only one-fourth that of sugar. It readily falls into line with the estate routine with which the planters are familiar and it requires practically the same kind of field preparation as sugar. Expensive machinery and buildings are not required and irrigation and the use of expensive manures are unnecessary. A central ginning factory, costing a few hundred pounds, would suffice to deal with the crop produced on a comparatively large area, and within six to eight months from the time of planting the crop could be exported. Without interfering with any really good sugar land the islands of Barbados, Antigua, St. Lucia and Montserrat could, within a few years, place from 5,000 to 20,000 acres under cotton, each acre to produce, at a moderate estimate, 250 lbs. of cotton. The prospects are certainly favourable if the planters set about the business methodically and scientifically, the more so as the cotton merchants of Lancashire have decided to offer the West Indian growers every encouragement so long as the produce is placed on the market in good condition.

The Colonial Reports--Trinidad and Tobago.

The Report of Mr. S. W. Knaggs, Acting Colonial Secretary in TRINIDAD for 1901-2 (No. 382), has been laid on the table of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for the information of Members. The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the last five years.

		Revenue.		Expenditure.		
1897	...	£611,434	..	£622,364	...	£10,930 Deficit.
1898	...	615,371	...	640,952	...	25,581 ..
1899	...	681,339	...	672,590	...	8,749 Surplus.
1900	...	698,939	...	659,079	...	39,860 ..
1901-2	...	712,394	...	731,160	...	18,766 Deficit.

Owing to the deficit the Colony's surplus balance was reduced to £52,341. The deficit was, however, chiefly due to exceptional causes, the expenditure on extraordinary Public Works having amounted to £58,852. We append a table showing the value of exports, exclusive of bullion and specie, from the Island over a period of five years.

			1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901-2.
SUGAR	...	...	£537,107	£602,045	£715,428	£552,158	£453,304
COCOA	...	...	532,123	812,272	898,389	978,632	953,287
ASPHALT	...	...	138,801	113,829	152,046	177,460	159,044
TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS			1,823,818	2,189,731	2,419,475	2,547,673	2,435,318

During the period under review, 11,500 acres of Crown Lands realised £17,519. 605 grants were made to East Indians, the acreage amounting to 4,518 acres. The Asphalt Industry contributed to the revenue £38,028 in export duties and £9,879 in royalty. Ten licenses were issued to prospectors to search for petroleum and coal. The coal so far discovered has been chiefly lignite of a quality which would be unable to compete with imported coal. The borings for coal by the Government have been so far successful as to warrant further trials being made under expert advice. A Canadian Company has found Petroleum oil in considerable quantities in the land of Guayaguayare. Manjak in paying quantities has been found on two neighbouring estates in the Naparima district.

During the year 2,553 immigrants were introduced into Trinidad from India, and 735 returned, taking with them £9,238 in cash. Many however expressed their intention of again returning to Trinidad. The advantages offered by the Colony are shown by the fact that 5,725 E. Indian depositors in the Savings Bank had balances amounting to £102,371. Tobago began to show signs of returning prosperity, and houses, for long years neglected, were being repaired and new ones built. A considerable amount of capital was being expended in planting cocoa and rubber. Exports of sugar totalled 45,245 tons, being 4,600 tons in excess of 1900. The sugar planters encouraged at last by the promise of fair treatment had been struggling resolutely for existence. The remarkable progress of the cane-growing industry is shown by the following figures :—

Year.							Tons of Cane.	Value.
1898	...	...	...	105,753	...	...	£42,271
1899	...	...	...	106,741	...	...	45,627
1900	...	...	...	105,996	...	...	47,472
1901	...	...	...	169,918	...	...	76,975

The exports of Cocoa were 30,154,768 lbs., being 230,000 lbs. less than in the previous year, while the prices realised were also somewhat lower. The industry was, however, a very prosperous one, and the large tracts of land which continued each year to be brought into cultivation, were principally planted in Cocoa, though rubber was beginning to receive attention.

The following is a list of the Colonial Reports for 1901-2 at present issued, and the issue of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR in which a summary of these has appeared.

BARBADOS	...	...	...	No. 368	Summarised in Circular 87.
JAMAICA	...	...	...	" 373	" " " 87.
LEEWARD ISLANDS	...	...	...	" 374	" " " 87.
GRENADA	...	...	...	" 376	" " " 88.
BRITISH GUIANA	...	...	...	" 378	" " " 88.

Testimonial to Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

We are now in a position to state that the testimonial to our Chairman will take the form of a three-quarter-length portrait in oils, by Professor Hubert von Herkomer, C.V.O., R.A., and a gift of plate. Professor von Herkomer, whose name as a portrait painter is world-renowned, is now giving sittings to Sir Nevile Lubbock, and it is confidently expected that the portrait will be completed by June next. The prompt and hearty manner in which those in this Country interested in the West Indies have responded to our circular letter of February 25th is most gratifying, and with the reply of British Guiana and West Indies still to come, the success of the proposals of the Testimonial Sub-Committee, which was never in doubt, may be considered assured. The Testimonial Fund will remain open until May 31st, and we would again remind our Members that further particulars regarding it may be obtained from the Sub-Committee, Mr. Henry K. Davson, 79, Mark Lane, E.C., Mr. Robert Rutherford, 34, Great Tower Street, E.C., or the Secretary.

New Members.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday, March 19th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. presiding, the following New Members were elected :—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
The Right Hon. LORD STANMORE, G.C.M.G.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
THOS. K. BELLIS, Esq. (Jamaica and Central America)	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.
WM. WELDON SYMINGTON, Esq., J.P.	Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, M.D., C.M.G.	E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq.
JOSEPH L. STOUTE, Esq. (British Guiana)	T. M. Marshall, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
MESSRS. A. and J. MAIN & Co., Ltd.	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
JOSEPH BRIGGS, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	W. Gillespie, Esq.
ARCHIBALD P. DAVSON, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
LAWES CHEMICAL MANURE Co., Ltd.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
R. K. MACBRIDE, Esq., C.M.G.	H. F. Previt�, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
MESSRS. BELL BROS. and McLELLAND	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
WILLIAM ROWLSTONE, Esq.	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

The next election of Members will take place on Thursday next, April 2nd.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The following publications of the IMPERIAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE which were received by the Mail can be obtained from the Secretary of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE. *Agricultural News*. Vol. 2, No. 24. Price 1d. This is a particularly interesting number, containing articles on the experiments, with a view to testing the possibility of starting the cultivation of Sugar Cane, Cotton, Ground Nuts and Arrowroot in the districts affected by Volcanic Ash in St. Vincent. In other parts of St. Vincent, that is, in districts a little to the south of a line drawn across the island from Georgetown to Chateaubelair comprising extensive areas of cultivable lands, beyond the reach of any eruptions that have taken place in historic times, cotton, fruit and food crops might at once be planted with every hope of success. There is, also, a good opening for a comparatively large industry in raising cattle, horses, mules, goats and poultry. These find a ready market at St. Lucia, Trinidad and British Guiana. The Imperial Department of Agriculture has assisted in this direction by grants for the purchase of a pedigree Hereford bull, Berkshire pigs, goats, sheep and improved breeds of poultry.

Another article of interest deals with the cultivation of limes in the West Indies, an industry already of considerable importance in Dominica and Montserrat. Attention is called to the possibilities of the industry as shown by the steadily increasing trade with the United States in green limes, and with British North America in pickled limes—this is indicated by the following figures showing the exports for the years 1898–1901.

Year.	United States, Green Limes, Barrels, Cases, etc.			British North America, Pickled Limes, (Barrels).		
1898	3534	..	..	—
1899	6743	..	..	—
1900	6633	..	..	428
1901	7412	..	..	904

The "*West Indian Bulletin*," Vol. IV., No. 4, Price 6d., has articles on Scale Insects, New Insecticide, Green Sorghum Poisoning, Birds of Barbados, West Indian Fodder Plants, Climatology of Antigua, and Agriculture at Dominica, each of which merits attention.

The "Dominica Agriculturist."

A useful addition to the publications of the West Indies has appeared in the shape of the "Dominica Agriculturist," the first number of which is to hand by the mail. The editor is our esteemed honorary correspondent, the Hon. H. A. Alfred Nicholls, C.M.G., M.D., F.L.S. This first number is a complete record of the inauguration of the Agricultural Society on December 27th, 1899, and of its first nine meetings. It is hoped that the journal for the years 1901 and 1902 will be published in due course. The price is 2s. 6d.

Notes of Interest.

Our British Guiana friends will learn with much regret of the death of Mr. Nicholas Cox, which occurred at Southsea on 20th March, at the age of 73. Mr. Cox was Inspector-General of the Demerara Police, and Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, both of which he brought to a state of high efficiency. He retired in 1889, after a service in the Colony of 27 years, and had since his retirement resided in this Country.

At the request of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have courteously cabled to the West Indies, to the effect that in view of the Easter Holidays a good arrival of the R.M.S. "Tagus" due on April 9th is desirable. It is hoped that quarantine difficulties will not arise to delay the steamer.

Their Excellencies Sir Frederick Hodgson, K.C.M.G., Governor of Barbados, and Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Windward Islands, having obtained leave of absence, are expected to arrive in this Country in the course of the Summer.

Mr. A. St. G. Spooner has been selected by the Antigua Agricultural Society to correspond with the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, in the place of the Hon. C. A. Shand, whose appointment to a Magistracy in Nevis has been confirmed.

The Monocane Sugar Company which is doing so much to popularise the products of the West Indies have opened temporary premises with a shop front at 13, Fish Street Hill, E.C.

Mr. H. Gardiner Austin has been nominated a Member of the Local Committee of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE in Barbados.

We earnestly appeal to those Members who have not already done so, to forward the amount of their subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for the current year without delay.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of an anonymous donation of £1 os. 10d. to the funds of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, from Barbados.

Mr. Joseph Rippon, an active Member of the Committee of the West Indian Club, was entertained at dinner by the Members on Wednesday, March 18th, upon his return from Jamaica.

H.M. the King has graciously presented to Jamaica two prize bulls from the home farm at Windsor for cattle-breeding purposes.

The West Indian Mail.

The Royal Mail Steamer "Trent" reached Plymouth at 5.5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25th, and the mail letters from which we extract the following items of interest were delivered by first post on Thursday, 26th. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service Royal Mail Steamer "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth, on Thursday morning, March 19th.

Antigua.—(A. St. G. Spooner, Esq.), The sugar crop promised well at the middle east and north-east part of the Island, but there was not much show of cane in other parts. The ratoons generally were backward, and unless good

showers fell soon, many fields would have to be left for standovers to next crop. The weather, however, continued favourable for reaping and manufacture which was in full swing. There had been a few light showers only during the fortnight, but even these had been quite local. A little more rain would be welcome to help along the young canes and to start the pastures. There had been a good deal of pasture burning in the south part of the island, and a small area, principally of peasant-grown canes, had been burnt by fire from this source. In spite of all legislation, it seemed impossible to put a stop to this habit of grass firing on the part of the peasant population; as long as this practice continued it was quite useless to talk of that re-afforestation which was so much needed in some parts of the Island.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne), March 12th. Several meetings regarding cotton cultivation had recently been held, and a large supply of seed had been ordered for planting this year. As Chairman of a sub-committee the writer was about to request the Agricultural Society to petition the Legislature for a grant of £250 to provide a cotton ginning machine and a baling process. It was hoped that this would be supplemented by a grant from the funds of the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Association. The question of quarantine was becoming acute, Dr. Bridger who was sent to Barbados from Antigua as an expert in small-pox, and who had remained in Barbados throughout the epidemic, was permitted at the request of Sir Frederick Hodgson to visit Trinidad and investigate the cases there, said to be glass-pox. He returned on March 2nd, and his report had been published. [A copy of this report can be seen at the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOM.—A.E.A.] He unhesitatingly asserted that the disease that had all along prevailed at Trinidad, and was still prevailing to a large extent, was exactly the same as that in Barbados and that it was, undoubtedly, small-pox, and he gave his reasons. He conjectured that there must be from 800 to 1,000 cases at present in that island, but no record was apparently kept of them. Only 17 cases remained under treatment in Barbados, and those were of the mildest type. On receipt of Dr. Bridger's report Sir Frederick Hodgson telegraphed to the Governor of Trinidad that he should not permit deck passengers thence to land at Bridgeton, and first and second-class passengers would be under supervision. No restrictions as to cargo (*vide Agricultural Reporter*, Thursday, March 12th). St. Thomas had already telegraphed that she quarantined Trinidad. The situation was therefore this: Barbados quarantined Trinidad; Trinidad quarantined Barbados, and the strong probability was that British Guiana and the other West India Islands would quarantine both.

During the last few days heavy rains had fallen chiefly from westerly clouds, very unusual at that time of the year. They had varied from 1½ to 4¼ inches, and, where not too heavy, had been most beneficial. Many estates which had begun reaping, had stopped doing so, as the yield was not satisfactory, and it was hoped that the canes would improve later, so little progress had been made with the crop. Perhaps these heavy rains would mitigate the nuisance of the October dust. They were very glad to note that Beet, f.o.b. in England, has regained its former figure of 8s. 6d., and hoped that they might soon see it rise higher, as stocks diminished. The local market was quoted at \$1.75 for sugar in bags, and \$1.45 to \$1.50 for sugar in hhds., Molasses at 13 cents. The young crop was becoming more luxuriant, and was on many estates covering the ground.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), March 11th. Some very good rains which were fairly general had been experienced in the early part of the month. Showers continued to fall, but altogether more rain would do good. [Details as to the opening of the Combined Court on the 26th ult. with the report of the sittings which had taken place since the 5th inst. to which date the Court stood adjourned are contained in the Demerara newspapers which can be inspected at the Committee Room.—A.E.A.]

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), March 11th. The little cotton which was being produced in the Island proved to be of a very superior quality. Eight ships of the West Indian Squadron had recently visited Portsmouth but Roseau had, for the second year running, been left out of the itinerary.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd), March 9th. Some experiments on a fairly large scale were being conducted in cotton-growing in the Island. Blustering winds had abated.

Nevis.—We have to congratulate our Hon. Correspondent, Hon. C. A. Shand, upon the confirmation of his appointment to a Magistracy in this Island.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick), March 13th. President Castro has renewed the blockade of the Orinoco River. So far, having had no war vessels at command he had been unable to give effect to his decree, and trade had been fairly regular with Bolivar since the Blockade of the Allies had been raised. Now that his navy had been restored to Castro he will probably attempt to make his decree effective, and the Orinoco Steamship Company were undecided whether or no to continue sending their vessels.

We regret extremely the absence of advices by this mail from our honorary correspondents in GRENADA, MONTSERRAT, ST. LUCIA, and ST. VINCENT. This is doubtless due to the exigencies of the crop season.—A.E.A.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) March 20th. "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) March 23rd. "Weather all that can be desired." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 25th. "Showery and favourable for cultivation." **Jamaica.**—(Direct West India Cable Co.) March 27th. "Weather fine, Temperature Max. 82, Min. 70." **Trinidad.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 17th. "Weather fine for harvesting." March 21st. "*Idem.*" (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co) March 24th. "Weather favourable, crop progressing favourably."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses	Gold.	Diamonds
	Hhds.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Barbados—								
Jan. 1 to Mar. 13, 1903	8	—	—	—	—	1130	—	—
" " 13, 1902	155	—	—	—	—	1810	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to Mar. 9, 1903	25,798	14,430	—	7802	1424	1358	10,156	969½
" " 11, 1902	30,816	26,656	—	9895	528	114	15,303	3,065
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
Apr. 1 to Feb. 21, 1903	15,655	22,459	88,472	1,690,576	23,266,486	Cwts.	Bunches.	
" " 22, 1902	14,022	21,400	78,523	1,389,512	15,862,769	64,827	13,415,080	98,422,087
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls.	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to Mar. 12, 1903	54,167	13,907,110	2000	25	2,738,106	Puns.	Tres.	Brils.
" " 12, 1902	75,604	10,769,330	9840	64	2,581,904	389	84	47
						759	34	25
								Tons.
								21,132
								21,446

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," March 26th, 1903.—**Barbados.**—Mr. Thomas, Mr. C. W. Gaitskell, Col. and Mrs. Biddulph, Sergt. W. Greenhalgh, Privates J. Doorish, W. Coulson. **Demerara.**—Mr. W. A. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gribble, Mr. H. T. Ross, Mr. Alexander Duff, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. A. F. Chapman, Mr. F. J. Bankhart, Dr. Coates, Mr. F. Rodriguez, Mr. E. D. Cameron, Mr. F. B. Gall, Miss Gall, Mr. A. Coombs, Master J. Wright. **Jamaica.**—Mr. S. J. Nunes, Mr. E. C. Motta, Mr. L. W. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Carpenter, Mr. Mitchell Thomson, two Misses Cutler, Lieut. C. D. Handley, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. A. A. Nathan, Miss E. Webster, Mr. H. F. Van Leyden, Sir Charles Howard, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. A. L. Cohen, Mr. H. E. Beddington, Mr. Thos. Phelps, Miss Phelps, Mr. G. Verschuur, Mr. Alex. Crum Ewing, Miss Crum Ewing, Colonel Blagrove, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Forster, Mrs. E. A. Macduff, Miss Boyle, Mrs. and Miss Crocker, Mr. and Mr. R. H. Fowler, Mr. C. K. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cull, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smieton, Sister Ramsay, Mr. Batty Smith, Major-General F. G. Slade, C.B., Capt. F. Hall, A.D.C., Mr. and Mrs. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams, two Misses Williams, Mr. J. A. Heywood, Mr. A. Aspell, Mr. A. M. Barkworth, Mr. James Tytler, Rev. and Mrs. H. Harries, Mr. D. Salamon, Mr. D. G. Cannell, Mr. A. White, Dr. J. Haddon, M.D., Mr. John E. Bell, Mr. G. C. Street, Mr. P. W. C. Sharpe, Lieut. J. R. Heard, Miss M. Hall, The Right Hon. The Earl of Erne, Capt. The Hon. G. Crichton, Mr. Walter Boden, Mr. L. E. Sackville West, Mr. S. Timmes. **Trinidad.**—Mrs. Ellis Groll, two Misses Coryat, Master N. Groll, Mr. and Mrs. G. Christall, Rev. Mother Carmen Castau, Rev. Mother Ha. P. Barles, Mr. F. Woolward, Mr. A. Cory Davies, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Nott, Mr. Robt. Williamson, Major-General Brownlow, C.B., Mr. W. W. Symington, J.P., Mr. W. Gibson, Mr. J. Hotchkiss, Mr. N. G. Hackney, Mrs. and Miss Jackson. **Dominica.**—Mr. S. J. Bullen, Mr. G. Wordsworth. **St. Lucia.**—Mrs. Peter, Master Peter, Miss Keith, Miss M. Audrieux, Rev. C. L. and Mrs. Kennaway, H. H. Hall, R.A., and wife.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," April 1st, 1903.—**Barbados.**—Mr. J. Kenworthy, Major Deane, Mr. A. Hill, Lieut. A. W. A. Irwin. **Demerara.**—Major G. A. Porter, Mr. C. R. Porter, Mr. E. R. Anson, Mr. E. McLachlan. **Jamaica.**—Lieut. W. C. Macfie, R.E., Mrs. Reid and family. **Trinidad.**—Mr. T. P. Evelyn, Mr. R. V. Butt, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Jun., Mr. E. Elliott, Sergt. T. Hull. **Grenada.**—Dr. P. Cremona. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. and Mrs. Barnard, Mr. and Mrs. C. Cruikshank. **Tout.**—Mr. Ashton.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," March 19th, 1903.—**Jamaica.**—Mr. and Miss Arnold, Lieut. Col. R. E. Boothby, Mrs. Collicott, Major Bonham-Carter, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Hood Daniel, Mr. H. Daniel, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Dicks, Mrs. A. Edwards, Rev. H. F. Flynn, Mr. and Mrs. G. Grote-Joyce, Mr. J. E. Muddock, Miss Muddock, Mr. H. Mortimer, Mr. R. Munckton, Col. and Miss Thrale-Perkins, Mrs. Sandemann, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Solomon, Miss M. H. Smith, Mr. L. G. Thomson, Mr. A. W. Bewley, Mr. B. Bromley, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hall, Miss Peacock, Col. J. T. Taylor.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," March 28th, 1903.—**Jamaica.**—Mr. L. Carvalho, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Cockayne, Mrs. Espent, Mr. A. W. E. Everard, Mr. Gill, Mrs. E. G. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. A. Isaacs, Mr. J. B. Lamb, Capt. and Mrs. K. Litchford, Master Litchford, Mr. and Miss Ward.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar.—88 per cent Beet.—From no reason whatever, except a want of interest in the article on the various exchanges, prices have tended downwards and close about 3d. lower than last mail. With the favourable features ahead of us, this slight set-back need not be taken seriously. To-day's values are March 8s. 2d.; May 8s. 3d.; August 8s. 5½d.; and October/December 8s. 11½d.; all free on board Hamburg. The most trustworthy opinions favour a sowing for next crop not exceeding the last, and it may be taken for granted that the arrangements made for the crop at this advanced date are practically final, and will not be influenced to any important extent either one way or the other by the future course of the market. It will be wise to prepare oneself with suitable weather, for a crop of 6,000,000 tons against 5,600,000 tons and 6,800,000 tons respectively the last two seasons.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
8s. 2d.	6s. 5½d.	9s.	10s. 1½d.	9s. 11½d.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	
Europe	2,970,000	3,130,000	2,470,000	2,290,000	2,250,000	Tons
United States	180,000	170,000	190,000	140,000	190,000	..
Cuba	310,000	350,000	190,000	110,000	70,000	..
Cargoes afloat	30,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	60,000	..
Total	3,490,000	3,600,000	2,860,000	2,560,000	2,570,000	

Crystallised Sugar.—A further extensive business has been done in this sugar at a small improvement in prices, and those who colour Bounty-Fed Beet in London and elsewhere are finding it difficult to compete with genuine Cane Sugar. This is as it should be and will no doubt continue if supplies are kept up and prices not forced up to famine range, allowing the imitators to control the market again. The business doing has been at 14s. to 14s. 3d. for inferior grades; 14s. 6d. to 15s. for low to good yellow, with retail lots of fine sugar 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d. The value of average qualities is still 14s. 9d. or 11s. in bond. A cargo of 96 Centrifugals is worth 9s. 9d. on floating terms. White Bounty-Fed Granulated costs 14s. 9d. duty and carriage paid throughout England for delivery up to September next. Beet imitations are selling in London at 14s. 6d., but only in small quantities.

Molasses Sugar.—Supplies of this sugar are at a low point, and there is a good market waiting for it at 11s. to 13s. 6d.

Muscovado.—We have no stock. Brown refining kinds are not much wanted, but some good grocery Barbados would meet with attention. Prices are not easy to quote.

West India.—

	1903	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports to date	3400	7700	7500	8100	Tons.
Deliveries	9700	10,700	9500	10,100	..
Stocks	22,500	9200	6600	3700	..

Rum.—Imports to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Jamaica	440	337	1031	380	Puns.
Demerara	5489	8801	8543	6044	..
Stocks in London:—					
Jamaica	8766	5748	6704	6721	Puns.
Demerara	10,155	9737	9323	5198	..

Total of all kinds:—	1903.	1902.	Excess.
	20,006	23,898	5108 Puns.

A good business has been done in Demerara from 7½d. to 8½d., and with the exception of the two steamers now discharging, the market is generally cleared of rum in Importers' hands. Fair marks may now be quoted at 8d., showing a partial improvement. Jamaica remains in the same dull state as has existed for many months, and Standard marks are offering at 1s. 5d. without attracting the attention of buyers. Cuba and other Foreign kinds are worth 5d. to 8d., according to quality and package.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:—

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
85,400	85,900	92,100	81,900
			Bags.

The market remains steady with a good business doing in West India kinds on the following terms: Trinidad fair collected, 59s.; Estate marks 59s., 64s. and 67s.; Grenada, fair 54s.; Fermented 56s. to 57s. 6d.; Fermented from other Islands 53s. to 56s.; with Native Cocoa 50s. to 52s. Receipts of Guayaquil and African are heavy, but the Cocoa is not pressed for sale at present, so West India sorts are meeting with good attention, and prices are favourably influenced thereby.

Coffee.—Fairly steady, with a moderate business doing in Jamaica at recent prices.

Nutmegs.—Steady. Only small sales, including 82 to the lb. in shell at 6d.

Mace.—A few packages sold: pale flakey 2s. 7d.; fair red and pale 1s. 9d. to 2s.

Ginger.—In good demand at firmer prices: good ordinary 40s.; good middling to fair bright 43s. to 48s.

Pimento.—Firm. Business in good clean up to 2½d.

Arrowroot.—Stocks in London:—

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
13,352	8465	7767	2952
			Barrels.

The further unfortunate eruptions in the Island of St. Vincent have had little or no effect on the market, and during the fortnight the sales do not exceed some 600 barrels, inferior quality 1½d., fair to good manufacturing 1½d. to 2d. The better grades move off very slowly and meet only with offers in retail. The sale of these kinds is yearly becoming more and more difficult, and it is a moot question whether they pay to make.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary

West India Committee Circular.

Telegrams:
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BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
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Thursday, April 9th, 1903.

Our New Premises.

We now have pleasure in announcing that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE has acquired more convenient premises, upon the First Floor at No. 15, SEETHING LANE, E.C. The necessary alterations are being made, and it is hoped that the rooms will be ready by May, and that it may be possible to hold the Annual General Meeting there on the 14th of that month. No. 15, Seething Lane is next to Mark Lane Station, upon the Metropolitan and District Railway which is shortly to be electrified, and it is felt that for this reason the position will commend itself to Members, who will enjoy the privilege of a room in the City, where they may see the West India newspapers, and other publications, and works for reference.

Seething Lane is a street of some historic interest. It was here that Samuel Pepys lived as Clerk of the Acts, and it was in St. Olave's, his Parish Church, whose gateway opens on to the Lane, that he was buried in 1703, beside his Wife and his Brother Tom (1664), 'just under my mother's pew.' This Church and Seething Lane escaped the Great Fire. Near by lived Sir Francis Walsingham and his son-in-law, Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, in a house built by Sir John Allen, Lord Mayor in the time of Henry VIII, and here Walsingham died in 1590.

That our determination to acquire more convenient premises is appreciated is amply shown by the increase of Membership of the Committee. During the current year 55 new Members have been elected, and 17 candidates have already been proposed for the next election which will be held on April 30th next. At a Meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday, April 2nd, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. presiding, the following New Members were elected:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
George Marshall Callender, Esq.	A. F. Turnbull, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
Charles Hilton Grell, Esq. (Dominica)	S. Didier, Esq.	B. A. Neilson, Esq.
Hon. Oscar Marescaux, (Jamaica)	E. A. De Pass, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.

India and Countervailing Duties.

The Financial Statement of the Government of India for 1903-1904 which was published in Calcutta in a Gazette Extraordinary on March 18th ult., deals with the Brussels Sugar Bounty Conference, at which India was represented though she did not become a party to the Convention, preferring to retain for the present complete liberty of action. When it was decided that bounties should be allowed to continue unchecked until September 1903, immediate steps had to be taken to protect the Indian producer from the effects of the Cartels and an act was passed on June 6th, 1902

empowering the Governor in Council to impose a special duty on sugar imported from any Country in which the rate of taxation on foreign sugar exceeded the Excise duty on home grown sugar by more than a fixed maximum of 6 francs per 100 kilos of refined sugar, and 5½ francs per 100 kilos of raw sugar. The practical effect of the new duties, has been to close temporarily, the Indian market to the direct importation of German and Austro-Hungarian sugar, and to encourage imports from such beet growing countries as Holland and Belgium, which do not maintain high protective duties. The imports of cane sugar from Hongkong, Java, and the Straits Settlements have also been largely increased. It has been announced in the public telegrams that all the Powers who joined the Brussels Convention have now formally ratified their acceptances, and it may be presumed that the provisions of the Convention will be put into force on the 1st of September, 1903. On that date, the parties to the Convention are bound to abolish all sugar bounties, and should they be completely abolished, the position might become such as to justify the abolition of all countervailing duties in India. On the same date, the Act passed in June last will, unless specially extended, cease to be in force. It appears, however, probable that in September next large stocks of bounty-fed sugar will be in hand in the beet-growing countries, and it may possibly prove necessary to consider the necessity of further temporary special measures, until these stocks have been exhausted and normal conditions restored. No decision has yet been arrived at with regard to the adherence of India to the Brussels Convention, but she is at liberty under the terms of the Agreement to accept it, should it hereafter appear desirable.

The Sugar Convention.

"Correspondence respecting the ratification of the Sugar Convention signed at Brussels, March 5, 1902," was issued as a Parliamentary Paper on April 7th. It opens with a despatch from Lord Lansdowne to the British Ambassador at Paris dated January 13, 1903, containing the following explicit statement of the policy of his Majesty's Government with regard to the fiscal relations of Great Britain and her colonies in view of the Convention :—

The attitude of his Majesty's Government in regard to the matter has never varied. They have declined altogether to agree that Great Britain should be under any obligation to treat the British Colonies as foreign countries. The British Delegates at the Brussels Conference repeatedly and formally declared that the fiscal relations between Great Britain and the British Colonies and possessions must remain outside the Convention, and that in no circumstances would a penal clause be applied in the United Kingdom to British Colonial Sugar. These declarations are recorded in the *proces-verbaux* of the 2nd, 5th and 7th sittings, and are most explicit and categorical.

It is very improbable that any appreciable amount of sugar will be imported into this country from the self-governing Colonies during the period for which the Convention is to remain in force. But his Majesty's Government attach the utmost importance to the principle of retaining, subject to the special and exceptional concessions mentioned in the Final Protocol, perfect freedom of fiscal relations within the Empire, and in view of the doubts expressed in some quarters as to the proper interpretation of the Convention and the declarations made in the Final Protocol, they consider it necessary to place on record that they will not consent under any circumstances to be bound to penalize bounty-fed sugar imported into the United Kingdom from any of the self-governing British Colonies; and that they are not prepared to accept any reference of this question to the Permanent Commission to be established under Article VII.

In transmitting to the Belgian Government the ratification of his Majesty the King, his Majesty's Government will make a declaration to this effect, accompanied by a request that it be recorded in the Protocol relating

to the deposit of ratifications. They think it right at once to inform the other High Contracting Parties of this intention on their part, and you will accordingly hand to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of this despatch, and inform him that his Majesty's Government, in view of the explanations which it contains, will assume that their interpretation of the Convention, so far as it affects the fiscal relations of Great Britain and her Colonies, is not disputed by the French Government, and that their adhesion is accepted by that Government upon this understanding.

A similar despatch, *mutatis mutandis*, was sent to the British representatives at the Courts of other contracting States. The rest of the correspondence contains despatches relative to the ratification of the Convention, including one from Sir C. Phipps, British Minister at Brussels, dated January 31, reporting that he had deposited his Majesty's ratification of the Sugar Convention that morning, making at the same time a formal declaration with regard to the penalizing of sugar imported from the British colonies in accordance with Lord Lansdowne's instructions.

Another paper (Cd 1471) issued on the same day contained a list of countries engaged in the production of sugar, together with the value of exports from the United Kingdom to the said countries for each of the last five years, &c.

The Riots in Trinidad.

A commission, consisting of Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, G.C.M.G., Sir H. Evan James, K.C.I.E., Mr. S. C. Macaskie, K.C., Recorder of Sheffield, with Mr. R. V. Vernon of the Colonial Office as Secretary, leaves by the Royal Mail Steamer "Trent" for Trinidad on Wednesday next to enquire into and report upon the recent regrettable riot in Trinidad. The question of the cause of the outbreak being now *sub judice*, we refrain from commenting upon it, but it is satisfactory to learn that all is now quiet in the Island.

The Quarantine Regulations.

As we go to press we are informed by cable that in view of the fact that 1500 cases—not isolated—of the eruptive fever are under treatment in Trinidad, it has been decided that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's inter-colonial fleet shall reassemble at Barbados on April 11th instead of Trinidad as has recently been the case. The transhipment, however, will be effected under strict quarantine. In Barbados 8 cases are under treatment.

The late Mr. Alexander Garnett.

With deep regret we have to report the death of Mr. Alexander Garnett, J.P., one of our oldest and most respected members, which took place at "Riversdale," Aigburth, in his seventy-eighth year, on Saturday, 28th ult., as the result of an accident in Bold Street, Liverpool, on the 9th ult. At a Meeting of the Executive Committee on April 2nd, the following resolution of sympathy was moved by Mr. Edward G. Barr, and carried unanimously.

This Committee has learnt with deep regret of the death of Mr. Alexander Garnett, J.P., one of the oldest Members, and desires to convey to his relatives the expression of their heartfelt sympathy and condolence.

The funeral took place at Halewood Parish Church on April 1st, amid an expressive demonstration of sorrow and sympathy.

British Grown Cotton.

The question of the possibility of establishing a cotton industry in British Guiana and the West Indies was discussed at the fortnightly Meeting of the Executive Committee on April 2nd, and the following resolution on the subject was passed unanimously :—

That the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE desires to record its appreciation of the work being done by the IMPERIAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and the BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION in endeavouring to establish a cotton industry in the West Indies, and expresses a hope for the success of the experiments now being conducted in that direction.

Notes of Interest.

The ship "Mersey" arrived at Calcutta from Trinidad on the 24th February, with 737 returned coolie-emigrants. These brought with them nearly £10,000 in drafts, coin and jewellery. As showing the prosperous condition of Indian immigrants in this Colony, it is worthy of note that from the year 1851, when the first return ship left Trinidad for India, returned emigrants from the Colony have taken with them a total of £386,000, actually declared, in addition to a very considerable amount not declared. Besides this, the immigrants in the Colony have remitted large sums every year to their relatives and friends in India through the Indian Treasuries and post offices and other channels.

According to the German law on artificial sweets such as saccharine, dulcine, zuckerin and sykorin, these stuffs can, from April, 1903, only be sold by apothecaries and nobody is allowed on that day to have more than 50 grams in his possession. Persons found to have violated these prescriptions, are fined by amounts not surpassing 1500 marks, and even by imprisonment; and nobody is indemnified for quantities exceeding the legally permitted stock of saccharine, etc.

MR. ARTHUR N. LUBBOCK, son of our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., was, at a Meeting on April 2nd, unanimously elected a Member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Lubbock who is a director of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, has spent many years in Trinidad and British Guiana, and his practical knowledge of the West Indies will doubtless prove of great advantage to the West India Committee.

At the same meeting MR. A. St. G. SPOONER was elected Honorary Correspondent for Antigua in place of HON. C. A. SHAND to whom a vote of congratulation upon his appointment to a Magistracy in Nevis and thanks for his services in the past was adopted

Two of his old friends, both of them Members of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, were responsible for a memoir of the late Sir George H. Chambers which appeared in the *Barbados Agricultural Reporter* of March 9th, which will be read with interest by those who enjoyed his intimate acquaintance.

Mr. Owen Philipps, J.P., and the Right Hon. Sir James Fergusson, Bart., M.P., have been elected Chairman and Deputy-Chairman respectively of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Nearly 2000 acres of sugar cane are now under cultivation by Cane Farmers in Trinidad. This is nearly double the amount hitherto attributed to them.

The West Indian Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are to be congratulated upon the early arrival of the R.M.S. "Tagus". She reached Plymouth at 7.15 a.m. on Wednesday morning, a whole day before her contract time. Mails were delivered in London at 6 o'clock on the same day. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Services Steamer "Port Morant" from Kingston, Jamaica, reached Avonmouth on Wednesday, April 1st.

Antigua.—(A. St. G. Spooner, Esq.), March, 24th. With regard to the sugar crop the juice was of exceptional purity, and satisfactory saccharine content, so that there was little difficulty in getting sugar of the required test. The quality of molasses being made was small, and the local price had advanced 16 cents per gallon, puncheon included a better price than had been obtained for some time. The onion crop was being harvested, but the return was not generally as good as it was last year. Shipments were principally being made to New York.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne), March 26th. An Eruption of the Soufrière, at St. Vincent took place on March 22nd. A slight detonation was heard at 9 a.m., and this was quickly followed by huge banks of slate-coloured clouds, rising in the West. It grew rapidly darker, and soon it was impossible to see to read, the only light being a gleam from under the clouds to the North; At 11 a.m. Dust began to fall, and continued till 3.30. It is estimated that about 2½ tons per acre fell. This dust was of a coarser quality, and of darker complexion than that of the two previous falls. When mixed with water it showed a reddish hue. On the Monday and Tuesday following, heavy rains fell all over the Island, so that it was probable that not much remained on the Canes. A good deal, however, still clung to the roads. Sugar-making, in consequence, had been much interfered with that week, and but little progress had been made. Complaints as to the dryness of the canes continued to be made everywhere; and as the unfortunate things suffered from an almost total drought in September and October, and had had three falls of Volcanic dust on their leaves, this was hardly to be wondered at, though from their appearance better results had been hoped for. The gradual decline in the price of Beet, was a most unwelcome feature. In the local market sugar had dropped to \$1.35 per 100 lb., and \$5.00 for Hhd, a price that would not nearly compensate for the short crop. The only gleam of brightness was the price of Molasses, which was 16 cents. The young crop continued to grow vigorously.

Only nine cases of small-pox remained under treatment, so that it was hoped that it would disappear very shortly. On the other hand, the eruptive fever of Trinidad, or, as their doctors called it "varioid varicella," had spread to Demerara and Grenada, where it was called "Chicken-pox." Barbados had placed these two Colonies in the same Category as Trinidad, that is, that Deck Passengers were not allowed to land; 1st and 2nd Class Passengers being under inspection for 14 days. No restriction as to cargo Demerara, Antigua, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia, had also quarantined Trinidad, so that the complication is complete.

On the 23rd we received the news of the riot in Trinidad, followed by an urgent telegram for troops. The Governor at once chartered a schooner, and in the course of a few hours, the General despatched 8 officers, and 200 men of the Lancashire Fusiliers with 3 days rations.

The Legislature had acceded to the petition drawn up by the writers sub-committee, and had granted a sum of £250 for the erection of a Ginning Machine, and baling process for Cotton, so that he hoped that that Industry was fairly on its legs. He hoped to receive a contributory grant from the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Grower's Association.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), March 28th. An eruptive fever of the same type as that existing in Trinidad had broken out. The weather had been showery and favourable. In some places more rain was wanted. Refining Crystals were quoted \$1.85 but hardly anything was being done.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), March 24th. The tourist season had come to a close. More visitors than usual had stayed in the Island. Several American yachts had put in at Roseau. The Jubilee of the Pope had been duly celebrated. The town was decorated with flags and bunting and torchlight processions took place in the evening. The weather had been showery.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas), March 25th. The weather had been favourable. Heavy falls of dew and occasional light showers during the day were mitigating the effects of the dry weather. The crop was likely to prove shorter than last. Up to the 11th inst. the island had shipped 45,276 bags of Cocoa as against 45,412 bags at the corresponding date of last year; the shortage which appeared would be greatly increased by the end of June, there being no room for hope that they would have in May and June coming, the heavy pickings which were reaped last year during those months.

Through the courtesy of Messrs. Hogins and Lee, of New York, Mr. De Freitas submitted the following important and interesting statistics.

The CONSUMPTION of Cocoa in the United States:

1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
296,541	253,382	226,269	197,200	140,638	139,259
FROM		IMPORTS.			
Guayaquil	...	1902	...	37,386	...
Trinidad	...	"	...	54,471	...
Grenada	...	"	...	7092	...
Jamaica	...	"	...	5059	...
Para	...	"	...	8640	...
Caracas	...	"	...	27,908	...
Bahia	...	"	...	69,056	...
Cuba	...	"	...	12,547	...
					1897.
					16,513
					33,406
					1585
					815
					2316
					18,617
					18,061
					nil.

N.B.—Quantities expressed in bags.

In six years the consumption of Cocoa in the United States had more than doubled—a fact from which Cocoa Planters could derive a sense of hope in their present depression caused by the serious depreciation in the market price of Cocoa which had taken place during this crop.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.), March 23rd. During the previous two weeks they had had some rain over the Island, the tension was somewhat less, but they still need rains in the S.W. of the Colony. The irrigation in Vere would be partially useable by July. The canal at least would be ready but not the dams or the reservoir.

Montserrat.—(C. Watson, Esq.), March 24th. 1½ inches of rain had fallen during the past two days. H.E. the Governor arrived on the morning of the 11th and left on the 13th.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. C. Munro), March 23rd. The writer regretted that Mr. Edward G. Todd was unable to correspond as he was suffering from rather a severe affection of the throat. (We all wish Mr. Todd a speedy recovery.—A.E.A.) Reaping of the crops was proceeding rapidly and there was no friction between labourer and employer. The sugar being made was good, and in some places at least the estimates of the output would probably be increased.

St. Lucia.—(Hon. E. Du Boulay), March 25th. The crop was proceeding satisfactorily. Some heavy showers which would benefit the young crop had fallen during the last few days.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick), March 28th. All other subjects of interest were overwhelmed by the lamentable occurrences of last Monday. As a Royal Commission was to be appointed immediately the whole affair might be considered *sub judice*, and we therefore wrote as little as possible about it. The loss of life was greatly to be deplored. As usual on such occasions women, children and inoffensive people far behind the riotous crowd were among those killed. A large number of the lowest classes of women were in the front and among the most turbulent of the rioters. Order was restored within an hour of the Police being ordered to fire on the mob, and there did not appear to be any likelihood of a recurrence of disorder. All the Registered Deeds, being stored in the fire-proof vault, were saved; but there was an immense quantity of valuable papers, plans and records destroyed which could never be replaced, and the loss of which would be seriously felt by the Colony for many years to come.

The estimates for the year 1903 were in the hands of Members of Council, and would be considered by the Finance Committee on the 30th instant. The weather was excellent for crop operations.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados.—(Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller.) March 31st. "Fine rains generally throughout the island." **British Guiana.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) April 1st. "Over three inches Berbice and Demerara." (Messrs. Booker Bros. McConnell & Co.) April 3rd. "Weather favourable for cultivation." **Trinidad.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 31st. "Weather fine for harvesting." April 8th. "Rain has fallen heavily."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Barbados—								
Jan. 1 to Mar. 26, 1903	8	—	—	—	—	2565	—	—
" " 26, 1902	329	—	—	—	—	5039	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to Mar. 23, 1903	29,424	14,430	—	7899	1964	1368	13,527	963
" " 25, 1902	31,994	26,656	—	10,197	528	114	19,088	3426
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.				
Apr. 1 to Feb. 28, 1903	15,741	23,265	98,261	1,698,353	23,701,986	116,015	13,581,382	98,595,237
" Mar. 1, 1902	14,347	21,836	87,469	1,486,620	16,385,969	64,927	10,082,693	80,998,387
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to Mar. 26, 1903	113,224	15,984,140	2000	26	3,289,325	491	84	47
" " 26, 1902	107,051	12,333,670	10,000	64	3,512,204	1000	34	25

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Tagus," April 8th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Lt.-Col. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Jackman, Miss Mann, Mr. G. W. Fitzherbert, Mr. J. Blackwood, Mrs. Ferris, Mr. and Mrs. R. Thom, The two Misses Thom, Mrs. Sweetman, Mr. G. E. Jarvis. **Demerara.**—Mr. C. Sandback-Parker, Mr. A. M. Gilchrist, Mr. D. H. McGowan, Mr. and Mrs. Wildridge, Miss Dargah, Mrs. and Master Moir, Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Wallace, Mrs. Fleming, Miss Van Hooken, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. J. de Cairos, Mrs. J. E. Godfrey. **Jamaica.**—Rev. W. Bramley-Moore, Mrs. T. B. Oughton, Mrs. and Mrs. A. H. DaCosta, Miss F. Bridges, Mr. J. Clarke, Miss Panton, Miss Webb, Mr. J. Stuart, Miss Stuart, Mr. J. T. Gibbons, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. H. Carvalho, Mr. J. E. Peyton, Mr. J. Peyton, Rev. T. Turner, Mr. H. M. Gun, Miss Gun, Dr. E. T. Harr, Major D. Corsar, Mr. and Miss Corsar, Rev. R. Caldwell, Mr. W. Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell, Miss Longman, Capt. and Mrs. Hesketh Goddard, Mr. and Mrs. Dobie Colonel Sandford, C.B., Mr. and Mrs. Pole-Carew, Miss Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Roche, Mr. and Mrs. J. Taylor, Mr. Gordon Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. W. Campbell, Miss Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Mason, senr., Mr. McNeight, Miss McNeight, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. Ponsonby, Miss Ponsonby, Mr. E. L. W. Walker, Mr. J. P. Manning, Mr. F. H. C. Camerus, Mrs. Lindsay, Miss Nutbank, Miss R. Williams, Mr. A. J. Boulton. **Trinidad.**—Mr. A. T. Hammond, Mr. T. G. Hore, The Rt.-Hon. Lord Barrymore, Mrs. Muir, Miss Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. de Souza, Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez, Mr. and Mrs. W. I. S. Tucker, Dr. J. A. Macfarlane, Mr. and Mrs. S. Straas, Mr. and Mrs. Rubens. **Antigua.**—Hon. G. A. Foster. **Dominica.**—Mr. H. W. Everington. **Grenada.**—Mrs. Dasent, Mr. W. Duncan, Very Rev. Fr. Shapcote. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. G. Davidson.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," April 15th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. F. N. Martinez, Mrs. and two Misses Howell, Mr. W. M. Howell, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. R. H. Smith, Mr. W. T. Sara, Mr. R. Kerr. **Demerara.**—Mrs. W. Mearns. **Jamaica.**—Mr. G. J. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Groves. **Trinidad.**—Mrs. Murphy, Mr. A. W. Akerman, Mr. V. Collingwood, Mr. A. Bizzell, Sir C. Clementi-Smith, G.C.M.G., Sir H. E. M. James, K.C.I.E., C.S.L., Mr. S. C. Macaskie, K.C. and Mrs. Macaskie, Mr. Walpole, Mr. R. V. Vernon, Mr. P. Joseph. **Antigua.**—Mr. J. Maginley. **Dominica.**—Mr. E. R. L. Henderson.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," April 1st, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. A. R. Appach, Rev. G. Temple-Bassington, Mr. J. H. Clerk, Mr. Fred G. Clarke, Captain A. Carpenter, R.N., Mr. H. Conder, Miss A. French, Miss B. French, Miss Harvie, Miss L. M. Harvie, Mr. W. H. Harton, Mr. Henderson, Mr. W. Huntingdon, Mr. Wm. Livingstone, Mr. Miles, Miss Owden, Miss Sokoloff Steen, Mr. E. Stockwell, Mr. C. Stockwell, Rev. R. Simpson, Miss Walker, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Pinnock, Miss and Master Pinnock, Miss Annie Young.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar.—88 per cent. Beet.—The near approach of Easter, coupled with the Budget which is to be taken on the 23rd instant, has caused a tone of caution in our markets, and the still large visible supplies are a plain indication that for the remainder of this season, at least, there is no scarcity of Sugar, and the manipulators of our terminal markets find little encouragement to force up prices, notwithstanding the fact, that the first six months delivery of the next crop, when Bounties cease, stand at an appreciation of about 1s. per cwt. over to-day's quotation for ready Sugar. As time flows on, it will be interesting to see how these two extremes are to meet, and the Continental Growers will have but a poor margin on anything like 9s. basis 88, and should not be too anxious to realise after they have sold their customary portion for financial purposes. In the meantime Sowings for next Crop do not seem likely to exceed those of the present Season and may, with suitable weather, produce an output of 6,000,000 tons against 5,600,000 tons this year, or may not. To-day's quotations are for April 8s. 3d.; May 8s. 3½d.; August 8s. 5½d.; October/December 8s. 11½d. and January to March, 1904., 9s. 1½d. All free on board Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

	1903. 8s. 3d.	1902. 6s. 5d.	...	1901. 8s. 11½d.	...	1900. 10s. 3½d.	...	1899. 10s. 7½d.		
The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates as follows:—										
		1903		1902		1901		1900		1899
Europe		2,970,000		3,120,000		2,510,000		2,290,000		2,250,000 Tons.
United States		190,000		110,000		170,000		150,000		200,000 "
Cuba		320,000		370,000		200,000		110,000		80,000 "
Cargoes afloat		30,000		10,000		10,000		20,000		50,000 "
Total		3,510,000		3,610,000		2,890,000		2,570,000		2,580,000

Crystallised Sugar.—Prices of imitations have again declined 3d., and they are now selling slowly at 14s. 3d. being without any profit to those who colour Bounty-Fed Beet at current cost. Importers of West India Crystallised have seen no cause to follow this decline, and have abstained from offering their Sugar, with the result that next to no business has been done during the fortnight, prices remaining nominally unchanged on the basis of 14s. 9d. on 11s. in bond for average qualities. Some Cuba Centrifugals have recently been sold to United Kingdom "Cane" Refiners at 9s. 9d. in bond on floating terms, but 9s. 6d. is now the value of similar Sugar. To British "Beet" Refiners the value is about 9s. on floating terms. White Bounty-Fed Continental Granulated costs about 14s. 9d. duty and carriage paid throughout England for delivery up to September next, and about 15s. 9d. for the first six months of next crop.

Molasses Sugar.—Is steady from 11s. to 13s. 6d.

Muscovado.—Nothing here.

West India.—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date	4300	9500	11,000	9200 Tons.
Deliveries	11,000	13,000	10,000	11,000 "
Stocks	22,000	9900	9000	3800 "

Rum.—Imports to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Jamaica	850	1050	1060	480 Puns.
Demerara	6100	9600	9000	6800 "

Stocks in London:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Jamaica	8700	6200	6300	6300 Puns.
Demerara	10,300	10,100	9500	4500 "

Total of all kinds:—

1903.	28,876	...	1902.	24,683	...	1901.	...	1900.	4193 Puns.
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Demerara is in better demand and the value of fair marks is now 8½d. Jamaica shows no signs of improvement and a not inconsiderable quantity of last year's crop, is offering at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. without finding buyers. The quotation of 1s. 5d. for fair Standard marks, is a nominal one only. Cuba and other Foreign kinds would command 6d. to 9d., according to quality and package.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:—

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
83,000	81,000	90,000	92,000 Bags.

The market is unchanged, with a fair business doing, at steady to fractionally better prices for West India kinds. Quotations are as follows; Trinidad fair collected, 59s.; Estate marks 59s. to 64s. and 67s.; Grenada, fair 55s.; Fermented 57s. to 58s.; Fermented from other Islands 54s. to 57s.; with Native Cocoa 51s. to 53s.; The African and Guayaquil receipts still continue heavy and point to large crops.

Coffee.—Dull. Sales of Jamaica, ordinary to good, ordinary 28s. to 36s., low middlings up to 43s., Santos Coffee April delivery 25s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. 70 to the lb. 1s. 6d., 84 at 1s. 3d., 95 at 1s. 1d., 110 at 11d., 120 at 10d., 136 at 7d. and in shell at 6d.

Mace.—Unchanged. Fair to good pale 1s. 10d. to 2s.

Ginger.—Dearer. Fair to good bright 48s. to 55s.; ordinary to middling 42s. to 46s.

Pimento.—Unchanged.

Arrowroot.—London Figures to April, 1st.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	4438	5221	4211	8667 Barrels.
Deliveries	3588	4376	4272	4807 "
Stocks	13,074	8564	8039	6391 "

An improved demand has been experienced, but all from one buyer, who has taken about 1200 Barrels, chiefly at 2d. to 2½d. which is a shade better price. Stocks continue heavy, as will be seen by the above Statement.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

Telegrams:
"CARIB" LONDON.

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

Telephone:
"4356" AVENUE.

BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, E.C.

Monday, April 27th, 1903.

The Brussels Sugar Commission.

We are officially informed by Lord Lansdowne that Sir Henry Bergne, K.C.M.G., C.B., has been appointed British Delegate to the International Sugar Commission, which will shortly assemble at Brussels. Mr. Arthur A. Pearson, C.M.G., and Mr. T. J. Pittar, C.B., of H.M. Board of Customs will attend as Assistant Delegates with Mr. George Martineau, C.B., as Expert Adviser.

Grateful Grenada.

The following resolution, which was passed at a Meeting of the Grenada Agricultural Society on March 3rd. last and bears the signature of His Excellency, Sir Robert Llewelyn, Governor of the Windward Islands, furnishes a striking answer to the statements which have been so assiduously circulated by our opponents, that the abolition of Bounties will not benefit the West Indies:—

"That the Grenada Agricultural Society hereby offers its sincere congratulations and thanks to Sir Nevile Lubbock and the West India Committee, and also to Mr. George Martineau, for their unflagging labours and un-failing determination in connection with the Brussels Conference, the recent ratification of which by the Powers sent a thrill of joy, and of new hope throughout the West Indies. The Foreign Sugar Bounties created an uncertainty to which the sugar industry did not, and could not, adjust itself, and they also depreciated the price of sugar in the markets of the world, to a figure which was below the cost of manufacturing it in Grenada. The Society also desires to assure these gentlemen, that with the abolition of these Bounties, an accomplished fact, lands hitherto lying idle, from being adapted only to cane cultivation, are being tilled to the great benefit of their owners (the greater part of whom are peasant proprietors), and of the island as a whole."

R. B. LLEWELYN, *President.*

It is most gratifying to receive such an expression of appreciation from Grenada, which Island, it will be remembered, presented to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, a handsome time-piece and table, which still adorn the Committee rooms, in recognition of action taken in connection with the Cacao duties.

The Quarantine Regulations in the West Indies.

We have received the following reply from Mr. Chamberlain to our letter of the 27th ult., in which we urged that steps might be taken to place the quarantine regulations of the West India Colonies upon a uniform basis.

SIR,

DOWNING STREET, 9th April, 1903.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter on the 27th ultimo calling attention to the inconvenience resulting from the lack of uniformity in the Quarantine Regulations, adopted by the various West Indian Colonies

2 Mr. Chamberlain fully agrees with your views, as to the unsatisfactory conditions which at present exist in this matter; and, as the West India Committee are aware, he proposes to invite the Colonies concerned to establish a more uniform system of Quarantine, but he does not consider that steps can with advantage be taken to this end until the present epidemics have disappeared.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) H. BERTRAM COX.

The Testimonial to Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

We have now received replies to our Circular, regarding the proposed Testimonial to our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., from the West Indies, and we are glad to be able to record, that they show unanimity of feeling, which is at once gratifying as it is satisfactory, indicating as it does, how ready the West Indies are to pull together, when called upon to do so. In Trinidad, a Committee consisting of the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, Hon. A. P. Marryatt and Hon. C. Leotaud, have been appointed to deal with the matter, and influential gentlemen in various parts of the Colony have offered their services. The Fund will remain open until the end of May, and we would again remind our Members, that particulars regarding it, can be obtained from Mr. Henry K. Davson, 79, Mark Lane, Mr. R. Rutherford, 34, Great Tower Street, or from the Secretary, the Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose.

Dock Charges on Rum.

It will be remembered that on January 8th last, a joint committee of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE and leading representatives of the Rum Dealers, waited upon the Chairman of the London and India Dock Co., and urged upon him the desirability of modifying the terms upon which Rum has hitherto been sold in London, it being the wish of the Dealers that Rum should be purchased carrying twelve months free rent instead of sixteen as at present. (Circular 89, p. 4). A letter was subsequently received from the Chairman of the Dock Co. (Circular 91, p. 1) stating that the Members of his Board, after giving the matter their very careful consideration, had decided that they saw no reasons for making any reduction in the charges in question. In this connection, it is a significant fact that a sailing ship bringing 560 Puncheons of Jamaica Rum, was recently ordered by the Charterers to Middleton's Wharf, where nearly the whole of the cargo has been landed, and that a further shipment of Demerara Rum to arrive by steamer will also be sent there by the consignees.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

At the Annual General Meeting of the above Company, to be held on Wednesday next, the proprietors will be asked to consider and, if thought fit, approve a Petition to H.M. the King in Council, for the grant of a further Supplemental Charter to confer upon the Company further additional powers to those already conferred upon the Company by existing Charters.

Should the Company be granted the proposed powers of increasing the Capital and issuing new Capital as Preference Shares, and of reducing or extinguishing the liability in respect of uncalled Capital on the Shares, the Directors recommend the following Scheme, which, if adopted, should enable the Company to provide additional Capital as required to build new Steamers, and at the same time it will permit the present liability of £40 per Share to be gradually reduced and eventually extinguished:—To make an issue or issues of Preference Shares (entitled to such preferential rights as may be determined) to the total amount of the present uncalled Capital (£600,000), and as and when the Preference Shares are subscribed and paid up, to extinguish a corresponding amount of the liability on the existing Shares, viz. : As soon as £150,000 of the Preference Shares have been issued and paid up the liability of £40 on each Ordinary Share to be reduced to £30, and as soon as £300,000 Preference Shares have been subscribed and paid up the liability on each Ordinary Share to be reduced to £20, as soon as £450,000 of the Preference Shares have been subscribed and paid up the liability on each Ordinary Share to be reduced to £10, and as soon as the whole of the £600,000 Preference Shares have been subscribed and paid up the remaining liability on the Ordinary Shares will be extinguished—making them £60 each fully paid up—the uncalled Capital being thus replaced with an equal amount of new Capital paid up. When issuing the Preference Shares the Proprietors will receive preferential allotment.

The necessity of providing new vessels to enable the Company to actively carry on and improve its services is receiving the careful consideration of the Court, and it is pointed out in the Report, that various economies have been effected and are in contemplation without in any way impairing the efficiency of the Company's operations.

The Colonial Bank.

The One Hundred and Thirtieth Half-Yearly General Meeting of this Corporation was held on Thursday, the 9th day of April, 1903, at the Bank House, No. 13, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C., HARRY HANKEY DOBREE, Esq. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman said: Gentlemen, I conclude you will take the report as read, as usual, and before I move its adoption I will just analyse the figures, comparing them with the statement of the immediate corresponding half-year. On the debtor side of the account the notes in circulation are £40,000 more, deposits at interest and on current account are £160,000 more, and bills payable and other liabilities are £100,000 less. On the credit side of the account we find specie is £45,000 less, cash at London Bankers and at call and short notice £150,000 more, English and Colonial Government and other investments £70,000 more, bills receivable £110,000 less, due in the Colonies on current accounts £60,000 more, and bills discounted in the Colonies and advances on security, &c., £20,000 less. We have immediately available assets to meet all liabilities to the public of £2,749,550 against £3,104,131, or somewhere about 90 per cent. The expenses of the London office and branches are about £500 less, and the carry-forward is £12,700 against £10,400 at the same period of last year. Now, gentlemen, as pointed out in the report, it has been most fortunate for all connected with the West Indies that in their very critical financial situation seasons have been favourable, and good crops generally have to some extent mitigated the heavy loss which by reason of the abnormally low prices prevailing for sugar and its by-products (rum and molasses) has fallen upon planters. The grants-in-aid have also been of some service, and in Barbados and Jamaica the Colonial Governments have, by making advances upon growing crops, enabled some of the needier planters to continue to cultivate estates which must otherwise have been abandoned. The situation, although it is still critical, has materially improved, but until the Convention for the abolition of bounties actually comes into force in September next, it must be looked upon as a state of transition, and until the area sown in beet throughout Europe can be accurately estimated, anxiety as to the course of prices will continue to be felt. As regards the future of cane sugar, there is every reason to be hopeful. Adversity has taught planters the absolute necessity for strict economy, and it is probable that cost of production may be further reduced by the improvements now being made in the quality and yield of the sugar canes by hybridization and scientific selection.

The latest reports received as to the weather in the various Colonies are satisfactory and good crops are being reaped. Now, gentlemen, we have all been very much surprised and pained to see in the papers the accounts of serious riots which have taken place in Trinidad. The Government buildings there have been burnt down, and that of itself will entail a considerable loss on the Colony; but there has also been lamentable loss of life, and I think it is a really good thing that Mr. Chamberlain has consented, and has in fact appointed a Commission to proceed to Trinidad and to investigate all details on the spot. We here, from the information we get, are inclined to think that the whole business has been treated with great want of tact and judgment, but as a Commission has been appointed it is not for me to say any more upon the subject. There is one more matter that I should like to touch upon, and that is the retirement of our Deputy Chairman, our dear old friend and colleague, Mr. James Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher has been a Director of this bank for more

than 50 years, and I think for something like 20 years he has filled the position of Deputy Chairman, and it is only his extreme modesty which prevented his occupying the honourable position of Chairman of the Company for many years past. I can only say that I have lost in my Deputy Chairman a very valuable aid. No doubt Mr. Brodie Hoare will do his best to replace him, but his experience and judgment have at all times been of the greatest service to the Bank, and we are glad to feel that he remains on the Board still to give us the advantage of that experience. The report was then adopted, and it was resolved that a dividend of 3% be paid for the half year ending December 31st, 1902. The following Directors retiring by rotation were re-elected: J. J. Cater, Esq.; Charles R. Gurney Hoare, Esq.; Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.; Arthur John McConnell, Esq. and Charles Andrew Prescott, Esq. Proceedings terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Directors.

Demerara Railway Company.

Mr. R. A. Robertson presided over the ordinary meeting of this company on April 24th, at the Cannon Street Hotel, and moved the adoption of the report, which recommended the payment of the full dividend of 4 per cent. on the extension preference shares for the past half-year, leaving £4729 to be carried forward. He said the receipts showed a very gratifying increase, which was fairly distributed over all the various items. Everything pointed to improving prospects and returning prosperity to the colony, and in this the company would share. He hoped to be in a position to be able to make some announcement with regard to the 7 per cent. preference stock this time next year; but he felt very strongly that the payment of this dividend should not be resumed until there was a reasonable expectation of maintaining it in the future.

With regard to the negotiations with the Government, he pointed out that under clause 31 the Government claimed, in certain events (one of which was working at a loss for three half-years in succession), the right to take possession of the new railways upon payment of £312,500: whatever might have been the capital expenditure of the company. This obviously influenced the Directors against making further capital expenditure upon sidings or other works in the hope of developing the traffic. The Board wrote to the Crown Agents asking either that the Government would renounce its right to take possession of the new railways in the event of their being worked at a loss for three half-years consecutively, or alternatively, that any additional works constructed by the company properly chargeable to revenue should, in the event of the Government taking possession of the new railways, be at the same time taken over at a valuation, and that any other capital expenditure should be paid to the company. The reply to the communication was to the effect that the Government was not at present prepared to relax the conditions imposed by Article 31 of the contract. The Directors' hands were thus tied, and their position in negotiating with the parties who might be disposed to give traffic to the railways if facilities were provided was rendered extremely difficult, because unless any further capital outlay was made secure against forfeiture the board felt that they were not justified in making the expenditure. He hoped that on further consideration the Government would see the reasonableness of the company's request, and that some satisfactory arrangement might be arrived at. He referred to certain criticisms upon the management of the company, together with some inconsiderate and uncalled-for remarks concerning Sir E. Wingfield, the Government Director, made in the Guiana Court of Policy. After referring to the reply which the Governor had made, he (the Chairman) said, with the full concurrence of Sir E. Wingfield, that there was no ground for suggesting that the latter had been overruled by the board in matters of general policy and administration, in which the interests of the public could be said to be concerned, and that he had never been in the minority (hear, hear). Col. B. H. Martindale seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The Budget and the Sugar Duties.

In presenting his Budget to Parliament, on April 23rd, Mr. Ritchie, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that sugar had undoubted claims for a remission of taxation, "If it cannot be called an actual necessary of life, it is very near it; but to reduce that duty by one half would cost £3,000,000, and I have not got £3,000,000 to spare."

Canada and the West Indies.

Mr. John Farr, who has consented to act as our Hon. Correspondent in New York, wrote to us on April 16th, as follows:—

At the moment the most interesting development in the West India trade is the demand from Canada. The material difference in the price of Beet Sugars as compared with the values of Cane Sugars in this market has turned the attention of the Canadian Refiners to the West India market, and some sales of Demerara Sugars have been made for Montreal account at prices which gave the West Indies practically the entire benefit of the tariff concession. The Refiners were at first disposed to buy at a small advance over the Cuban values, thereby obtaining the bulk of the concession, but the quantity was so limited, and the demand so considerable, that they have been compelled to pay full values, and the saving in duty has gone to the shipper, and indirectly to the planter. The Canadian market is likely, with the abolition of the European bounties, to be an important factor to the West Indies, and the reciprocal relations with that country will largely offset the disadvantage at which the West India sugars, particularly centrifugals, will be placed in the event of the Cuba treaty being ultimately ratified. New York will, however, continue to be the most favourable place for working West India sugars, owing to cheaper freight rates via New York than through Canadian ports, and the additional advantage of having both markets. It is announced to-day that Canada has just imposed a surtax on shipments from Germany equal to one third of the duty. This will practically shut out German beets from Canada.

Anti-Bounty League Publications.

With this *Circular* we are posting to Members copies of two Memoranda "A reply to the Opposition to the Brussels Convention" and "The Sugar Production of the World" which have been published by the Anti Bounty League in view of the forthcoming introduction into Parliament of the Bill enabling the Government to carry into effect the engagements arising out of the Convention for the abolition of the Sugar Bounties.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The following publications of the IMPERIAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE were received by the Mail:—*Agricultural News*, Vol. II., Nos. 25 and 26, 1d. per copy. No. 25 contains important articles on the Cotton Industry, Mr. Symington's proposals for establishing a fruit trade between Lesser Antilles and Great Britain, Central Factories in Antigua. No. 26 deals with Cotton Cultivation in St. Lucia, Corn Breeding, Witch Broom disease of cocoa, and other matters of considerable interest to planters generally. "*Sugar Cane Experiments in the Leeward Islands.*" This is the report on experiments concluded at Antigua and St. Kitts in the season 1901-1902. Part I. Experiments with varieties of sugar cane with an Appendix on the Chemical Selection of Sugar Cane, and Part II. Manurial Experiments. The cost of Part I. and Part II., which go together is 2/-. Every planter should possess himself of a copy of these publications which can be obtained from the Secretary of the West India Committee who will forward them upon receipt of a remittance. In every case a stamp to cover postage must be sent.

The West Indies and the Press.

The West Indies continue to receive a significantly increasing measure of attention from the Press at home, and the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE may reasonably claim much of the credit for this very gratifying state of affairs. During the fortnight the following articles of interest regarding the West Indies and the Sugar Industry have appeared; *The Times*, April 10th, "Report of the Half-Yearly Meeting of the Colonial Bank"; *Liverpool Mercury*, April 10th, "An old Jamaica Curio"; *The Times*, April 11th, "Venezuela and the West Indies" (from an occasional correspondent), April 14th, "Small Pox in the West Indies" (from a correspondent); *The Daily Chronicle*, "Sugar Bounties, the effect of their abolition" (by a Jam Manufacturer); *The Times*, April 15th, "Tobago" (from an occasional correspondent in the West Indies), March 24th, "Native labour in the West Indies."

Notes of Interest.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, will be held at the new Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., on Thursday, May 14th. next at 3 p.m.

THE HON. SYDNEY OLIVIER, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, is expected to return to England, on leave of absence in the course of next month.

THE LONDON UNITED WORKMENS' ASSOCIATION, on April 9th, last, unanimously passed the following resolution at a specially convened meeting at Aldgate.

"That we hereby desire to return our sincere thanks to his Majesty's Government for their satisfactory settlement of the vexed question of Foreign Export Bounties on Sugar, which has proved so disastrous to the West India Sugar Production and the Home Sugar Refining Trade, as well as to the working classes interested therein, and we hope that when the new era commences in October, a restoration to a large extent of the importation of West India sugar and home refining will shortly take place."

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR FREDERIC HODGSON, K.C.M.G., the Governor of Barbados, notified the Colonial Office by cable on April 18th, that no fresh cases of Small-pox had occurred since April 4th, and that clean bills of health were accordingly being issued.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR ALFRED MOLONEY, K.C.M.G., the Governor of Trinidad, has been pleased to present to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, one Gold and one Silver Centenary medal for exhibition in the new Committee Rooms.

THE REPORT OF THE WEST INDIAN CLUB, issued by Mr. W. A. M. Goode, the energetic Hon. Sec., records a year of useful work. The Club brought to this Country the first West Indian Rifle Team seen in England, and the Club dinners contrive to receive an increasing amount of support.

A RECORD NUMBER OF CANDIDATES—34—will present themselves for election to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, on April 30th, instant. In view of our coming move to new premises at 15, Seething Lane, we are anxious to increase considerably our List of Members and solicit the support of existing members in this direction.

The West Indian Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's, S.S., "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth at 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22nd, and letters were delivered by first post on the following morning. The return of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Steamers to Barbados, on April 11th, as their headquarters for transhipment of inter-colonial passengers and goods, was naturally the occasion for much rejoicing in that Island. A correspondent wrote on the 11th, "It was cheering to see the

Royal Mail Steamers in the Bay this morning, although they quarantined the shore. A display of bunting from the Commercial Hall and Merchants, gave them a welcome to which they responded, by flagging their ships from stem to stern. The labourers were overjoyed to see them, and shewed their appreciation with bands of music and general jubilations." The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service's R.M. Steamer from Kingston, Jamaica arrived at Avonmouth, on Thursday, April 16.

Antigua.—(A. St. G. Spooner, Esq.), April 7th. Two rival Central Factory schemes had been submitted to the Governor, in competition for a grant of £15,000 offered by the Government, to assist in establishing a pioneer factory. With canes producing as they did in Antigua, juice polarising 1.8 lb. sucrose per gallon, modern machinery should be able to produce a ton of sugar, from a good deal less cane than was usual in the West Indies, and as the canes could be produced at a figure under 10/- a ton, delivered at the mill, it was reasonable to anticipate, that with the abolition of bounties, and the advent of modern machinery, a new era of prosperity would be inaugurated for the Island.

Mr. Francis Watts, the chief of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, in the Leeward Islands, returned to England by the Mail, to assist the Colonial Office in dealing with the competing schemes.

The interests of the peasant cane grower were being well cared for under the conditions laid down by the Governor. The weather continued favourable for reaping, with occasional but very local showers. The price of Molasses had advanced to 17 cents per gallon, the buyers reporting an improved quality with this crop.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne). Sugar in the local market was only quoted at \$1.25 and \$5.00 per Hhd., a price only equal to last year, which produced such disaster with a larger crop. Unless a considerable advance took place shortly, Barbados would have to invoke further help. The Government scarcely realised, when they gave the Bounties two more years to run, to what a pinch they were reducing these already over-burdened Colonies. The weather, since the fall of the dust on March 22nd, had been most unusual for this time of the year. Showers, some of them very heavy, had fallen almost daily, and work on estates had been stopped for days together. This would not be of so much moment in the present state of the Sugar Market, were it not for the fear that under their influence the quality of the juice of the ripe Canes might deteriorate, and that even the very poor yield at present shown might diminish. The majority of estates were only making 1 Hhd. to 1½ Hhd. per acre: those making 1½ to 2 Hhd. were in a distinguished minority. For the reason stated above, very little sugar had been made in the past fortnight, and the Easter holidays would again interfere with the coming one. The writer had never seen the young Canes so far forward and vigorous. On many estates they absolutely covered the ground, and it would be impossible to apply to them the usual process of "trashing," on account of bruising and damaging the shoots. The Cotton industry might be said to be fairly started. The Legislature had granted £250 towards machinery and the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Growers Association, through the Imperial Department of Agriculture, had promised us £50 as well as a Gin and Baling press. A Committee had been formed to fix upon premises and draw up regulations in conjunction with the Imperial Department of Agriculture. A large supply of seed had been ordered. A bill with the object of protecting Cotton in the fields from larceny, had passed the Legislature. Onions would be extensively planted as soon as the Crop was reaped. Potatoes were then quite unsalable and are being given to the stock. The welcome news that the Royal Mail would return to Barbados on Saturday, April 11th, had reached them. The Steamers would receive an effusive greeting from the poor lightermen on Saturday, who had been out of work so long and borne the privation so patiently.

A public dinner, which had been largely subscribed to, was to be given to Sir Frederick Hodgson on April 23rd, previous to his departure to England on leave on April 25th. During his absence the Government would be administered by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. S. Knaggs. The New House of Assembly had just been elected with no change in its personnel, except that a new member—Mr. Corney—took the place of Mr. Clinckett, the official Assignee. Mr. Stoker, the Attorney General, was still without a seat in the House. The two companies of the Lancashire Regiment were still in Trinidad, and Sir A. Moloney requested that one of these at least may be kept there for some time longer.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), April 8th. A meeting of the Planters Association on April 1st, confirmed unanimously and placed on record all that had recently taken place with regard to Immigration. The number of immigrants placed in the Coolie Settlements amounted to 3183. The exact figures being: Helena, 1206; Whim, 574; Lot, 1227; Maria's Pleasure, 176. These settlements had cost something over \$100,000. The Governor was on a visit to New Amsterdam, Berbice for a fortnight. The Sugar Market had dropped considerably, no business being done, and the price \$1.75 was merely nominal. During the early part of the fortnight good rains fell everywhere except in Essequibo, where they were not heavy enough to soak the soil. Since then it had been dry until the night of the 7th, when heavy rains fell and some seven inches were recorded in Georgetown up to daybreak. A good share of this rain fell in Berbice, but there was none in Essequibo.

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," April 23rd, 1903.—**Barbados**.—Miss Rolls, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Bond, Mrs. Gittens, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. James C. Shannon, Mr. D. C. Da Costa, Rev. J. S. Hughes. **Demerara**.—Mr. A. W. T. and Miss Channell, Miss M. Imray, Mr. G. Bettencourt, Mr. V. Eden, Mrs. Gerward, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Marshall, Mr. P. H. Edwards, Mr. T. M. Hunter, Mr. A. E. Craig, Mr. Jas. Mayers, Mr. N. R. Spence, Captain Baker, Mr. C. C. Baker, Mr. W. H. Simmons, Mr. J. P. Scott, Mr. C. A. Pettin, Messrs A. De Souza and C. I. Maggs, Mr. S. Lob, Mr. A. Staeheli. **Jamaica**.—Mrs. C. D. Moffatt, Mr. and Mrs. I. F. Milholland, Hon. Mrs. and Miss Pipon-Schools, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. McFarlane, Rev. L.; Mrs. and Miss Miller, Messrs A. S. Phillip and G. A. Halifax, Rev. and Mrs. A. Blakiston, Miss Jeffrey-Smith, Mr. A. J. C. Brown, Mr. R. Schult, Miss G. Dron, Mr. H. G. Sturridge, Commander C. P. Ogle, Mr. Arthur J. Dyer, Mr. J. Millard, Boatswain, Thirty-six Naval Ratings, Sergeant Law, Captain Crackenthorpe, Mr. John G. Leach, Miss Mary Hall, Messrs. T. G. Luis and Thoms, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. M. Cox, Rev. and Mrs. St. A. H. Molesworth St. Aubyn, Colonel and Miss Howell, Miss F. Phillips, Miss R. Barrington-Baker, Miss Dawson, Mr. C. J. Flight, Captain and Mrs. X. Mabson, Miss Walton, Miss B. Chambers, Miss E. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Dron. **Trinidad**.—Mr. John and Miss and Master Cumming, Mr. F. Agostini, Mr. and Mrs. Taitt, Dr. and Mrs. Hewlett, Mr. L. H. Lovelace, Miss L. McClean, Mr. and Mrs. Carter, The Misses Watts and Miss McKechnie, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. D. Scheltema, Mr. and Mrs. W. Geo. King, Miss Lumsden, Miss McGibbon, Mrs. Lewis, **Antigua**.—Mr. W. N. Sands, Hon. Francis Watts, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Carr, Mrs. G. Holborrow, Rev. J. A. Anderson, **Dominica**.—Mr. W. B. Elliott, **Grenada**.—Mr. and Mrs. E. Pegley, Dr. and Mrs. Bennett, Hon. D. Alexander, Mr. and Miss Tarring, Mr. Tarring, jun. **St. Lucia**.—Mrs. Bayliss, Mrs. D. Cowie, Captain E. L. Cowie, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Spedding.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," April 29th, 1903.—**Barbados**.—Miss Snape, Mr. J. Murphy, Miss Peebles. **Demerara**.—Rev. J. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. A. Gibb, Mr. and Mrs. S. Jones, Mr. H. Solomon, Mr. A. Seton Milne. **Jamaica**.—Mr. S. J. Nunes, Lieut. R. Child, Mr. Thomas. **Trinidad**. Lieut. F. H. Moore. **St. Kitts**.—Mrs. M. Cox. **St. Vincent**.—Rev. B. Wright.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," April 16th, 1903.—**Jamaica**.—Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Bowring, Mr. and Mrs. Birchall, Mr. G. H. Belas, Mr. and Mrs. S. Barrow, Miss P. Burry, Miss A. Brown, Mr. N. Byerley, Miss Catchpole, Mr. E. Davis, Mr. R. Dundas, Mr. R. H. Dundas, Mr. H. C. Dagleish, Mr. W. Dagleish, Miss L. Eyton, Mr. J. F. Gibson, Lieut. E. L. T. Grant, Mrs. and Miss Hamilton, Mr. and Miss Haughton, Miss I. Heron, Miss Jones, Mr. and Miss J. Jackson, Mr. F. Jones, Mrs. Loveridge, Dr. Lewis, Lieut.-Col. M. B. Luby, Mr. T. Luby, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Marriott, Mr. and Mrs. Mellor, Sir P. K. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Mouncey, Mr. and Mrs. G. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. C. McCulloch, Miss G. Nevatt, Mrs. O'Brien, Miss H. Ormsby, Miss Portal, Miss S. Power, Mr. W. R. Patterson, Miss Robertson, Rev. and 2 Misses Sainsbury, Mr. H. G. Stewart, Capt. E. B. Scott, Mr. F. D. Thomas, Miss Olive Thompson, Mr. and Miss Woods, Mr. W. W. Wynne, Mr. C. Dickens, Mr. H. M. James, Mr. Kranacitter, Mr. R. Relph.

Sailing per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," April 25th, 1903:—**Jamaica**.—Madame R. Athay, Mr. F. W. Blood, Mr. F. W. Cocking, Miss Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie, Lt. H. W. Thelwall, Miss C. I. Tilney, Mrs. E. F. Wright, Mr. A. Cowan, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Powell.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet—It is abundantly clear, although not definite, that the sowings for next crop will be practically the same as those of the present season, and on this basis the out-turn may be anything between 5,600,000 tons and 6,200,000 tons according to the weather and other circumstances—this again is too much Sugar with the steady increases in the cane production, and may lead to disappointment unless there is a large increase in Continental consumption, which is sincerely to be hoped for. M. Licht gives the Stocks in exporting countries, excluding Russia, on the 1st. April at 2,400,000 tons. These same stocks he gave on the 1st. September last year at 1,180,000 tons. Assuming distribution to be the same, there will be something like 1,000,000 tons of old Bounty-Fed Beet available for export, which is far from pleasant, and ought not to be tolerated, delaying as it does the benefits of the abolition of Bounties, for at least six months from the 1st. September next—truly, Official ways are incomprehensible! In the meantime the Market fortunately remains steady and the quotations for 88% Beet, free on board Hamburg are as follows: To-day's quotations are for April 8s. 4d.; May 8s. 4½d.; August 8s. 6¾d.; October/December 9s. 0¾d. and January to March 9s. 2½d.

Comparative prices for 5 years —

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
	8s. 4d.	6s. 2½d.	9s. 1d.	10s. 5½d.	11s. 0d.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	
Europe	2,720,000	2,850,000	2,160,000	1,970,000	1,970,000	Tons.
United States	210,000	110,000	180,000	170,000	200,000	"
Cuba	350,000	400,000	200,000	100,000	80,000	"
Cargoes afloat	20,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	60,000	"
Total	3,300,000	3,370,000	2,550,000	2,260,000	2,310,000	

The Produce Markets Summary, (continued.)

Crystallised Sugar.—A further improvement of 3d. per cwt. has been established in this Sugar, and the value is now 15s. or 11s. 3d. in bond for average qualities with a good demand thereat, and which is likely to continue throughout the spring and summer. "Imitations" are selling slowly at 15s. A cargo of 96% is worth 9s. 6d. on floating terms. White Bounty-Fed Continental Granulated costs about 15s. duty and carriage paid, throughout England for delivery up to September next, and about 15s. 9d. for the next crop October to December delivery. Fortunately the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not interfered with the Sugar Duties.

Molasses Sugar.—Unchanged at 11s. to 13s. 6d.

Muscovado.—No Stock. The value of Grocery Barbados is uncertain.

West India Figures since 1st. January.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports to date	5500	15,000	18,000	11,000	Tons.
Deliveries ..	13,000	14,000	13,000	12,000	..
Stocks ..	21,000	13,000	13,000	4000	..
Rum. —Imports to date—	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Jamaica ...	1000	1800	1400	1100	Puns.
Demerara ...	6000	10,000	10,000	7000	..
Stocks in London :—	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Jamaica ...	8600	6500	6200	6600	Puns.
Demerara ...	9900	10,800	10,600	4600	..
Total of all kinds :—	1903.	1902.	Excess.		
	28,378	26,099	2279 Puns.		

Board of Trade Returns for 3 months :—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports	1,806,000	2,642,000	2,359,000	Gallons.
Home Consumption ...	1,033,000	1,201,000	1,504,000	..
Stocks 31st. March ...	9,795,000	8,092,000	7,339,000	..

The reduced Imports of 4000 Puncheons Demerara since the commencement of the year, as shown above, have completely changed the face of the market for this class of Rum; and the prices have recovered 1½d. per gallon from the recent depressed basis, the value of fair marks now being close on 9d. proof, with only small quantities in Importers hands left for sale. The position of Jamaica is however less favourable with an unpleasantly large stock, and the Trade show little disposition to buy, the only business of any note, being some few hundred Puncheons of fair standard marks from last years' crops, at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d., the latter being the approximate value of such Rum now arriving Cuba and other Foreign kinds would command 7d. to 9d. according to quality and package.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London :—

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
87,000	71,000	88,000	98,000	Bags.

Board of Trade Returns for 3 months.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports	7977	10,015	7268	Tons.
Home Consumption ...	5029	8796	7489	..
Stocks 31st. March ...	6135	5474	6339	..

It may not be out of place to remind readers of this circular once again, that the small apparent Home Consumption of 5029 tons during the first three months of this year, comparing with 8796 tons and 7489 tons respectively in 1902 and 1901 is misleading by reason of the large duty payments in these two years to avoid an anticipated increase in the Tariff. The consumption in these three months during 1900 was 5522 tons; in 1899 4501 tons and in 1898 3952 tons. These 5029 tons delivered since 1st. January 1903 are nothing to boast about, but if we take the "average" of 1901/1903 we arrive at a figure of 7100 tons against 4600 tons, for these months in 1898/1900, which demonstrates once again the steady and useful increase in the country's consumption of this valuable food. The Market remains fairly firm, and the latest sales of West India Cocoa have been on the following terms, viz.: Trinidad fair collected 59s.; Estate Marks 59s. to 62s. and up to 67s. Grenada, fair 55s. Fermented 56s., 59s. Native Cocoa from other Islands 51s. 53s. and fermented 55s. 58s.

Coffee.—Dull, and the price of Santos for the present month's delivery, is 25s. 3d. Small sales of Jamaica, palish 27s., ordinary greenish 31s., fine ordinary to low middling greenish 37s. 6d., 45s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. Sales of West India, 69 to the lb. 2s., 86 at 1s. 2d., 95 at 10½d., 112 at 10d., 122 at 9d., 165 at 7d., and in shell from 5½d. to 6d.

Mace.—Business in West India, fair to good pale 2s., 2s. 3d., fair 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d., broken 1s. 8d., 1s. 9d.

Ginger.—Active and dearer, Jamaica fair to good bright 52s. 6d., 58s. 6d.; low middling and middling 45s., 51s. 6d. ordinary to good good ordinary 40s. 6d., 44s.

Pimento.—Steady but quiet. Small sales of fair at 2½

Arrowroot.—London Stocks to April 1st.

1903	1902.	1901.	1900.	
13,004	8564	8039	6391	Barrels.

Scarcely anything done during the fortnight. The stock which is within 1500 Barrels of the total delivery of last year is mainly in consumers hands, an indication that they are well supplied. Quotations are practically unaltered.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

Telegrams:
"CARIB" LONDON.

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"6642" CENTRAL.

15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C.

Monday, May 11th, 1903.

Our New Members and Premises.

The last Meeting of the Executive Committee, in the old Committee Room, at Billiter Square Buildings, E.C., on April 30th last, was signalled by the election of a record number of new Members, 36 being elected—thus bringing the number of Members elected during the current year to 91, and the total Membership of the Committee to over 500. We append the names of the new members. The next Election will be held at our new premises, 15, Seething Lane, on May 28th inst.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
Messrs. THOMAS FARMER & Co.	E. T. Whitaker, Esq.	S. Sandbach Parker, Esq.
Messrs. WILLIAM FRASER & Co., Ltd.	E. Packard, Esq.	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.
Messrs. BURTON, SON & SANDERS, Ltd.	E. Packard, Esq.	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.
Messrs. CROSFIELDS, Ltd.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
Messrs. WILLIAM GOSSAGE & SONS, Ltd.	J. E. Tinne, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.
THE TRINIDAD ESTATES Co., Ltd.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	G. McGregor Frame, Esq.
V. HANSCHHELL, Esq. (Barbados)	R. Rutherford, Esq.	T. Du Buisson, Esq.
Messrs. A. S. AGUILAR & BRO: (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.
HENRY F. HART, Esq. (Barbados)	F. Browne, Esq.	S. Browne, Esq.
ROBERT P. SIMMONDS, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	Joseph Rippon, Esq.
ROBERT B. DALY, Esq. (Jamaica)	" "	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
HON. JOSEPH H. LEVY (Jamaica)	" "	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
HON. D. S. GIDEON (Jamaica)	" "	William Gillespie, Esq.
ADOLPHUS H. BROWNE, Esq. (Jamaica)	" "	Joseph Rippon, Esq.
ELISHA BAKER HOPKINS, Esq. (Jamaica)	" "	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
Messrs. MILLER & NEPHEW (Jamaica)	" "	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
Messrs. THOS. ABRAHAMS & Co. (Jamaica)	" "	Joseph Rippon, Esq.
Messrs. DELGADO BROS. (Jamaica)	" "	William Gillespie, Esq.
CHARLES C. PLUNKETT, Esq. (Jamaica)	" "	Joseph Rippon, Esq.
ALFRED NORRIS DIXON, Esq. (Jamaica)	" "	Joseph Rippon, Esq.
SAMUEL HART, Esq. (Jamaica)	" "	Joseph Rippon, Esq.
ALEXANDER L. W. M'EWAN (B. Guiana)	A. J. McConnell, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
JOHN BRICE, Esq. (B. Guiana)	A. J. McConnell, Esq.	F. V. McConnell, Esq.
W. GRESHAM NICHOLSON, Esq. (B. Guiana)	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
FREDERICK JOHN MORRIS, Esq. (B. Guiana)	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
A. SUMMERSON, Esq. (B. Guiana)	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
WILLIAM D. RIVIERE, Esq. (Dominica)	E. A. Agar, Esq.	E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq.
HON. TIMOTHY YEARWOOD (Barbados)	C. K. Gibbons, Esq.	T. Wm. Wilkinson, Esq.
LEON J. BERNSTEIN, Esq. (Trinidad)	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
THOMAS MURRAY, Esq., M.D. (Trinidad)	William Gillespie, Esq.	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.
WILLIAM WATSON CRAIB, Esq. (B. Guiana)	Henry K. Davson, Esq.	S. H. Curtis, Esq.
W.H.A. PARRATT, Esq., M.I.M.E. (B. Guiana)	A. J. McConnell, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
JOHN FARR, Esq. (New York)	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
Messrs. H. J. & W. L. KERR (Jamaica)	W. J. Harvey, Esq.	Edward G. Barr, Esq.
COLONEL BLAGROVE, C.B. (Jamaica)	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.
FREDERICK RUDOLF LEISTIKOW, Esq.	Hon. Arthur C. Ponsonby.	R. Rutherford, Esq.

New Uses for Sugar.

We have frequently called attention in the Circular to the dietetic value of pure cane sugars and cane molasses, and in this connection it is interesting to note that experiments with cane molasses for the cure of cancer are to be conducted at the Brompton and Middlesex Hospitals. It appears that in Queensland recently, a certain farmer named Braun, who was stated to be a sufferer from cancer, one day ate some raw molasses, with which he was feeding his horses, and, finding relief, continued the treatment, and was ultimately cured. He had been under the care of Dr. A. P. Henzell, the resident surgeon of the Mackay Hospital, and that gentleman was impressed by the case. A relatively small hospital like that in Mackay could not afford an adequate field for experiment, but Dr. Henzell seems to have been able to obtain results from the limited test he had applied to the treatment that rendered, in his opinion, further investigation desirable by the profession. In addition to the farmer, Braun, two cases seem to have been treated by Dr. Henzell. With regard to one patient named Conroy, Dr. Henzell is stated to have had no doubt that the man was a cancer sufferer. At the time the "molasses treatment" was applied, Conroy's condition was "almost without hope," and the man is now "cured." On a second case, that of a man named Millington, Dr. Henzell could not say, in the absence of operation, that the growth was true cancer, but from all the tests he applied he believed it to be cancer, and under the experimental treatment the growth was eradicated. Both were cases of stomachic growths. How the molasses are applied, and whether they differ from other molasses, is not stated.

A further use to which sugar has recently been put is in the preservation of timber. Much interest has been aroused by the announcement, as the result of a prolonged series of experiments, of a method of so treating timber as to secure, even from soft wood, a largely increased toughness and hardness. The process is described as one of vulcanising, comparable in some respects with Bessemer's process of converting iron into steel, and is the invention of Mr. Powell, a Liverpool merchant. The treatment to which the timber is subjected is, roughly speaking, that of saturation at boiling point with a solution of sugar, the water being afterwards evaporated at a high temperature. The result is to leave the pores and interstices of the wood filled in with solid matter, and the timber vulcanised, preserved, and seasoned. The nature of moderately soft wood, it is claimed, is in this way changed to a tough and hard substance, without brittleness, and also without any tendency to split or crack.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

At the Annual General Meeting of the above Company, held on Wednesday, April 29th last, Mr. Owen Philipps presiding, the Report and Accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1902, were adopted unanimously. The Chairman then moved a formal resolution approving of the supplemental charter, details of which were given in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 95, page 2, for which it was proposed to petition the King in Council. Sir James Ferguson seconded the motion, pointing out that it was the restrictions in their charter which had prevented the Company getting the Government contract for Jamaica. The resolution was unanimously agreed to. The retiring Directors, Mr. Owen Philipps and Mr. Spencer H. Curtis were then re-elected. Mr. Alfred S. Williams and Mr. W. C. Kenny were appointed to fill the vacancies on the Court of Directors. Mr. A. Richard Pennefather, C.B., one of the Auditors, was also re-appointed, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors closed the proceedings.

The Brussels Convention.

No date has, it appears, been decided upon as yet for the introduction into Parliament of the Bill to give effect to the engagements arising out of the Brussels Conference. Mr. Gerald Balfour, however, informed Mr. Gibson Bowles, on May 4th, that, though it would be introduced during the present Session, he could not name a date and could not state beforehand what form the Bill would take.

The Amount of the Bounties.

For purposes of record we append the amount of the Continental Sugar Bounties, as far as can be ascertained at present.

AUSTRIA.		FRANCE.		GERMANY.		BELGIUM.	HOLLAND.
Direct ...	£1 5 0	Direct ...	£1 7 8½	Direct ...	£1 5 0		
Cartel ...	3 14 2	Internal...	4 6 8	Cartel ...	3 15 0		
	<u>£4 19 2</u>		<u>£5 14 4½</u>		<u>£5 0 0</u>	<u>£1 18 3</u>	<u>£1 6 10½</u>
REFINED SUGAR.							
Direct ...	£1 16 2	—		Direct ...	£1 15 0		
Cartel ...	5 1 3	—		Cartel ...	4 2 3		
	<u>£6 17 5</u>				<u>£5 17 3</u>		

Fluctuations in the Price of Sugar.

The *International Sugar Journal*, for May, contains the following table, showing the highest and lowest annual price of 88% beet for the years 1882 to 1902. "As a great deal is said nowadays by the opponents of the Brussels Sugar Convention of the prospective rise in price consequent on the abolition of bounties, it is instructive to note what effect the bounties themselves have had, directly or indirectly, on the prices of sugar during the last 20 years."

	Highest.		Lowest.		Fluctuation.		Highest.		Lowest.		Fluctuation.	
	s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.	
1882 ...	23 6	...	19 10	...	3 8		1893 ...	18 11¼	...	12 3	...	6 8¼
1883 ...	21 6	...	19 1	...	2 5		1894 ...	13 2¼	...	8 6¾	...	4 7½
1884 ...	19 3	...	10 1	...	9 2		1895 ...	11 0	...	8 6	...	2 6
1885 ...	16 10	...	10 8	...	6 2		1896 ...	12 9	...	8 8½	...	4 0¾
1886 ...	15 10	...	10 6	...	5 4		1897 ...	9 9¾	...	8 3	...	1 6¾
1887 ...	16 3	...	10 5	...	5 10		1898 ...	10 2¼	...	8 11¾	...	1 2½
1888 ...	16 0	...	12 5	...	3 7		1899 ...	11 3½	...	8 11¾	...	2 3¾
1889 ...	26 11	...	11 6	...	15 5		1900 ...	12 4¼	...	9 0¼	...	3 4
1890 ...	14 3	...	11 6	...	2 9		1901 ...	9 7	...	6 6½	...	3 0½
1891 ...	14 10½	...	12 3¾	...	2 6¾		1902 ...	8 4¼	...	5 10¾	...	2 6¼
1892 ...	14 10½	...	12 6	...	2 4½							

The Trinidad Disturbances.

In the House of Commons, on May 6th, Mr. Chamberlain, in answer to a question put to him by Mr. Weir, M.P. (Ross and Cromarty) on the above subject, said: "The Port of Spain Waterworks Bill was not submitted to me before its introduction into the Legislature. Such a course in regard to a Bill of purely local interest would have been unusual and unnecessary. The statement that the Governor sought to impose this Bill on the people is not accurate; but the whole circumstances will form the subject of consideration by the Commission which is now sitting, and it would be improper to enter on any discussion of the matter pending their report. The number of deaths which have resulted from the riot of March 23, up to the 24th is 15. No information has been received as to the value of the public property destroyed." To Mr. MacNeill's (Donegal South) enquiry, whether the Governor of Trinidad was still acting as Governor, Mr. Chamberlain replied, "Certainly."

Testimonial to Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

THE "TESTIMONIAL TO SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK" Fund will be finally closed at the end of the current month.

The West Indian Mail.

The mail by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's S.S. "Para" did not reach Plymouth until Saturday, the 9th inst. at 2.25 p.m., the vessel having been delayed by a derangement in the machinery rendering it necessary to disconnect the intermediate engine. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's Mail Steamer "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, April 29th last.

Antigua.—(A. St. G. Spooner, Esq.), April 22nd. The weather had been unsettled and there had been an acceptable fall of rain on two days, varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in some parts to over 4 in others. The weather had since been windless and very warm. Molasses had risen to 20 cents per gallon, a price which made it more profitable to manufacture than Muscovado. The verdict of the Government regarding central factories was anxiously awaited. The onion crop was rather a poor one as regards yield; most of the onions went to New York, where so far, they sold at profitable rates, \$2 to \$2.50 per crate of about 54 lbs nett, being about the average price. The Cotton on the experimental plots was being picked, and was being ginned in a small hand gin imported by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose. The price offered locally for 89° muscovado sugar in bags was \$1.42 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne), April 23. No case of smallpox remained on Pelican Island or elsewhere in Barbados. The yellow flag was hauled down and clean bills of health were issued. The other islands were gradually relaxing their quarantine, and trade with them would soon become brisk again. The wind had been very light and fitful, so that windmills had not been able to make much headway. Great complaints were still being made of the yield in every direction. It had now become evident that the incessant falls of the hot dust had dried up the juice in the canes, for canes which looked good enough to yield 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Hhds. per acre were yielding next to nothing. It did not seem likely that the island crop would reach even 35,000 Hhds. The new Legislature had been called together. (The Governor's speech and the replies of the two Houses can be seen in the newspapers at the Committee Room, A.E.A.). Sir F. Hodgson proceeded to England with his family by the mail. The sugar market was still at a very low figure, considering the strength of statistics, it might be quoted locally at \$1.35 per 100 lbs. per Hhd., and \$1.60 per bags; very little had been sold as yet. Molasses was firm at 18c. The Cotton Committee was in full working order and was investigating the best site in Bridgetown for the erection of the new ginning machinery and baling process—an oil engine had already been purchased. The young canes were most luxuriant and full of promise.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), April 22nd. A case of small pox was noted in the Colony's Bill of Health and it was feared that quarantine would be enforced. The weather had been showery and favourable everywhere except in Essequibo where rain was badly wanted. Very little was being done in refining crystals and the price was quoted \$1.85. Mr. R. G. Duncan, Chairman of the Planters' Association, the Receiver General, and the Hon. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G. returned to England by the Mail, on furlough.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.), April 22nd. At the opening of the Legislative Council on April 7th, His Honour the Administrator, in his address referred to the steadily increasing prosperity of the island and briefly reviewed the work of the past year. The chief points of interest were the following:—A steadily increasing population due partly to natural causes, but largely to the reduction of the number of emigrants and increase in the number of immigrants. The trade of the island (exports and imports) the largest recorded, and taking the years 1892 and 1902, the exports of cacao had risen from £9700 to £29,000, and lime juice from £11,000 to £39,000. The Revenue without any increase in taxation was the largest on record and there was a surplus of over £5000. During the year telephonic communication had been established between Roseau and Portsmouth, besides being much extended in and about Roseau. A bridge had been erected over the Layou River. Existing roads had been much improved and a considerable section of the road into the interior completed. Various other improvements and additions to the Public Buildings and works had been carried out. The number of applicants for blocks of Crown Lands was double that of the previous year. His Honour also foreshadowed various schemes for the further development of the island to be considered this year. The weather of the past fortnight has been dry.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas) April 23rd. During the fortnight a few refreshing showers had fallen. Much cacao and spice had been shipped to New York during this crop.

Jamaica.—(J. I. Ashenheim, Esq.), April 22nd. A little rain had fallen, but far from the requisite quantity. There would in consequence only make half a crop. St. Mary was still suffering and the Pimento crop was said to have been damaged by the drought. The trees on the North side had not even blossomed as yet. The health of the island was good.

Montserrat.—(C. Watson, Esq.), April 22th. The weather during the past fortnight had been exceedingly hot and dry, and the canes in the low lying lands were suffering.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet. If it be true as we are told, that the British Government intends to allow all the Bounty Fed and Kartel manipulated stocks on the Continent to come into this country free of any countervailing duty after the 1st September next, when Bounties are abolished, then it is as well to see roughly what this Sugar will amount to and what it will cost our Colonies to compete for at least another six months with this state-aided industry of our neighbours. Short of an accident to the next beetroot crop, this may well reach an important amount. The following table shows approximately how this matter stands, leaving out Russia.

LICHT'S STOCKS, April 1st, 1903.		PROBABLE REQUIREMENTS to October 1st, 1903.	
Germany	910,000 Tons.	Germany	350,000 Tons.
Austria	470,000 ..	Austria	15,0000 ..
France	800,000 ..	France	250,000 ..
Holland and Belgium ...	230,000 ..	Holland and Belgium ...	100,000 ..
	2,410,000 ..		850,000 ..

This leaves 1,560,000 Tons available for other countries till the 1st October, when the next crop will be ready, and if England manages to take 700,000 tons of this, and other countries 110,000 tons, there remains a surplus of 750,000 tons, all England and Kartel Fed, that we alone shall have to deal with—and which is a full six months supply—since of a certainty India will not admit any of it on these unheard of terms—emanating as they do from a Government which prides itself on its business acumen. The situation is a serious one, and may as well be looked in the face. Serious for our Colonies, and serious for the growers of the next beetroot crop also. What an Official muddle! In the meantime prices of 88% remain about steady, being as follows: May, 8s. 4½d.; August, 8s. 7½d.; October/December, 9s. 1d.; and January to March, 9s. 2½d.; all free on board Hamburg.

	Comparative prices for 5 years:—				
	1903. 8s. 4½d.	1902. 6s. 5d.	1901. 9s. 5½d.	1900. 10s. 5½d.	1899. 10s. 11d.
The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows:—					
	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Europe	2,650,000	2,790,000	2,080,000	1,890,000	1,910,000 Tons.
United States	250,000	130,000	220,000	180,000	210,000 ..
Cuba	370,000	430,000	190,000	100,000	80,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	20,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	50,000 ..
Total	3,290,000	3,360,000	2,500,000	2,190,000	2,250,000

Crystallised Sugar.—Remains steady, with a fair business doing on the basis of 15s. for average qualities, whilst a cargo of 96% Grey Crystals is worth a full 9/6 on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Supplies wanted, and values 11s. to 13s. 6d.

Muscovado.—Grocery Barbados is worth 14s. to 14s. 6d., according to quality.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date	7000	18,000	21,000	15,000 Tons.
Deliveries	15,000	15,000	14,000	14,000 ..
Stocks	21,000	16,000	16,000	7000 ..
Rum. —Imports to date:—	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Jamaica	2400	2400	2900	1100 Puns.
Demerara	6500	10,800	10,900	7500 ..
Stocks in London:—	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Jamaica	9600	6800	7400	6300 Puns.
Demerara	9900	10,000	10,400	4600 ..
Total of all kinds:—	1903. 29,128	1902. 25,541	1901. 3587	Excess. Puns.

The Demerara Market is firm, and business has been done in fair marks at 9½, being an advance of 2d. from the recent lowest point. Jamaica also has had rather more doing on the basis of 1s. 6d. for fair standard marks of recent import. Cuba and other Foreign kinds should command 7d. to 10d. according to quality and package.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	84,000	72,000	88,000	96,000 Bags.

There is no fresh feature in this market. The tone is quiet but prices remain steady, viz.: Trinidad, fair collected 59s., Estate marks 59s. to 62s. and up to 67s.; Grenada, fair 55s., and fermented 56s. 59s.; Native Cocoa from other islands is worth 51s. 53s., and fermented 55s. to 58s. The crops in Guayaquil and St. Tomé appear to be again very large.

Coffee. Fairly Steady. Jamaica ordinary palish 30s., good ordinary greenish 37s. The Santos quotation for May is 25s. 3d. **Rafinees.**—Sales of West India, 62 to the lb. 2s. 4d., 73 at 1s. 5d., 86 at 1s. 1d., 96 at 11d., and smalls 8d. to 10d. **Mace.**—Business in West India, fair to good pale 2s. 1d., 2s. 4d., good reddish 1s. 11d., 2s. and broken 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d. **Ginger.**—Large Sales of Jamaica, fair to good bright 52s., 58s.; low middling to middling 46s. 6d. 49s. 6d.; ordinary to good ordinary 41s., 45s. **Pimento.**—Dull. The value of fair is about 2½. **Arrowroot.**—London Figures to May 1st.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	4468	6572	5859	12,954 Barrels.
Deliveries	5487	6076	5603	6082 ..
Stocks	11,205	8215	8356	9403 ..

The stocks show better by reason of the temporary reduced imports, but deliveries do not improve and there is more than enough here to last over the end of the year at the present rate of consumption, and that chiefly in manufacturers hands. Small wonder then that the market continues dull with a nominal quotation only of 2½ for fair manufacturing. We have not yet got over the excessive imports of 1900/1901, notably so in 1900 when they reached 5,353 Barrels, against a consumption of 19,842 Barrels, and again in 1902 when the figures were respectively 19,075 Barrels and 14,570 Barrels. **Cotton.**—Steady. The value of fair West India is 5½ to 5½.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

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15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.

Monday, May 25th, 1903.

Mr. Chamberlain's Great Speech.

By far the most important event of the past fortnight has been Mr. Chamberlain's address to his constituents at Birmingham, on May 15th. Below we give a summary, from which it would seem that at the next General Election, the sense of the country will be taken with regard to a policy of reciprocity with our Colonies. We think that there can be but little doubt, that the attention which Mr. Chamberlain has given to the Sugar Bounty question, as affecting our West Indian Colonies has opened his eyes to the glaring absurdity of allowing foreigners to make their own conditions upon our home markets, even to the exclusion of British Products and this view is confirmed by the remarks made by Mr. Balfour in his reply to a deputation regarding the Corn duty, which we give on page 6. It is enough to say that no country in the world but Great Britain, would have dreamt of allowing foreign goods to be received in their home market, on conditions rendered infinitely more favourable to them than those under which produce from their own Colonies is received. It was indeed high time that this absurdity was put an end to. The policy indicated will undoubtedly receive the most hearty support of our West Indian Colonies. Mr. Chamberlain in the course of his speech, after referring at some length to his experiences and impressions during his South African journey, said his ideas still ran more on the questions connected with the future of the Empire than on the smaller local controversies about education, temperance reform, and finance, which he found agitating the minds of the people in this country. Our Imperial policy was vital to our colonies, and vital to us. Upon that policy and upon what we did during the next few years depended the enormous issue whether this great Empire was to stand together, one free nation against the world, or to fall apart into separate States each selfishly seeking its own interest. Disputing the serious significance of recent by-elections, he declared that he should be glad to be relieved of the cares of office if he could be assured that the party which would take the place of the present Government had frankly abandoned that disastrous policy of Home Rule which would begin with the disruption of the United Kingdom and end with the disruption of the Empire. But that assurance was wanting. Was the unity between England and her Colonies to cease with the end of the war? The fact that if this country were in danger the whole resources of men and money of the colonies would be at her disposal was a wonderful achievement and worth almost any sacrifice. In reference to the trade preferences which our Colonies were prepared to give us, he held that the whole situation had changed since the days of Cobden and Bright. He could not believe that if they now lived they would hesitate to make a treaty of preference and reciprocity with our own children. The country ought not to bound by any technical definition of free trade, and should not hesitate to resort, if necessary, to retaliation wherever the interests between our Colonies and ourselves were threatened. (The full text of this great speech, so full of significance to the Empire, will be found in the *Times* of May 16th.)

The Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at the new Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., on Thursday, May 14th, at 3 p.m., Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Chairman, presiding. There were also present Mr. Henry K. Davson (the Deputy Chairman), Mr. S. H. Curtis, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. G. Barr, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. G. Carrington, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Hon. F. Watts, Mr. Wade, Mr. H. K. F. Smith, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, Mr. Geo. Hughes, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. W. W. Symington, J.P., Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. R. G. Duncan, Mr. C. T. Berthon, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting, the Chairman said: "Gentlemen, since our last meeting we have, I am sorry to say as usual, to lament the death of some of our old comrades. You will notice in the Report that we include Sir George Chambers. It is true that he was not actually a member at the time of his death, but he had been for so long actively associated with this Committee that we looked upon him as one of ourselves. As regards Sir George Chambers and Mr. Quintin Hogg, you will many of you remember that at one time they held a very large interest in the West Indies, and they did a great deal of useful work for the West Indies and for the West India Committee. We have also to lament the death of Mr. Alexander Garnett and Mr. H. A. Porter, who were both largely interested in Demerara, and we have also to regret the death of Mr. Alexander Porter. I very much fear that the terrible events which have occurred in St. Vincent must have hastened the death of Mr. Alexander Porter; I think few men have gone through such a series of calamities as he had to go through with regard to his estates.

THE GRATIFYING INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP.

"I think, you will be very much gratified to see a large increase in the membership. There was an increase of 57 in 1902, and already 91 in the first four months of this year. We all hope that our membership will still very largely increase. There are, undoubtedly, a great many gentlemen who derive benefit from our publications, our acts, and our proceedings who do not at present contribute, and it is very much to be hoped that they will do so in the future. The fact of our coming into these larger rooms will necessitate a considerable expenditure this year, and, therefore, it is most desirable that we should, as far as possible, increase our membership, and I hope you will all, as far as you can, do what you can to add to our members. Then I think it would be your wish that I should take this opportunity of thanking our honorary correspondents for the work they do for us in the colonies. The gentlemen who correspond with us are all gentlemen who are well acquainted with the affairs of the colonies which they represent, and we are very grateful to them for the interesting and useful information which they send to us. It is, of course, most desirable that we should be in very close touch with all the colonies to enable us to be of any practical use to them, and I think we have to be very thankful to our correspondents for the most useful information that they send to us by each mail. You will have seen, gentlemen, that there is a proposal to have a meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at Montreal this year. We are in hopes that one or two members of the West India Committee and possibly some of our honorary correspondents in the West Indies may be able to attend that meeting. Any gentlemen who are willing to go should notify the same to us as soon as possible, so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION AND SUGAR DUTIES.

"Then you will probably like to hear the last news, such as we have, of the Brussels Sugar Convention. I see this morning that the French government has appointed their representatives to

the Brussels Commission. The English representatives have already been appointed, as we were able to announce in our Circular, No. 95 ; so also have the Austrian representatives. It still remains for our Government to get an Act of Parliament to enable them to carry out the Convention, but when the Bill will be introduced I do not know. I rather gather that the Government is a little afraid that if it were introduced in the early days of the present Parliament some of the gentlemen in the House of Commons who like to prolong proceedings as much as possible might take advantage of it to cause delays with regard to other Acts, and, therefore, the Government would like to see some important questions that they have before Parliament disposed of before they bring in the Act dealing with the Brussels Convention. But I think we may take it for granted that before two months are out we shall see that Act passed. In connection with sugar there are one or two other questions which, I think, will have to take up the time and attention of the West India Committee. As you all know, in consequence of the very low price of rum, we have been endeavouring to find some other means of getting rid of our molasses, and two means have occurred to us. One is by making a concentrated molasses, for which we find there would be a considerable demand from the traders if we can only get over the difficulties of keeping the ash low enough and getting the analysis such as they wish. I think those difficulties can be got over, but there is a third difficulty, which is in regard to question of duty. If sugar is brought to this country, as long as it does not contain more than 76 per cent. of crystallizable sugar, it only pays a two shilling duty. Now if the sugar contains 76 per cent. of crystallizable sugar it would almost certainly contain 4 per cent., if not more, of glucose, therefore you may say sugar is admitted into this country up to 80 per cent. of both sugars it bears a tax of two shillings. But if that sugar comes in the form of molasses, if both sugars exceed 70 per cent. it then pays two shillings and ninepence. Now one can see no possible reason why molasses should pay ninepence more than sugar which is so much richer. I think that is a point which will have to be represented to the Government, because I think that ninepence might be quite sufficient to put an end to the trade which I think promises, and promises fairly, to be a trade of some importance. The other question is that of cattle foods.

THE DUTY ON CATTLE FOODS.

"Some of you have been making what is called molascuit ; others have been making other forms of cattle food with their molasses, and here again we find ourselves met with a tax of one pound a ton. Now one pound a ton on a value of four pounds or five pounds, which is about the value of these cattle foods at present, is a very heavy charge indeed, and I do not think that the Government would lose any appreciable amount by removing that tax altogether. It is never likely to be of a very large amount ; even if it were one hundred thousand tons, it would only mean £100,000 to the Government, which, with the £6,000,000 that they are getting from the sugar duties, would be a very small matter. I therefore think that it would be very desirable that we should take an early opportunity of applying to the Government in regard to both of these matters, to endeavour to get the reduction of the duty in the one case and the removal of the duty in the other. It is quite possible that this cattle food may become a large question if it is not hampered by this duty, and I think you will agree with me that anything which would enable us to get rid of the quantity of rum which we have turned out is of great importance. The market here will only take a certain quantity of rum, and it does not matter one iota how much the price of rum is reduced, the duty is so high that only a certain quantity will be consumed. Even if we gave away the rum for nothing, it probably would not lead to the consumption of another gallon. As we cannot sell more than a certain quantity, it is most desirable that we should find some other means of getting rid of our molasses.

THE GOOD WORK OF DR. MORRIS, C.M.G.

" Now I must say a word about the Imperial Department of Agriculture. I think we all agree that Dr. Morris and those under him are doing most excellent work in the West Indies as regards the seedling canes. Though perhaps we have not quite arrived at what we expected to, when these seedling experiments were first undertaken, but we have undoubtedly arrived at something which is of very considerable advantage to us. It seems to be beyond doubt now, that we can grow very fine crops of seedling canes. I do not know whether Mr. Duncan, who I am glad to see present, can confirm that. That is the result of our experience, and I think it is also clear that there is more vitality about a seedling cane than about a Bourbon, and where the seasons are not very favourable the seedling cane will stand it better than the Bourbon cane. Those are two very great advantages attaching to the seedling, which I may say were not possibly anticipated at the time the seedling experiments were started, but we may be well satisfied that we have gained considerably in those two ways. But the Imperial Department of Agriculture has not been satisfied with merely making experiments with seedling canes. They have been dealing with a great number of other things. I notice from the latest publications, that they are now making experiments in the growth of cotton; that they are almost beyond the experimental stage in regard to the growth of onions, which is becoming an appreciable crop in some of the islands; that honey has received their attention; and, as you all know, cattle diseases, the diseases of poultry, the diseases of cocoa, the diseases of sugar cane, and the diseases of all the crops generally have been receiving most careful attention. It is therefore quite clear that the Department is doing most excellent work in the West Indies, and I think, as I have said once before, that perhaps the work that will be of most use and importance to the West Indies is the work of education which is practically being carried on by them. I do not mean alone the education that they are providing at the schools, but the education of the people by calling their attention to all these different diseases of their crops and the proper manner to grow them. I feel sure therefore, that it would be quite your wish that we should heartily thank Dr. Morris and those under him for what they are doing in the West Indies. (Hear, hear!) Already we see signs of good result.

THE FRUIT INDUSTRY.

" Then I must allude to the fruit industry. That is becoming, or at least it has become for some years a very large industry in Jamaica. It seems to have a tendency to spread. It seems to me very clear that, as regards the consumption of bananas, there is no limit whatever to it, for the whole of the West Indies might grow bananas without the slightest fear, I think, of flooding either the market here or the market in the United States. I notice Mr. Symington is trying to introduce and stimulate the cultivation of fruit in some of the smaller islands, and, of course, anyone who endeavours to increase the crops in any way of any kind of produce in the West Indies will always receive our best sympathy and support.

RESTRICTIONS ON TURTLE FISHING.

" I have been asked just to allude to the restrictions which have been placed by the Nicaraguan Government on the turtle fishery in the Cayman Islands. Some of our members are interested in the turtle fishery, and we may have to take that matter up. The Nicaraguan Government has, it appears, imposed restrictions of such an onerous nature as to threaten the extinction of this valuable industry. We shall have to look into that question, and it may be we shall have to make some representations to our Government in regard to it.

CENTRAL FACTORIES.

“Then there is another point that is of great interest to those gentlemen connected with Antigua. For some time past there has been a talk, and there have been attempts made, to try and introduce the central factory system into Antigua. At the present moment it seems likely that something may be done. The Government has consented to assist in the erection of a pioneer central factory in Antigua to the extent of £15,000, provided certain conditions are carried out. The Governor has invited tenders for factories to make from 2500 to 3000 tons of sugar, I understand, and already there are two competing tenders in the market. Mr. Francis Watts, of Antigua, who is well known, I think, to most of you, is over in this country at the present moment—I am very glad to see that Mr. Watts is here—with the view of attending to this matter, and it does seem likely that at last something will come of it. I am sure we all wish him every possible success, and if the West India Committee can assist in any way I am sure we shall be very happy to do so. (Hear, hear!)

GREATER CO-OPERATION ESSENTIAL.

“I do not think there are any other matters to which I need allude. I think you will all agree with me, that it is most desirable in the interests of the West Indies, that we should all co-operate as far as possible. The West Indies for too long a time have been too much of a bundle of sticks, and that if we could get it into the shape of a faggot they would be stronger, and they would speak with great authority. (Hear, hear!) Much in that direction has already been done by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, but I think we must not lose sight of the fact that if we all co-operate and pull together, we can do a great deal more than if we all work independently and separately and possibly antagonistically to one another. It only now remains for me to move the adoption of the report and accounts.”

The motion was then seconded, Mr. Henry K. Davson, (Vice-Chairman), put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The following gentlemen was then unanimously re-elected Members of the Executive Committee: Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. F. McConnell, Colonel F. C. Trollope, Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., Mr. George Carrington, Mr. W. H. Alty, Mr. Edward G. Barr, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, and Mr. E. A. de Pass.

A VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman having proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary which was duly carried, Mr. Henry K. Davson, rose and said, “There is another vote of thanks that we will have to pass before we separate, and that is a vote of thanks to our respected Chairman for his indefatigable industry in looking after the interests of the West Indies generally. (Hear, hear!) It has been my privilege to propose this before, and I can add no more to what I have said on previous occasions, and that is that nothing escapes the attention of our Chairman in connection with the West Indies. We are indebted to him most of all for the energy and activity that he has devoted to the abolition of the bounties. He has told us to-day that he trusts that these bounties will be abolished, in fact the resolution passed in the last session of the House of Commons, shows that they are abolished, and it only remains for the Act, giving authority to the customs to levy the countervailing duties to be passed. Well surely there will be no hitch in that, and as soon as it is passed we shall have a fair field to go on. There is only one thing in connection with this that we have to regret. It is reported that the sugars which have been husbanded by foreign countries under the bounties, will be allowed to come here free. The effect of that will be that the abolition of the bounties will not in reality take place for six months after September, the month in which they were promised to be abolished. I don't know if it is in our

power to do anything to prevent that being done, but it seems to me to be a great injustice after the conference abolishing the bounties, that bounty-fed sugar should still be allowed to come in. But I must again refer to what I got up to say, and that is, that our thanks are due to the Chairman for all that he has done for us, not only for the past twelve months, but for all the time he has sat in the chair." Mr. Edward G. Barr, "It has been my privilege on many previous occasions to second the vote of thanks to our worthy Chairman, and I do so on this occasion with unusual gratification, inasmuch as all our previous anticipations as to the efforts of our Chairman have been, if I may say so, exceeded during the year just closed. I have, therefore, much pleasure in wishing him a long life." Mr. Davson then put the motion to the meeting and it was carried unanimously. The Chairman, "Mr. Davson, Mr. Barr and gentlemen, I am very much obliged to you for your kind vote of thanks. I can only say it is always a pleasure to me to do anything I can for the West Indies. Perhaps I might just make one remark in allusion to the point Mr. Davson raised regarding the Convention. I have looked through it rather carefully, and the impression I have derived is this, that provided the bounties are given upon the sugar that may be in stock previous to the 1st of September, no penalty would attach to those sugars, but if the bounties should be given on that sugar subsequently to the 1st September, it seems to me a very moot point whether those sugars would not be liable to a penalty. The words of the Convention are rather curious; the penalty does not apply to sugars which have received the bounty, but the penalty applies to sugars which come from countries which give bounties therefrom. If after the 1st September, let us say, Austria gives bounties on the export of her sugar it seems to me to be abundantly clear that it might be very fairly contended, that Austria would come under the denomination of a country which grants bounties, and if that is so I think that then her sugar would be liable to the penalty. There is another rather important question that is sure to come before the Commission at Brussels, and that is the question of cartel bounty. I dare say many of you know that Austria has passed a law, under which she had made practically a government cartel in Austria. The question is whether that brings her under the penal clause or not. My own impression very decidedly is that it does. You are aware that under the Convention, each country is allowed a surtax of Fcs. 6. per 100 kilos, that is practically 2/6 per cwt. Any private arrangement under which a cartel was formed could probably not be taken any notice of by the Commission in Brussels, but directly the government interferes and passes a law under which a cartel is brought about, it seems to me that that brings them under what is described as "legislation which results in a bounty," and any country which by its legislation grants a bounty directly or indirectly brings its sugar under the penalising clause, so that for my own part I feel very clear that the Austrian cartel does bring their sugar under the penal clause of the Commission. I think those are the only two points at present, that have cropped up under the Brussels Convention, and no doubt they will be dealt with by the Commission when it meets, and I fancy it will meet very shortly. I have only once more to thank you all for your kind vote of thanks. Gentlemen, that closes our business."

The meeting then terminated.

Mr. Balfour and Bounties.

In the course of his reply to a deputation of Members of Parliament and various agricultural and other associations opposing the repeal of the Corn Duty on the 15th inst., Mr. Balfour, dealing with the question of protection and free trade, made some remarks of deep interest to West Indians regarding the modern system of tariffs, which, taken in connection with combinations, might, he said, do for other great industries what it threatened to do for the West Indian sugar industry. "What happened with respect to the West Indies was this—that the Continental manufacturer, protected in

his own market by extravagant duties, was able at his own pleasure, while not interfering with his own profit, to use his surplus product to render the sugar market so uncertain that it was impossible for the West India manufacturer, with any security for himself, to buy the most modern machinery, to adopt the most recent inventions, and to put himself what is called abreast of the times. We have, I hope, put an end to that by the Sugar Convention. Supposing it had been the iron and steel industry—suppose some foreign country had used our iron and steel industry as the Continental sugar manufacturer used the West Indian manufacturer, I do not believe that the people of this country would have stood it. And should such an event occur, then I can conceive some great fiscal change being forced upon us. It would be war—fiscal war—it would have all the inconveniences of war, the cost and the bitterness of war. But material war is sometimes necessary; and it may be, but I hope it will not be, that fiscal war may prove in the history of this country, some day or other, to be necessary also. When that day comes, and if any change of this kind is required by the people of this country, then it will be put on a secure basis, which it cannot have at present.”

The Brussels Convention.

Replying to Mr. Gibson Bowles, in the House of Commons on the 20th inst., Mr. Balfour said that he was not in a position to give a date for the introduction of the Bill to enable the Brussels Sugar Convention to be carried into effect. As far as he could form an estimate in the matter, it would not be necessary to introduce a Bill into a Committee of the whole House to obtain the assent of the House to the expenditure to be borne by this country for the organisation and working of the permanent Bureau and the permanent Commission at Brussels. If, and when, any financial charge should come upon the taxpayer, it would, of course, be dealt with in the ordinary way in the Estimates.

The Fruit Export Industry.

The proposals of Mr. W. Weldon Symington for developing the fruit industry of the Windward Islands and Dominica to which reference was made in *West India Committee Circular*, No. 92, are now assuming a more definite shape. The Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have promised to provide a regular system of exportation at moderate freight rates and to adapt certain of their ships so that the fruit shall reach the market in a marketable condition. They have also indicated their willingness to take up shares in a Company which is being formed to develop the scheme. Messrs. Cadbury and Rowntree are exhibiting a similar practical sympathy. It is proposed to establish the Company as far as possible upon a co-operative basis; £2000 out of the first £5000 required will be offered to the Islanders, and in order that small holders, as well as large, may be associated with the movement, the Company will offer to take up the amount of their meditated investment in fruit. We learn that Mr. Symington is leaving for the West Indies by the Mail on Wednesday next, to complete his arrangements.

The Quarantine Regulations.

It is pleasing to find from the letters of our Correspondents that the action we have taken with regard to the anomalous quarantine regulations in the West Indies has met with such unanimous approval. Following up the letter of the West India Committee of March 27th (see Circular No. 93, page 3), the West Indian Trade Section, Liverpool, wrote to Mr. Chamberlain on April 16th, urging the formation of a Joint Quarantine Board for the West Indies. Mr. Chamberlain in reply said that while he did not consider that the Colonial Governments and Legislatures would

be likely to entertain the question of amending and modifying their various regulations so long as the present epidemic continued, he would at the earliest suitable opportunity take steps with a view to securing, if possible, united action and greater uniformity. It will be noted that the substance of Mr. Chamberlain's reply is similar to that given to the West India Committee on April 9th (see Circular 95, page 1), and with the epidemic now appreciably on the decline, we may look forward with some confidence to some action being taken in the direction indicated.

The position in which Barbados found herself when the epidemic—now happily stamped out—prevailed there, was most ably depicted in an article which appeared in the *Times* of April 14th, from the pen of a correspondent in Barbados. As an instance of the Gilbertian state of affairs now existing we may cite the case of St. Kitts. When the mail left on April 22nd, the most rigid prohibition of all intercourse with Barbados was being enforced, though that Island was issuing clean Bills of Health, and not even sporadic cases of smallpox had occurred there for some time past, while against Trinidad, a very loose quarantine was being imposed. In Demerara and Grenada cases of infectious disease prevailed, but against these places no precautions whatever were being taken. Further confusion had arisen by the issuing of an opinion by the local legal adviser of the Government that, although the local Quarantine Board might have every reason to believe that a vessel arriving came from and had had free contact with "an infected place," the Board had no power to impose quarantine except the Governor-in-chief, resident in Antigua, had first declared officially that such place was "an infected place." It is worth recording that in 1888 a conference of the Colonies, assembled in Demerara and endeavoured to work out a uniform quarantine code, but the attempt then failed.

Steam Ploughing in British Guiana.

Sir James Swettenham, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Guiana, has submitted to Mr. Chamberlain a report on the introduction of steam ploughing on the Vergenoegen Sugar Estate on the west sea coast of Demerara. The credit of this valuable innovation is due to the ingenuity and enterprise of Mr. E. C. Hamley, of the British Guiana Bank, the temporary owners of the Estate, and the Manager, Mr. J. Moir. The Estate has existed from Dutch times and possesses all the canal water ways, both for drainage and fresh water, usual in the Colony. The soil is rather a stiff clay, mixed with sand. The sugar cane is grown on large plant beds, shaped very convexly, in order to secure immediate drainage: between each bed and its neighbour is an open field drain about twelve inches wide at the bottom with sloping sides, the bottom being fully three feet below the summit level of the bed. The canes are planted in rows about three feet apart in lines across these beds. The obstacle to introducing steam ploughing has always been the transport of the plough across these open drains, and many years ago an estate was furnished with covered tile drains, in order that the passage of a steam plough might be facilitated: but the scheme failed because the drains silted up and became useless from the very flat nature of the land and the fineness of the soil which choked them. At Vergenoegen no attempt has been made to fill up the drains.

An ordinary iron estate boat, locally called a punt, is firmly anchored in one canal bordering on the group of plant beds which it is sought to plough: another punt is anchored directly opposite on the next canal, so as to have the group between the two canals. In each punt is placed an ordinary steam engine capable of working up to twenty horse power. This engine is fitted with a winding apparatus furnished with a very strong wire rope. This rope is carried across the area about to be ploughed, and attached to a very large plough. The engine then starts winding the rope and continues until the plough is brought close to the canal: the plough (which is guided by an athletic

negro) is then turned and attached to a rope from the opposite punt which winds it back again along the next furrow. The ditches and drains are crossed with singular ease as the rope is so taut that the plough never falls into them. The little earth that is thrown into the drains by making the furrow, is very quickly and easily thrown out again by manual labour.

The management have not yet secured a perfectly satisfactory plough, but the experiment has gone quite far enough to show how practicable steam ploughing may be made in the sugar estates of the Colony.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

During the past month we have received the following publications of the IMPERIAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; copies of which we shall be glad to forward to members upon receipt of a remittance to cover cost of postage:—*Agricultural News*, Vol II, Nos. 27 and 28, 1d. per copy. The interest of this fortnightly publication is well maintained, and No. 27 deals with "The Onion Industry," "Cane Experiments in British Guiana," "The Proposed Central Factory in Antigua," and other matters of permanent interest to planters generally. No. 28 has a leading article on "Hybrid Sugar Canes," "Cane Experiments in the Leeward Islands," etc. The *West Indian Bulletin*, Vol IV, No. 1, price 6d., contains the following articles: "Diseases of Logwood," Cocoa-nut, Cassava, etc., at Jamaica," "Methods of Corn Breeding," "Notes on Recent Work on Vegetable Ferments," "Cotton Growing in the West Indies," "Cotton Seed Industry in the United States of America," "The Root-borer of Sugar-cane," "Disease-Resisting Varieties of Plants," "Sugar-cane Experiments at British Guiana," "Hybridization of the Sugar-cane," "Bud Variation in the Sugar-cane," "Cassava from Colombia," "Cultivation and Preparation of Ginger," "Gambier in the West Indies," "Agricultural Progress at Bermuda," and "Notes on Fall of Volcanic Dust at Barbados, March 22nd, 1903." The last article contains some careful observations and measurements of the fall by the Rev. N. B. Watson, Dr. J. W. Spencer, M.A., F.G.S., Dr. D. Morris, C.M.G., Mr. J. R. Bovell, and Mr. W. G. Freeman, and Mr. E. Gillman. It also contains chemical and mechanical analyses by Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, M.A., F.I.C., F.L.S., and a mineralogical analysis by Dr. Longfield Smith. Since the publication of this paper, Mr. H. Millen, the Curator of the Botanic Station, Tobago, has forwarded a sample of dust collected in the southern part of that island. *Scale Insects of the Lesser Antilles* Part 2 (Pamphlet Series No. 22, price 4d). This is a pamphlet which, with Part I., forms a valuable contribution to science, as also to practical agriculture in the West Indies. Spraying machines and insecticides must now be included as an essential part of the equipment on all cultivated areas in the West Indies, especially if cacao, oranges, limes, pine-apples, mangoes, Liberian coffee, and other crops are proposed to be grown successfully on a large scale. Small spraying machines might also be advantageously used for treating palms in pots, rose bushes, crotons, ferns, and collections of other decorative plants.

West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The 52nd ordinary general meeting of the above Company was held on May 20th. Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, who presided, stated that, so far as the Company were concerned, the half-year under review, to December 31st last, was very uneventful. The receipts for the six months amounted to £31,062, showing an increase on those of the corresponding period of the previous year of £5819, owing partly to an improvement in the normal traffic and to exceptional traffic arising out of the late troubles in Venezuela. The expenses had been £20,679, or £842 more, of which £629 was owing to the increased cost of repairing cables. They had recovered from the Bank of Martinique £105, being part of the cash balance which was on deposit there at the time of the destruction of St. Pierre. During

the half-year the cost of repairing the cable amounted to £7674, and, in addition, 70 knots of new cable were laid in the system at a cost of £7176, which had been charged against reserve. This outlay was caused by their having to renew a portion of the St. Lucia-Grenada and the St. Lucia-St. Vincent cables, which were interrupted by the violent eruptions last May. Having a little larger balance to deal with, the directors had thought that it was only right to recommend the payment of 8s. a share on account of the arrears on the first preference shares. The shareholders would remember the narrow escape which the Company's repairing vessel, the "Newington," experienced last September while attempting to repair the cable near St. Vincent. Since then several violent eruptions had occurred, some of them quite recently. In these circumstances the directors felt that it would be ill-advised to expose the vessel a second time to the risk of disaster, and he feared that the repair of the cables must be postponed until a favourable opportunity arose for carrying out the work. It was just a year since they lost the "Grappler." Their new ship had now arrived in the Thames and was lying off Woolwich. Their colleague, Mr. Holmes, had shown the most active interest throughout in regard to the new vessel, which, out of respect to him, had been named the "Henry Holmes." On the following day she takes on board 250 knots of deep-sea cable for stock, and the directors hoped that she would be ready to start for the West Indies in about a fortnight. The Brussels Sugar Convention had now been ratified, and it was expected to come into effect next September. Those who were connected with the West Indian sugar interests expected that substantial benefits would result from the Convention, and as a Company they could not but hope that that expectation might be fully and speedily realized. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and the payment of the arrears of dividend mentioned. Mr. W. S. Andrews seconded the motion. The manager and secretary (Mr. R. T. Brown), in answer to a question, stated that the amount owing on the first preference shares was £6912, and on the second preference shares £7003. The Chairman, in reply to Mr. Church, stated that the cost of the new ship, with the cable machinery, would be about £34,000, part of which would be met by the insurance money on the "Grappler," and the balance would be taken from the reserve fund. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Notes.

THE "TESTIMONIAL TO SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK" Fund will be finally closed at the end of the present month.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have been invited to nominate Delegates to attend the meetings of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, to be held at Montreal on the 17th to 29th August next.

THE IMPORTATION OF SACCHARIN, except in small quantities for medicinal use, has been prohibited by the following European countries;—Spain, Italy, Portugal, France, Austria-Hungary, Greece, and Russia.

AT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE Committee, on April 30th, Mr. John Farr was unanimously appointed our Honorary Correspondent in New York. It is proposed shortly to appoint correspondents in Canada.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOM is now ready for the reception of Members who will find there the current West Indian newspapers, and other publications of interest, filed for their convenience.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR FREDERIC HODGSON, K.C.M.G., Governor of Barbados, who is at present home on leave, has accepted an invitation to dine with the Members of the West Indian

Club on Thursday, May 28th. The Chair upon this occasion will be taken by Sir James S. Hay, K.C.M.G., Ex-Governor of Barbados and a Vice-President of the Club.

THE BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION'S Members were entertained at luncheon in Liverpool by Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., on the 18th inst. A meeting was subsequently held, during the progress of which a sample of Sea Island cotton from Montserrat, W.I., was shown and greatly admired for its length of staple and general character, and was regarded as proving that excellent cotton of this valuable kind can be produced in the West Indies. Mr. Francis Watts, of Antigua, was present at the meeting.

WE HAVE WITH DEEP REGRET to record the death of the Rev. Canon Loraine Estridge, which took place on May 11th, at Littlehampton, from a fracture of the skull caused by his bicycle coming into collision with a barrow. Mr. Estridge, who was 62 years old, was a master at Repton from 1863 to 1868 when he joined the staff of Malvern College, remaining there until 1878, when he was ordained. He was subsequently Vicar of Lodsworth, near Petworth, and in 1885, Bursledon, Hants. In 1896 the Bishop of Truro made him Rector of the Cathedral parish of Truro, and Honorary Canon of St. Meriadoc. In 1897 he accepted the Vicarage of Mathon, near Gt. Malvern. The deceased Canon owned estates in Antigua.

The West Indian Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco" reached Plymouth on Wednesday, May 20th at 8.45 p.m., and the Mails were delivered by first post on the following morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's S.S. "Port Morant" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, May 13th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

Antigua.—(A. St. G. Spooner, Esq.), May 5th. The weather continued very dry indeed, excellent for crop operations but quite the reverse for the young canes. In St. John's the rain-fall for the year to April 27th was only 3.59 inches. The juice continued of excellent quality, having generally a sucrose polarisation of 1.95 to 2.2 lbs. sucrose per gallon throughout the Island, and an exceptionally high coefficient of purity. Under these conditions, and with the present weather, sugar-making presented few difficulties even on badly equipped estates, and the quantity of molasses made was small. The price of this latter article had advanced to 22 cents per gallon, puncheon included. The local quotation for 89% Muscovado was 1.47½ per 100 lbs. Shipments of Onions had almost ceased; the shippers seemed fairly satisfied with the results obtained, although the crop was not as heavy as last year. Seedling canes appeared to be coming more in favour, and the acreage in them was certainly increasing. B208, B308 and others had done very well on the estates. The Imperial Department of Agriculture was ginning the cotton experiment lots, and the quality looked good.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne), May 7th. The heat had been very great during the past fortnight, and there had been very little wind. Progress on windmill estates had therefore been very slow. Some estates, however, had already closed crop at very small figures. The yield did not improve, as the canes, for the reasons before stated, were sadly dry. Nice showers had fallen in many places, and even the old canes kept green. The young canes continued healthy and luxuriant. The price of sugar was most disappointing, it was quoted in the local market at \$1.25 per 100 lbs in Hhds. It was extraordinary how it defied all prophecies and statistics: with one of the shortest crops ever made in prospect, the outlook was far from cheering. Molasses continued at 18c., but the sugar was not giving its usual proportions, and the output was small.

Much gratitude was felt in Barbados to Sir Nevile Lubbock for his increasing efforts to relieve the West Indies from the incubus of the bounties. Had the Government of the day listened to him years ago, there would have been no necessity for either loans or doles. Now the mischief had gone so far that the strain would continue for some time to be very great.

Two hundred more men of the Lancashire Fusiliers had, at the request of Sir Alfred Moloney, been despatched from Barbados to Trinidad. Canon Bindley, the Principal of Codrington College, and his family were returning to England by the Mail.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.) May 6th. No further correspondence had passed into the Government with respect to the interest on the balance at the credit of the Immigration Fund, but it was understood that the Government would now allow interest. Heavy rains had fallen in Berbice and Demerara during the fortnight; in some places the fall had been too heavy. Some 2000 tons of refining crystals had been sold during the fortnight. \$1.92 had been paid for the same for Montreal but that price could not still be obtained. Mr. Ashmore, the Government Secretary, was leaving by the Mail for a month's holiday. Mr. E. M. Sanderson who had lately retired from the management of the Colonial Bank, was also a passenger by the Mail.—Mr. Sanderson was succeeded by Mr. G. Perch. The number of cases of "Eruptive Fever" according to the official statement for the week-ending May 2nd was 212. The Bill of Health issued for the Port was that "Smallpox and district Chicken Pox prevails at present in the Colony." The death was announced on May 4th of Mr. J. A. Polbury, M.A., Principal of Queen's College.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) May 7th. The Hon. S. R. Pemberton, lately acting Second Puisne Judge, had been appointed Assistant Attorney General for the Island. During the fortnight His Excellency the Governor and Lady Strickland paid a short visit to Dominica for the first time. The weather had been very dry.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas) May 7th. Unfortunately the Eruptive Fever had made its appearance in St. George, but there were only three cases and these have been promptly isolated. At date the Island had shipped more cocoa by 5000 bags than it did at the corresponding period of 1902. In 1902, however, the May and June pickings were heavy, whereas at present the cocoa fields were very bare of pods. Some considerable showers have fallen during the month and the island was beginning to look fresh and green again. Records showed that a rainy May meant an early and a good crop. Planters had therefore welcomed the rain, especially in St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's where an unusually long spell of dry weather had been experienced.

Jamaica.—(Direct West India Cable Co., cabled to Halifax and posted thence) May 9th. A terrific thunderstorm burst over the island on the afternoon of this date. It was accompanied by a very heavy fall of rain, which made it appear that the May seasons were coming. The erection of a first class hotel at Spring Hill, Montego Bay, was suggested. During last season it was computed that 9000 tourists passed through Jamaica, and the financial gain to the Colony was estimated at £100,000. The exports for the year ended March 31st, showed a remarkable expansion. The largest increase of exports was to the United States.

Nevis.—(From a Correspondent) May 4th. Much dissatisfaction was felt at the difficulty experienced in shipping the sugar crop owing to the failure of a sufficient number of the subsidized Canadian steamers to call. St. Kitts and Nevis were supposed to be one Presidency. Politically Nevis was an outlying district of St. Kitts, yet St. Kitts got the full benefit of the subsidy to the Canadian steamers while Nevis was shut out in the cold.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd) May 4th. A long spell of dry weather had been experienced, and within the past few days it had been found necessary to limit the water supply in Basseterre (although over the writer's district nice rains had fallen during the past week—an inch and 30 parts were registered at Buckleys on April 29th and 30th). This drought was undoubtedly due to the indiscriminate destruction of forest which formerly conserved the water in the mountain streams which was the source of water supply. For many years there had been talks of Forestry law, but it was a matter for regret that nothing of a practical nature had been attempted. The crops were progressing smoothly and sugar manufacture was giving satisfaction, the sugar being of splendid quality.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) May 8th. The weather was extremely hot, and further trouble from the Soufriere was expected.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.) May 8th. The Commission of Enquiry into the riots was proceeding slowly, and was likely to last another two or three weeks. (The Official Report of the first days proceedings of the Riot Commission was received by mail, and can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms.—A.E.A.) The weather had been dry and hot all the fortnight and shows no signs of breaking. Cocoa picking was practically over for the season. The Usine St. Madeleine and some other sugar factories would finish grinding within a week. Some made late starts and required two or three weeks more.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) May 12th. "Slow reaping weather." **British Guiana.**—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) May 13th., "Too much rain for present requirements, more sunshine wanted." May 22nd. "Weather still too heavy for cultivation, but we have had a few fine days lately." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) May 23rd. "Heavy rain continues, finer weather wanted." **Trinidad.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) May 18th. "Weather too dry." (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) May 22nd., "Wet season fairly set in."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Barbados—								
Jan. 1 to May 7, 1903	7533	—	—	—	—	13,033	—	—
" " 7, 1902	13,789	—	—	—	—	19,163	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to May 5, 1903	33,961	21,030	—	9319	4532	2098	23,550	2121
" " 5, 1902	33,796	26,656	—	11,475	642	645	31,258	4989
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
Apr. 1 to Apr. 11, 1903	551	224	1024	123,029	1,000,950	483	Bunches.	67,100
" " 11, 1902	1434	553	7309	123,243	994,600	547	527,503	1,217,450
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to May 7, 1903	257,250	19,479,680	34,800	46	5,288,387	Puns. 1306	Trcs. 85	Brls. 51
" " 7, 1902	304,346	16,416,220	19,520	244	4,638,524	1572	111	50

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," May 20th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. A. Hill, Captain Thorne, Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland, Miss G. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. R. Arthur, Mrs. V. Hanchell, Canon and Mrs. Bindley, Mr. F. B. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Bowen, Mrs. and Miss G. A. McKinstry, Miss M. Sanderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Connell, Mr. G. A. Larsen, Master Bowen, Lieutenant Braithwaite. **Demerara.**—Major G. A. Porter, Mr. R. C. Porter, Mr. C. Clarkson, Mr. R. A. Barclay, Mr. H. Gurney, Mr. W. W. Craik, Hon. and Mrs. A. Ashmore, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Twain, Miss Sanderson, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Sanderson, Mr. E. Lovelock, Master Evans, Mr. T. Garnett, Mr. F. Reynolds, Mrs. MacAdams, Mr. D. J. Dias, Mr. L. Brunschweig. **Jamaica.**—Dr. R. C. Verley, Mr. and Miss Stenhouse, Mrs. Macglashen, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Dawson, Mr. E. Greig, Mr. E. Clarke, Dr. and Mrs. Isaacs, Mrs. D. Trench, Mrs. H. A. Kemp, Miss Audain, Mrs. Langmaid, Mr. W. D. Nathan, Miss Hoare, Miss Temple, Mr. R. Gillard, Lieutenant J. L. Jones, Mr. H. Buckley, Mr. E. C. Hossack, Mrs. C. Andrews, Mr. G. Cossares. **Trinidad.**—Rev. and Mrs. J. Manna, Mr. A. H. Zimmern, Mr. H. B. Leggatt, Mrs. J. Taitt, Hon. T. Henderson, Commander and Mrs. W. H. Coombs, Mrs. J. Wilson, Miss A. Lamont, Mr. and Mrs. G. Francois, Mr. L. Bernstein, Mr. N. Lamont, Mr. W. M. Russell, Lieutenant C. B. Lecky, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Figuiella, Miss A. Ziliani, Mr. G. Ferrari. **Antigua.**—Mr. G. W. Smith, Mrs. J. B. Smith, Mrs. T. Fisher, Mrs. Danavall, Miss Malden. **Grenada.**—Lady and 2 Misses Llewelyn. **St. Lucia.**—Masters Fergusson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Duval, Mr. J. Girard, Hon. G. T. and Mr. G. M. Plummer.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," May, 27th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mrs. E. Griffith, Mr. J. C. Shannon, Miss J. Ternan. **Demerara.**—Dr. T. C. Evans, Mr. J. Petty, Mr. S. Hogg, Mrs. Petty, Mr. Oger. **Jamaica.**—Mr. E. C. Motta, Mr. C. Anderson, Miss Fleming Ross. **Trinidad.**—Mr. T. Cooper, Rev. H. Putz, Mr. Dathan, R.N., Mr. E. F. Stone, Mr. E. Townsend. **Grenada.**—Rev. Fr. W. Wade. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. du Boulay.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," May 13th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Miss A. Bull, Mr. P. Capern, Mr. W. Charley, Dr. and Mrs. Dowden, Miss E. Ellis, Rev. and Mrs. Gartshore and 3 Misses Gartshore, Mr. F. Lloyd, Rev. and Mrs. W. S. Lea, Mr. C. Lees, Jr., Miss Lockyer, Rev. and Mrs. Martin, Capt. H. Maddick, Mr. R. S. Noble, Miss V. L. Pinnock, Mr. and Mrs. T. Roberts, Mrs. Rowles, Miss Sewell, Miss N. Sewell, Miss A. G. Turner, Miss E. V. Tyler, Miss A. Walder, Mr. M. Clegg, Mrs. J. Clark, Mr. F. A. Foster, Mr. C. Ring, Mr. Robinson.

Sailing per R.M.S. "Port Morant," May 23rd, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. A. N. Brogden, Mr. G. H. Heaven, Mrs. H. M. K. Heaven, Messrs. J. and H. Greenwood, J. M. Hall, A. Maggs, H. Taylor and F. C. Walshe

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—As time goes on it becomes pretty clear the sowings for the next Beetroot crop will be practically on the same scale as the one we are now dealing with, and which has furnished the world with 5,600,000 tons of Sugar against 6,800,000 tons during the previous season, say a rough deficiency of 1,200,000 tons. Perhaps one half of this may be attributed to reduced sowings, and the other half to an inferior yield. On this reckoning, next year's crop may again only produce 5,600,000 tons, or may on the other hand furnish us with 6,200,000 tons, which are two very different figures. No one can possibly even hint which will be the correct one, and it is useless to let one's mind linger on such an obscure point. This, however, may be said, that the coming crop has not been sown under quite favourable auspices as to weather, and is generally two or three weeks behind a normal time. What is in store for us climatically from now till October no one can of course say, and on this will depend the amount of Continental Sugar we shall have to deal with in the next season of 1903/4. With existing stocks in October next there will certainly be more than enough sugar to go round; and for a rapid dispersion of it we must look to the anticipated increase in Continental Consumption under the new scale of duties abroad, to come into operation on the 1st September next.

Prices of Beet are shading downwards and are to-day, May, 8s. 3½d.; August, 8s. 5½d.; October/December, 8s. 11d.; January to March, 9s. 0½d.; all free on board Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

	1903 8s. 3½d.	1902. 6s. 1½d.	1901. 9s. 6½d.	1900 10s. 8½d.	1899. 11s. 2½d.
The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows:—					
	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Europe	2,450,000	2,570,000	1,800,000	1,660,000	1,740,000
United States	250,000	120,000	220,000	180,000	240,000
Cuba	360,000	440,000	170,000	80,000	70,000
Cargoes afloat	20,000	20,000	—	10,000	40,000
Total	3,080,000	3,150,000	2,190,000	1,930,000	2,090,000

Crystallised Sugar.—There has been a slow market during the fortnight, but as Importers have refused to submit to any decline, the small business done has been at steady prices and on the basis of 15s. for average qualities. At a reduction of 1½d. to 3d. good sales would have been practicable. The value of Dark Crystals on basis of 96 is about 9/9 on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar is scarce, and is worth from 11s. to 14s.

Muscovado.—Small sales of Grocery Barbados chiefly at 14s. 3d.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date	9000	23,000	23,000	16,000
Deliveries ..	17,000	17,000	17,000	15,000
Stocks	21,000	18,000	17,000	7000

Rum.—Imports to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Jamaica ...	2700	4000	3300	1700
Demerara	6900	10,900	10,900	7800
Stocks in London:—				
Jamaica ...	9600	8100	7400	6200
Demerara	9400	9700	9900	4300
Total of all kinds:—	1903.	1902.	Excess.	
	28,445	26,740	1705	Puns.

Board of Trade Returns for 4 months:

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	2,310,000	3,244,000	3,179,000
Home Consumption	1,359,000	1,560,000	1,877,000
Stocks 30th April	9,878,000	8,212,000	7,533,000

The market remains steady, but without much doing, buyers showing little anxiety to go into stock with summer close upon us. The quotation for fair Demerara is still 9½, and for fair standard marks of Jamaica 1s. 6d. Cuba and other Foreign kinds are worth 7d. to 10d. according to quality and package.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:—

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
85,000	67,000	90,000	89,000

Board of Trade Returns for 4 months.

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	10,029	11,750	9180
Home Consumption	6812	10,429	8593
Stocks 30th April	6072	4890	6521

There is no change to report in this market. The tone is quiet and prices remain steady, viz.—Trinidad, fair collected 59s. Estate marks, 59s. to 62s. and 67s., Grenada, fair 55s., fermented 57s. 59s.; with Native Cocoa from other Islands 51s. to 53s., and fermented 55s. 58s. Crops everywhere appear to be abundant.

Coffee.—There is no change in the position of this market. Excessive stocks keep prices at a very low range. The quotation of Santos Coffee is 25s. 3d. **Nutmegs.**—Good sales of West India, 110 to the lb. 11d., and 72's at 1s. 7d. with intermediate weights at corresponding prices. **Mace.**—Fair sales, pale 2s., 2s. 5d., red 1s. 10d., 1s. 11d. and broken at 1s. 8d. **Ginger.**—Dearer for Jamaica, with sales of fair to good bright 52s., 55s. 6d., middling 48s., common bean 40s., 42s. **Pimento.**—Dull, and prices not improving. Some greyish sold at 2½. **Arrowroot.**—No sales except in retail. Importers are not pressing. The nominal value of fair manufacturing is 2½. London Stocks 1st May.

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
11,205	8215	8356	9403

Cotton.—The speculative operations in America have forced up prices to a dangerous point. Next crop is about 1d. below the present quotation. The value of fair West India is approximately 6d.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

Telegrams:
"CARIB" LONDON.

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Telephone:
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15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.

Monday, June 8th, 1903.

New Members—an increase of 105.

We hope that Members will do all in their power to help us add to our Membership Roll. As our Chairman pointed out at the Annual General Meeting on May 14th, there must be a large number of gentlemen interested in the West Indies who derive benefits from our publications and proceedings who have not yet joined the Committee. It is our hope that they will do so and assist us in our efforts to bring about that co-operation so greatly to be desired in the West Indies. Candidate Forms can be obtained from the Secretary, and it should be noted that the next election will be held on June 11th. On May 28th ult. the following new Members were elected, bringing the total for the year to 105.

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
EDWARD CHAMBERS, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
JOHN PEARCE WAITH, Esq.	T. M. Marshall, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
MESSRS. LADE & CO.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
AUGUSTUS SAINT-HILAIRE, Esq.	E. A. Agar, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
THOMAS MAYERS, Esq.	Guy C. Wyatt, Esq.	H. L. Humphrys, Esq.
CECIL MORRIS, Esq.	Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.	George Hughes, Esq.
R. G. DUNCAN, Esq.	C. Algernon Campbell, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
JOHN MACDONALD, Esq.	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	W. Gillespie, Esq.
C. H. L. BELLOT, Esq.	E. A. Agar, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
H. A. BOVELL, Esq.	Torrance S. Skeete, Esq.	G. H. Arthur, Esq.
W. MORISON, Esq.	Edward R. Davson, Esq.	Guy C. Wyatt, Esq.
FREDERICK NUNEZ MARTINEZ, Esq.	Dr. W. K. Chandler, LL.D., C.M.G.	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.
J. MOIR, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
MESSRS. JOS. MACKINTOSH & SON.	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.

The Sugar Convention Bill.

By a majority of 60 (142 votes against 82) the first reading of the Sugar Convention Bill,* for giving effect to the Brussels Convention signed on March 5th, 1902, was agreed to in the House of Commons on the 28th ult. Mr. Bonar Law, in the absence through illness of Mr. Gerald Balfour, introduced the measure and explained that under the terms of the Convention this country was bound either to prohibit the importation of bounty-fed sugar or to impose upon it a countervailing duty equivalent to the amount of the bounty. By this Bill powers were taken only to prohibit, but not to countervail; and, therefore, in the future, bounty-fed sugar would stand in exactly the same position

* Copies of the Bill "To make provision for giving effect to a Convention signed the fifth day of March, nineteen hundred and two, in relation to Sugar" (Bill 230) can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms. Copies have been sent to our Correspondents.

as some other articles did now—such, for instance, as foreign prison-made goods, books which infringed our copyrights, or cattle which came from countries where there was disease. Powers were taken to demand proof of origin in regard to all sugar imported; in the next place, sugar-refining was to be carried on in bond; and thirdly, the expenses of the permanent Commission were to be met out of moneys supplied by Parliament. No doubt the principles involved in the Bill would be fully discussed, but he doubted if many new arguments would be introduced into the discussion. (Laughter.) There was one consideration which lay at the very root of the whole matter. Last November the President of the Board of Trade quoted some words of Mr. Gladstone's, and he thought they were worthy to be quoted again—"We do not regard with any satisfaction a system under which an artificial advantage is given in our markets to the products of foreign nations. Some people"—hon. gentlemen opposite were some of those people—"say it is a good thing, because the consumer gets the benefit; but I do not think that any benefit founded on inequality and injustice can bring good even to the consumer." (Cheers.) Why was it that not only Mr. Gladstone but all the economists maintained that bounties were quite as bad for the country which received as for the country which granted them? The reason was not difficult to find. The advantages of bounties, in the way of greater cheapness, were obvious; the disadvantages, though not less real, were not quite so obvious. He asked the House to consider the position of the sugar industry. If at the outset our markets had been closed to bounty-fed sugar, there was no reason to suppose that the consumption of sugar would not have increased as it had increased now, and as the consumption of tea had increased. But if that consumption had increased under natural conditions it would have been met by increased supplies. What would this have meant to this country? Our machine shops would have turned out more material, the workmen would have been employed in producing the sugar machinery which would have been required, our manufacturers would have furnished more material, our workmen would have produced the immense supplies required, more ships would have been employed, and our workmen would have been employed in building the ships which the great increase of trade would have necessitated. There had been a great increase of trade on account of the beetroot sugar industry, but that was a trade in which this country had almost enjoyed no share whatever. No one could doubt that the absence which this immense trade had made to our country was infinitely greater than any slight advantage which had been gained by the comparative cheapness of sugar. The object of the Bill was to turn the sugar industry again into its natural channel, and the same time to prevent the complete destruction of what had been in the past and would be again one of the most important industries in the British Empire. (Cheers.)

Mr. Lough (Islington W.), in opposing the introduction of the Bill, said that he regretted extremely the absence of the President of the Board of Trade and the cause of that absence. He thought everyone in the House would agree that the hon. member had made himself the apostle of protection, and that the object of the measure, though most simple in its character, would be found to embody one of the worst systems of protection ever advocated in this country. ("Hear, hear!" and "No, no!") The Brussels Convention was an agreement entered into by five Powers which were sugar producing and exporting countries. Great Britain, however, was not a sugar producing country; it consumed sugar; and therefore the object of the convention was to raise the price of sugar. This Bill meant the prohibition of imports. There were 14 great countries outside the convention which sent us sugar amounting to 2,000,000 cwts.; but at bidding of a foreign Commission in Brussels we were to close our ports to these imports. The new principle of protection adopted by the Government was to prevent us from receiving an article which we did not and could not produce at home, with the

result that the whole of the benefit of the new policy would accrue to neighbouring Continental nations. It was the habit of hon. members opposite to quote Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Cobden on this subject. But they did not want to hear from the Government any more of these names. (Ministerial laughter.) These statesmen were no longer here; the present generation had to fight its own battles as best it could without them; and they wanted to know from the Government the exact way in which the provisions of the Bill would be enforced. Certificates of origin, punishments for fraud and forgery, the placing of manufactories in bond, under Government supervision by night and by day—these were the old weapons taken out of the medieval prison of protection and brought into use in this country once more to strike a deadly blow at manufactures which had grown up in the last 20 or 30 years, and to lay heavy burdens on the people. (Cheers.) A formidable opposition would be offered to the Bill at every stage, and he firmly believed that the opposition to it would be supported by a vast majority of the people. (Cheers.)

The International Sugar Commission.

The first meeting of the Permanent International Commission established by the Brussels Sugar Convention was held on the 2nd inst. It was decided first of all to consider the sugar legislation of States not adhering to the Convention. The Commission accordingly proceeded to examine the sugar legislation of Japan and Roumania, but the Commission's decision in regard to these States was reserved, certain documents not having arrived. The rest of the sitting was occupied by the preliminary examination of the following two questions, which were considered at greater length on the 4th inst.—viz., the liquidation of stocks and the measures to be adopted to prevent bounty-fed sugar escaping countervailing duties by passing through the territories of States adhering to the Convention. The Commission afterwards decided to keep its deliberations secret. It is understood that on the 5th inst the Austrian law of Contingentirung was discussed. It is believed that the present session of the Commission will last a month.

The United States Polariscopic Test.

The decision of the United States Circuit Court in the matter of the polariscopic test is of some moment to West Indian sugar producers. It appears that when the United States Tariff Commission's tariff became law, March 1st, 1883, it included for the first time in the tariff laws the phrase "testing by the polariscope." This test was then, and has ever since been, the commercial way of testing sugar. The same phrase, or its equivalents, were included in the McKinley tariff bill of 1890 and in the Dingley bill of 1897. The United States Treasury Department gradually grew more and more careful in its tests and finally claimed that the phrase "testing by the polariscope" had no commercial meaning, and that in determining the percentage of pure sugar in any given sample the Treasury Department was justified in adopting the most accurate test known to science.

It seems that the Department's tests revealed as present more pure sugar than the polariscope indicated, and hence a higher duty was levied. From this levy of increased duties the importers appealed to the Board of General Appraisers, and on March 11th, 1899, this Board sustained the decision of the Treasury Department. The importers appealed to the United States Circuit Court, which has now reversed the decision of the Board of General Appraisers. According to the *Louisiana Planter*, the Treasury may now carry the case to the Court of Appeal, and, perhaps, finally to the United States Supreme Court. It is said that about one million dollars is involved.

Molasses Cattle Foods.

The West India Committee has addressed a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging the remission of the Sugar Duty in the case of Cattle Foods manufactured from molasses and other products. Such shipments of these goods as have already been made to this country abundantly prove that, at a reasonable price, they would meet with a very large demand for feeding and fattening cattle. Owing, however, to the Sugar Duties, the West Indian producers have not as yet manufactured them in any quantity; for a duty of £1 on £4 or £5, the value of these foods, is a very heavy charge. By the remission of the duty the Government would not lose an appreciable amount of revenue. Assuming that so large a quantity as 100,000 tons were produced, the Government would only lose £100,000, which, compared with the £6,000,000 which they are getting from the Sugar Duties, would be a very small matter. Locust beans, which contain 50 per cent. of sugar, are admitted to this country duty free, so that cattle foods manufactured out of Molasses are brought into competition with a commodity protected to the extent of the Duty.

In this connection Mr. George Hughes, to whom the credit for the invention of "Molascuit" is due, requests us to state for the guidance of Members who already manufacture or contemplate manufacturing this commodity, that it is most desirable that the proportions of 20 per cent. dry Megass meal and 80 per cent. of Molasses minimum 40° B. should be carefully adhered to, and that the moisture in the manufactured article should be kept round about 15 per cent. There should also be uniform weights in the bags. If these points are carefully carried out they will greatly facilitate the development of the business by creating confidence in the buyers.

Two Delayed Reports.

We recently applied to the Colonial Office for copies of Mr. Steele's report on the Excise Restrictions in the West Indies, and of Captain Young's report on the Administration of the Saint Vincent Relief Funds. On May 28th we were informed that Mr. Steele's report was still under consideration and that it could not, therefore, be made public at present, and that Captain Young's recommendations were contained in a series of reports, correspondence on which was still proceeding, and that Mr. Chamberlain therefore regretted that there were no papers which he could conveniently communicate to the West India Committee.

The Turtle Industry of the Caymans.

The following letter was addressed by the West India Committee to the Marquess of Lansdowne on the 2nd inst., regarding the new Fishery Laws of Nicaragua and their effect upon the Turtle Fishing Industry of the Grand Caymans:—

MY LORD MARQUESS,

We desire respectfully to call your Lordship's attention to the precarious state in which the Turtle Fishing Industry of the Cayman Islands is placed owing to the restrictions imposed by the recent Nicaraguan Fishery Laws.

2 As to the precise nature of these laws, your Lordship has, we understand, been duly advised by the Colonial Office, who are in receipt of full details from Mr. F. Shedden Sanguinetti, His Majesty's Commissioner for the Cayman Islands.

3 According to the new regulations, permits are to be granted to fishing boats for fifteen days only, on prepayment of two silver dollars per day per man, and the permits will have to be renewed immediately upon expiry under penalty of confiscation and imprisonment.

4 Now, inasmuch as the boats are fishing for three and four months before they obtain a sufficient catch, it is abundantly clear that to return to port every fifteen days would prove a very serious disadvantage, while the men would never have sufficient ready money on them to pay for the requisite eight permits per man.

5 We are indeed credibly informed that were these regulations actually put in force they would inevitably involve the the extinction of the Turtle Fishing—the staple industry—of the Grand Caymans and Jamaica. The new laws, therefore, if imposed for revenue purposes will obviously defeat their own purpose.

6 Inasmuch as the Turtle fishing season begins towards the close of the year, and the necessary arrangements have to be made some time in advance, we may be excused for considering this a question of urgency. We trust that your Lordship will communicate with the Nicaraguan Government at an early date regarding this matter which so closely affects the interest of the Cayman Islands and Jamaica, and endeavour to obtain some measure of relief.

We have the honour to be, etc.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman,*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

The Trinidad Riots Commission.

The Commissioners appointed to inquire into the rioting at Port of Spain, Trinidad, arrived in England by the Mail on the 3rd inst. The Commission consisted of Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, G.C.M.G., Sir Henry Evan Murchison James, K.C.I.E., and Mr. Stuart Macaskie, K.C., Recorder of Sheffield, Mr. R. V. Vernon, of the Colonial Office, acting as secretary. The reference was "To inquire into the origin and character of the recent disturbances at Port of Spain, into the nature and sufficiency of the steps taken to preserve the peace, and the action of the authorities in suppressing the riot." The local Government were represented by the acting Attorney-General (Mr. Vincent Brown, K.C.), the acting Solicitor-General (Mr. Agostini, K.C.), Mr. Aucher Warner, and Mr. Wharton; Mr. Alcazar, K.C., Mr. Pollard, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. McLeod appeared for relatives of deceased persons, some of these gentlemen also holding briefs for the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, the United Trinidad Committee, the Ratepayers' Association, and other bodies. The inquiry extended over 21 of the 22 working days spent by the Commissioners in the island; 146 witnesses were examined, and speeches of counsel were heard on two days.

The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Limited.

The Ordinary General Meeting of this Company was held on May 25th, at the offices, 3, Laurence Pountney Hill, E.C. In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, (Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G.) Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. presided. In the course of his remarks the Chairman gave some details as to the progress of the Lake Asphalt Industry. The shipments of asphalt made by the Company from the Pitch Lake during the year 1902 amounted to 142,513 tons, being the largest ever made in any year since the concession was granted, and being 5989 tons in excess of

1901, which had up to that date been the largest total. The shipments showed that a larger business was done during 1902 with the United States than in 1901, the figures in 1902 being 104,823 as against 80,449 in 1901. Local sales in Trinidad had increased, while the shipments to Europe showed a decrease. The amount of royalty and duty paid to the Trinidad Government on shipments of asphalt during the year amounted to £46,526 os. 5d., an increase over the previous year of £1642 4s. 6d. The total amount paid since February 1st, 1888, was £466,610 2s. 11d. General A. D. Andrews seconded the motion for the adoption of report and accounts, which was carried un-animously. Mr. J. W. Previté having proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Directors, and Staff of the Company, Sir Nevile Lubbock, in acknowledging the compliment, gave it as his view that the Company was in a much better position even than it had been in previous years. The Board, he added, had great confidence in Mr. J. M. Mack, the Managing Director in New York, whose prudent conduct of the American business was bringing visibly good results.

Colonial Report—St. Vincent.

The Report of Mr. Edward J. Cameron, the Administrator in St. Vincent, for the year 1901-2 has just been published, the delay being due to the volcanic eruptions of 1902 (*Colonial Reports Annual*, No. 385). The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for past five years, excluding the amounts of Imperial grants.

	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.		
1897 ...	£24,845	...	£27,866	...	£3021 Deficit.
1898 ...	26,901	...	27,674	...	773 "
1899 ...	29,218	...	30,322	...	1104 "
1900 ...	28,376	...	29,081	...	705 "
1901-2 ...	23,705	...	26,149	...	2444 "

The two principal events of the year were the short but disastrous local gale of August 20th and the actual effectuation of an agreement among the arrowroot producers for self-protection, a matter which has been so often spoken of and previously attempted without success. The condition of the Colony generally was still a decadent one, and among the business community 1901 was one of the worst years ever known. The following is a comparative table of the value of the principal exports of the Colony for the past five years:—

	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901-2.
Sugar ...	£25,592	£14,610	£415	£6,910	£9,180
Arrowroot ...	21,558	14,517	22,457	74,743	28,636
Cassava ...	1128	1657	482	2,280	943
Cocoa ...	4514	3090	116	1,411	1,659
Fruit ...	2476	1365	788	1,097	1,159

For a summary of other Colonial reports we would refer members to the following *West India Committee Circulars*:—Barbados (368), No. 87; Jamaica (373), No. 87; Leeward Islands (374), No. 87; Grenada (376), No. 88; British Guiana (378), No. 88; Trinidad and Tobago (382), No. 93.

Notes.

MR. GEORGE MARTINEAU, C.B., holds, it appears, the position of "Assistant Delegate" (Délégué adjoint) on the International Commission now sitting at Brussels.

MESSRS. ELDER, DEMPSTER & Co., who, during the past twelve months, have carried Pedigree Stock from Avonmouth to Kingston, Jamaica, freight free, announce that they are prepared to extend the same facility during June, July, and August, 1903, to shippers of Stock for Breeding purposes in Jamaica.

THE PRESENTATION PORTRAIT OF SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK has now been completed by Professor Hubert Von Herkomer, R.A., who considers it one of his strongest works. It was inspected by the Testimonial Sub-Committee on the 6th inst, and pronounced to be a striking likeness of our worthy Chairman. It is proposed to send it forthwith to Berlin with a view to its reproduction, it being felt that many Associations and individuals interested in the West Indies will be glad of an opportunity of possessing themselves of a copy of this picture, which is to be exhibited at the Royal Academy next year.

AN EXTRAORDINARY INSTANCE OF THE PROSPERITY of Indian emigrants in suitable Colonies has just been furnished by a shipload of these people who returned to Calcutta on the 24th February by the steamer "Mersey" from Trinidad. There were 737 returning emigrants on board, and they landed bringing nearly £10,000 in drafts, coin, and jewellery. State-regulated emigration to Trinidad has gone on now for upwards of half a century: and the carefully kept records disclose the fact that since 1851, when the first Indians began to come back, the returned emigrants have brought with them savings to the value of £386,000 actually declared. This is, of course, merely what they have carried back on their persons and in their pockets, and takes no notice of the large sums that are remitted to India as they are saved.—*The Pioneer*, Allahabad.

The West Indian Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Trent" reached Plymouth on Wednesday, June 3rd at 5.55 a.m., and the Mails were delivered on the same day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, May 27th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

Antigua.—(A. St. G. Spooner, Esq.), May 20th. The Governor had left for the Virgin Islands to inspect the metalliferous deposits at Virgin Gorda, and the Hon. W. H. Whyham was administering the Government in his absence. Nothing had transpired as to the Central Factory schemes, and it was hoped that a prompt settlement would be arrived at, otherwise it would be impossible to have a factory erected in time to deal with the next crop canes. The weather was very hot for the greater part of the fortnight until a thunderstorm from the S.E. cooled it down again. Unfortunately it brought very little rain, and it was at the time of writing dry and windy, rain being very badly wanted. Molasses were quoted 20 cts., puncheon included, with very little business. The last local sales of sugar were made at \$1 47½, 89% test.

G Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne), May 21st. The delay in the passing of the Sugar Convention Bill was causing anxiety: its adoption was vital to the interests of the Colony. Satisfaction was felt at Mr. Chamberlain's proposal to send out a Commission to enquire into the quarantine regulations, but it was considered that the Commission should go out at once and not be delayed. Crops were rapidly closing up, and at figures which anyone who saw the canes at the mill door would never believe. The three falls of volcanic dust seemed to have dried up the juice, for droughts had been experienced before but they had not produced such dry canes as these. The Island crop might be estimated at from 32,000 to 35,000 Hhds. at the outside—one of the shortest on record. (Last year the crop was 47,000 Hhds., and a comparison with preceding years' crops to 1896 which will be found in *West India Committee Circular* No. 54, page 4, will be of interest.—A.E.A.) The current price was \$1.32½, and it could easily be calculated what the loss would be, when last year scarcely an estate could clear money with a very much larger crop. "So much for allowing bounties two years to run, when a better price might possibly have recouped our short crop. Besides this, interest at 6% has to be paid by most estates on the so-called Government grant." The weather had again been hot, but a welcome rain of about ½-in. fell on the 18th. The young canes were growing vigorously, and preparations were being made for the planting of cotton. The Legislature had adjourned for a period of eight weeks.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), May 20th. There was, unfortunately, no diminution in the number of cases of the epidemic, but the type of the disease was a mild one. Mr. Bell, the Colonial Civil Engineer, returned by

the Mail, as also did the writer, on a four months' holiday. During his absence Mr. McCowan would act as Secretary of the Planters' Association as before.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) May 21st. The Cacao trees throughout the Island were flowering and setting young fruit: as far as it was possible to judge at that date the crop should be a good one. Good rains had fallen during the last few days, and everything was already looking better for them.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Ashenheim, Esq.) May 20th. Good rains had fallen almost generally during the past fortnight, Vere had had $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches altogether, but more was wanted. The rains, however, did not at all appear to be even, but all fear of a protracted drought had passed away. It had been decided to keep the Constant Spring Hotel open during the summer months. The Hamburg-American Line were about to make an addition to the Atlas service of steamers, and had selected the "Sania" and the "Siberia," two large steamers of the European fleet, to add to the Jamaica fleet in July, pending the completion of two vessels which were being built expressly for this service. A company had been formed in the United States to acquire 74,000 acres of land now held by the Administrator-General of Jamaica, which were handed over to the West India Improvement Co. 13 years ago, in St. Mary and Portland for Banana cultivation, etc. The Beekeepers' Association, of which Mr. H. G. Burnett was managing director, shipped 150 barrels of Honey in 1902. During the current season already 1000 packages had been shipped. The Association received 28s. per cwt. for best quality honey in Bristol, and expected to get 30s. for Logwood honey.

Nevis.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), May 20th. The Imperial Department of Agriculture had promised the Island a gin and baling machine in the event of 30 acres being put in in Cotton, for which the soil appeared to be eminently suited. The Island would also participate in the prizes offered by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. A largely signed petition for Central Factories had been sent to the Secretary of State by the peasant proprietors. (We learn that steps will be taken to assist in some measure this most deserving class of the community.—A.E.A.) Nice rains had fallen in some parts of the Island, but near Town the fall had not amounted to more than one inch. Over the North side they had eight inches in one fall, which, of course, proved too much of a good thing.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. A. Munro) May 19th. There was a genuine feeling of pleasure that Sir Nevile Lubbock, the great leader in the movement for the industrial emancipation of the West Indies, was to receive a substantial recognition of the arduous and more than successful labours of the past 40 years. Gratitude was, of course, felt to Mr. Chamberlain and to the Government for the successful negotiations of the Brussels Convention, but the real credit was due to Sir Nevile and the pioneers of the Anti-Bounty Agitation, who in the days of unpopularity and adversity agitated and educated the British Public until the Convention was brought within the pale of practical politics. Sir Nevile Lubbock's name in the hearts of all true West Indians would long remain green.

Nowhere more than in St. Kitts would a logical and sensible Quarantine Code be more heartily appreciated, and if Mr. Chamberlain's Commission succeeded in devising such a Code, the Colonial Secretary would have placed the Colonists under a further debt of obligation. The long spell of dry weather still continued, and the water supply of Basseterre particularly—the only large centre of population—was causing the gravest anxiety to the authorities. Crop was proceeding rapidly. The Governor was about to proceed to Nevis to inquire, it was said, into some practical means of helping the small cane-growers to continue cultivation.

Montserrat.—(C. Watson, Esq.), May 18th. The rains of late had been very partial and the leeward side of the Island was suffering from a severe drought. It was remarkable that there had been no kind of fungus on the canes this year, and consequently the juice had been good. About 500 acres of land would be planted in Cotton this year. The Lint from last year's experiments had proved of excellent quality.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.), May 22nd. The Governor of the Windward Islands was residing in the island and was doing commendable work in locating labourers in the districts at a safe distance from the volcanic region, where they would be available when sufficient confidence was established to start work there again. The weather, until within a day or two, had been excessively dry and hot. But there had been a good thunderstorm and some refreshing showers which had brought about a delightful change.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.) May 22nd. The Riot Commission closed their enquiry on the 22nd, and left the same day by the mail for England. Messrs. Coode, Son & Matthew's report on, and plans of, the proposed harbour extensions had been referred to the Chamber of Commerce for the opinion of the Chamber. Consideration of it was however postponed until copies could be put in the hands of all members. At the beginning of the week there was every appearance of the rainy season having set in, but it had become dry again. 150 men of the Lancashire Fusiliers returned to Barbados on May 8th. Mr. W. H. Stone was appointed acting Protector of Immigrants in the place of Commander Coombs, who was on leave. The question of Cotton Cultivation was before the Agricultural Society on May 12th. The total number of cases of "Eruptive Fever" reported up to May 9th was 3228; the number of cases reported during week ended May 16th at Health Office, 261; notified by Medical Practitioners, 20; from country districts, 41; total

number of cases reported to week ended May 16th, 3550. Of the twenty cases notified by Medical Practitioners 12 were returned as "small pox." Total number of deaths to week ended May 16th, 15. No cases have been reported from Tobago. Every effort was being made to stop the spread of the disease, and at present private practitioners were being paid 2s. for each successful vaccination.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) May 27th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." June 8th. "*Idem.*" **British Guiana.**—(Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) May 26th. "Sunshine is sorely needed for cultivation." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) May 28th. "Rain has fallen heavily." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) June 2nd. "Weather continues wet with intervals of fine days." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) June 6th. "Rain continues to fall heavily." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) June 8th. "Finer weather since last message, generally acceptable."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
Barbados—	Hds.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Jan. 1 to May 22, 1903	12,043	—	—	—	—	16,812	—	—
" " 22, 1902	24,169	—	—	—	—	26,104	—	—
British Guiana	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to May 19, 1903	33,951	25,510	—	9794	4532	2098	29,852	2859
" " 20, 1902	36,553	29,512	—	11,790	2650	845	35,118	5957
Jamaica		Cwts.		Calls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
Apr. 1 to Apr. 25, 1903	1930	605	2445	153,076	1,785,800	808	1,196,851	191,050
" " 26, 1902	1937	1235	14,546	214,199	1,918,500	878	1,265,120	2,272,750
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Tons.	Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to May 21, 1903	311,741	20,184,840	34,800	108	5,884,567	Puns. 1420	85	51
" " 21, 1902	351,115	17,443,870	29,280	244	5,883,377	2022	111	190

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," June 3rd, 1903.—**Barbados.**—Mrs. H. R. Barnett, Miss Gooding, Mr. and Mrs. S. Manning, Miss Manning, Dr. and Mrs. W. Briggs Clarke, Miss Barrow, Mrs. H. L. Emtage, Lieut.-Col. A. C. and Mrs. Foley, Miss Olive Carrington, Miss Jemcott, Mr. Wood, Major Tedd, Mr. Davenport, Mr. A. H. Spooner, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Santos, Miss Williamson, Mrs. E. H. Beckler, Dr. J. Purser, Mr. Drury Wake, Major W. M. Hodder, R.E. **Demerara.**—Hon. and Mrs. A. G. Bell, Mr. J. J. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. A. Summerson, Mr. A. Douglas, His Honor Judge Lucie Smith, Mrs. Lucie Smith, Miss D. T. Wright, Mr. J. S. Gibney, Mrs. J. S. da Costa, Miss Cameron. **Jamaica.**—Mr. T. R. Glanville, Dr. & Mrs. E. Verley, Dr. A. and Mrs. Saunders, two Misses Saunders, Mr. F. E. Lyons, jr., Mr. John Cassis, Miss A. A. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. de Mercado, Miss Delgado, Mrs. Athill, Miss L. F. George, Mrs. Henderson, Miss Fletcher, Mrs. H. C. Whitelock, Mr. F. W. Whitelock, Lady Fielding Clarke, Mr. Kenneth M. Pringle, Miss Bailey, Mr. W. Scott Herriott, Mr. R. Forshaw, Hon. Evelyn Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Williamson, Miss Williamson, Mr. James Milne, Mr. G. T. Smith, Mr. P. Langdon Thomas, two Misses Langdon Thomas, Mr. R. G. Wrightson. **Trinidad.**—Miss E. Bushe, Mr. and Mrs. H. Caraccioli, Mrs. M. Gransaul, Miss Gransaul, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gordon, Mr. F. Woodward, Mrs. J. Campbell, His Honor Judge Nathan and Mrs. Nathan, Dr. and Mrs. Knox, Miss T. Scott, Hon. A. Warner, Miss Ethel Agostini, Mrs. A. Chantrell, Mrs. Michael P. Maillard, Miss Maillard, Miss Millie Maillard. **Antigua.**—Miss Eva Huggins, Mr. E. Dunlop, Mr. W. J. Douglas, Dr. F. E. Bridger, Miss D. Wyllarde, Captain and Mrs. Gillespie. **Grenada.**—Master Hugh O. de Gale, Mr. R. G. de Gale, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Berkeley, Master James Gurney Lessey, Hon. Mrs. Lascelles, Mr. J. H. Burgess. **St. Kitts.**—Miss I. Thurston, Miss U. Thurston, Mrs. W. Thurston.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Para," June 10th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Capt. H. M. Farmer, Mr. E. Hargreave, Rev. J. S. and Mrs. Hughes, Miss B. Phillips. **Demerara.**—Miss E. Waterfield, Mrs. E. Nicholson, Mrs. Smellie, Mr. and Mrs. J. Flett, Mr. W. Kennard. **Jamaica.**—Mrs. N. Moffat, Mr. G. FitzHerbert. **Trinidad.**—Mr. O. FitzGerald, Dr. G. FitzGerald, Mr. P. Dumoret. **Dominica.**—Mr. A. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. G. Catew. **St. Kitts.**—Mrs. A. Horsford.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," May 27th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Hon. V. G. Bell, Mr. A. Clodd, Mr. F. S. Cookes, Mrs. T. Carlton, Miss Clarke, Mr. F. W. Cocking, Mr. T. W. Carr, Rev. H. Clarke, Jr., Mr. T. H. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Douet, Miss A. G. Darling, Mrs. John Davidson, Mr. W. Franklin, Miss J. C. Grange, Mr. M. D. Harrel, Mrs. H. H. Isaacs, Mr. A. McKenzie, Lieut. McEwan, Miss Donaldson, Miss Rowley, Mr. Robinson, Hon. Henry Sewell, Miss C. M. Thomas, Miss C. J. Tilney, Mrs. H. Wright, Miss Wright, Mr. Colin G. Campbell, Mr. J. H. Eddon, Mr. F. Reeves.

Sailing per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," June 6th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. H. Carvalho, Mr. J. Connor, Lieut. A. E. Fitzgerald, Rev. and Mrs. M. G. Hubback, Lieut. H. S. Maule, Lieut. A. F. A. Power, Miss Smith, Mr. G. H. Weeks, Mr. R. H. Williams, Miss M. W. Sinder, Miss E. E. Wilson, Coy. Sergt.-Major and Mrs. Bayford, Mr. James Tyrrell, Coy. Sergt.-Major Worsdell and 25 Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the 2nd W. I. Regt.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—The next crop appears to be progressing favourably, and if all goes well till reaping time may easily produce 6,000,000 tons of sugar, a quantity, with the existing carry over that will remain on the 1st October, far in excess of probable requirements unless there is a substantial increase in Continental consumption under the proposed new scale of duties. Notwithstanding what some writers may say, the Continental growers of Beet bid fair to have spoilt their chance of obtaining 10s. basis 88% for next season by this undue sowing, which instead of being on the same basis as the present should have been 10% less, when the surplus of recent over-production would have been easily dissipated. As it is, we again commence another season with too much sugar, and any increase over the present quotation of about 9s. for next crop will be a difficult matter to achieve, although, as has been said above, Continental consumption may find the remedy. The findings of the Brussels Commission, now sitting, on the Cartel question will bear an important part on the cost of production, and will be keenly watched by all interested in sugar growing.

Prices of 88% Beet are still subsiding under the weight of sugar and are now, June, 8s. 1½d.; August, 8s. 3½d.; October/December, 8s. 9½d., and January/March, 9s.: all free on board Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

	1903. 8s. 1½d.	1902. 6s. 3d.	1901. 9s. 3½d.	1900. 10s. 11½d.	1899. 11s. 2½d.
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The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	
Europe	2,470,000	2,600,000	1,820,000	1,670,000	1,760,000	Tons.
United States	300,000	140,000	240,000	180,000	280,000	"
Cuba	350,000	440,000	170,000	80,000	80,000	"
Cargoes afloat	40,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	"
Total	3,160,000	3,200,000	2,250,000	1,950,000	2,150,000	

Crystallised Sugar.—The market remains quiet at unchanged prices, the value of average qualities still being 15s. Importers are exhibiting much firmness. The value of dark crystals is about 9s. 9d. on basis of 96%, on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar is in demand from 11s. to 14s.

Muscovado.—Dull. Grocery Barbados sells slowly from 14s. to 14s. 3d.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports to date	11,000	28,000	28,000	21,000	Tons.
Deliveries	18,000	18,000	16,000	17,000	"
Stocks	22,000	22,000	21,000	10,000	"

Rum.—The market is quiet but steady. The value of fair Demerara is 9½, and of fair standard marks of Jamaica 1s. 6d., with Cuba and other Foreign kinds 7d. and rod., according to quality and package.

London Figures to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports Jamaica	3100	4600	4100	2700	Puns.
.. Demerara	7000	11,000	11,000	8000	"
Stocks Jamaica	9500	8300	7900	6500	Puns.
.. Demerara	8900	9100	8800	4100	"
Total of all kinds:—	1903. 27,806	1902. 26,339	1901. 21,000	1900. 14,677	Excess. Puns.

Cocoa.—A quiet tone prevails and although quotations are not reduced, recent values are difficult to obtain. Prices are as follows: Trinidad, fair collected 59s.; Estate marks, 59s. to 62s. and up to 67s.; Grenada, fair 55s., fermented 57s. 59s.; with Native Cocoa from other Islands 50s. 53s., and fermented 55s. 58s.

Stocks in London:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	84,000	65,000	95,000	86,000

Coffee.—The market is weak and the quotation of Santos has been reduced to 24s. 6d. **Nutmegs, Mace, Ginger and Pimento.** No auctions have been held during the fortnight owing to the Whitsuntide holidays and privately business has remained suspended.

Arrowroot.—London figures to 31st May.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	5450	8246	10,263	16,021
Deliveries	6392	7361	7485	7212
Stocks...	11,282	8604	10,878	11,340

Scarcely any business has been done during the fortnight, and the market keeps dull with a nominal quotation of 2½ for fair manufacturing.

Cotton.—American for June delivery is quoted about 6½d., and for the next crop October 5½d. The value of fair West India is about 6d.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

Telegrams:
 "CARIB" LONDON.
 A.B.C. Code Used,
 4th Edition.
 Telephone:
 "6642" CENTRAL.

15, SEETHING LANE,
 LONDON, E.C.

Monday, June 22nd, 1903.

Great Britain's Fiscal Policy.

An important General Meeting of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE has been convened for Wednesday, July 1st next, to consider the suggestions for the modification of our Fiscal Policy, which have continued to be the universal topic of conversation since they were first enunciated by Mr. Chamberlain in his speech at Birmingham, on May 15th last. Probably, with the exception of the South African War, no question has aroused so much public attention and interest for many years past. Mr. Chamberlain indicated in that speech very clearly two questions which he desired the public mind to consider, discuss, and form an opinion upon; the first is that of preferential treatment within the Empire; the second that our Government should have power to resort to retaliation in cases where the fiscal arrangements of Foreign powers operate unfairly upon our Imperial Interests in the Imperial Markets.

On June the 8th, during the Debate on Mr. ^{Chamberlain} ~~Chamberlain~~'s motion in regard to the Corn Duties, Mr. Balfour very clearly expressed his opinion, in agreement with Mr. Chamberlain, that these were questions which required the serious attention of His Majesty's Government and of the Country. There can be no doubt that they will be the prevailing political topic for many months to come.

It is true that the West Indies have not much they can offer to the Mother Country, beyond a preference in cotton manufactures, hardware and machinery, but in return for a small preferential duty on Sugar, they have much they could offer Canada, in the way of preferential duties on lumber, flour, and fish, and this would be made use of by the Home Government in order to obtain favoured treatment for her manufactures in Canada. We have but little doubt that in our West Indian Colonies the feeling, like that in all our other Colonies, will be strongly in favour of a preferential trade within the Empire, and if this is so, it is in the highest degree desirable that some authoritative expression of it should be forwarded to Mr. Chamberlain. With this object the Special General Meeting of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE has been convened, and we hope that the various public bodies in British Guiana and the West Indies will, if they have not already done so, take similar action without delay. We note that on the 19th inst., an enthusiastic meeting in Jamaica forwarded to Mr. Chamberlain a message heartily approving his policy.

The Sugar Convention Bill and Commission.

In the House of Commons on June 6th, Mr. Balfour, replying to a question of Mr. T. G. Bowles', said there was no chance of taking the subject of the Sugar Convention within the next two or three weeks. It is understood that the International Sugar Commission at Brussels has decided that the Austrian Law of Contingentirung will bring Austrian sugar under the Penal Clause of the Convention. On June 16th the Commission ruled that Bounties given on bonded sugar before September 1st did not constitute an infringement of Article I. of the Convention.

Lord Lansdowne Urges our Case.

In the debate on our fiscal policy in the House of Lords, on June 15th, the Marquess of Lansdowne made some trenchant remarks regarding the danger of allowing Foreign Powers to protect themselves in our markets as they were enabled to do by bounties and the huge trade combinations or trusts which have grown up under the shelter of constantly increasing tariffs. "I do see," he said, "that one result of the continued admission of the products of these syndicates and huge trade combinations may be that the foreigner will begin by getting possession of the market, will crush out our industries, and when he has succeeded in crushing them out will then raise the price to his own profit." (Cheers.) Lord Lansdowne went on to point out how the exhibition of a little firmness on the part of our Government had led to the abolition of the Sugar Bounties. This is the case which we have been so consistently urging for years past, as showing how desirable the abolition of bounties is, not only from the point of view of our sugar-producing Colonies, the refining and engineering industries of this country, but also of the consumers and the confectionery and other industries whose existence depends on a steady supply of cheap sugar.

Our Food Supplies—Significant Figures.

The return of food supplies issued by the Board of Trade on the 8th inst. shows the remarkable increase in the quantity of sugar imported. No less than 18,365,417 cwts. of refined sugar and 13,221,492 cwts. of unrefined were imported in 1902, as against 1,710,176 cwts. and 12,798,631 cwts. in 1870. In 1870 nearly a third of the total came from British Possessions and mainly the West Indian Islands. These now send us less than one-sixth of the whole amount, while Germany supplies about one-half, France about 1,700,000 cwts., and Belgium and Holland together about 1,000,000. But in the case of refined sugar, where the increase has been so great, we find none is obtained from our own Possessions, Germany sending more than two-thirds of the whole, and France and Holland each about one-sixth, with the result so detrimental to our Colonies and the refining and engineering industries of this country.

New Members.

The following new Members were elected on June 11th inst. It will be seen that they include Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G. and Sir Walter J. Sendall, G.C.M.G., whose distinguished services in the West Indies, latterly as Governors of Trinidad and British Guiana respectively, are fresh in the memory of our Members. The next election will take place on the 25th inst.

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, G.C.M.G.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
Sir WALTER J. SENDALL, G.C.M.G.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
A. G. STEPHENSON, Esq.	E. A. Agar, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
HUGH E. McCULLOCH, Esq.	C. A. Campbell, Esq.	E. G. Barr, Esq.
WM. JOHN PHILLIPS, Esq.	E. K. Davson, Esq.	A. McConnell, Esq.
ALEX DEGAZON, Esq.	Hon. E. du Boulay.	Hon. S. D. Melville.

Molasses Cattle Foods.

When we wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the 29th ult., urging the remission of the Sugar Duty in the case of cattle foods manufactured from Molasses and other products (see Circular 98, page 4), we hardly ventured to hope that he would so promptly accede to our request. But on the 8th inst., Mr. Ritchie, in the course of the discussion on the Finance Bill, announced that

he proposed to take off the duty upon Molasses under 50%. He was told, he said, that in no other country was there a duty levied upon Molasses used for feeding stuffs. In other words, Molasses containing less than 50% of sweetening matter is to be admitted to this country duty free. For this gratifying state of affairs Mr. George Hughes, the inventor of "Molascuit," is largely responsible. For some time past he has been pertinaciously pressing his case for the abolition of this duty, and now that success has attended his efforts he will receive the well merited congratulations of the West Indian Planters, who, we may reasonably expect, will now turn their attention to the manufacture of Molasses Cattle Foods in increasing quantities. Though we may hope for some extension of this concession in the future, it is extremely important that for the present the greatest care should be taken to bring down the feeding stuffs to contain under 50% of sweetening matter. We understand that the Fehling test will be used by the authorities at Somerset House to ascertain the amount of sweetening matter, and we would suggest that the Planters should solicit the assistance of the Government chemists, in the absence of the estate chemist, in ascertaining the requisite proportion of Molasses to use with the absorbent, in order to arrive at correct proportions.

West India Section, Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.

At a meeting of the West India Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce held on the 12th inst., on the motion of Mr. W. H. Alty, seconded by Mr. J. Smith, Mr. J. E. Tinné was re-elected Chairman and Mr. J. W. Scholefield Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. Mr. Robert Gardner was elected a Member of the Committee in place of Mr. Joseph Gardner. A letter was read from the Council of the Chamber stating that a meeting of the Council would shortly be held to consider the question of our fiscal policy, and suggesting that the Committee should, if possible, instruct their delegate what line to take when the matter should come up for discussion. The Section decided, however, that they have not at present sufficient evidence of Mr. Chamberlain's views to express an opinion on the important issues which he raised; at the same time they are most favorably disposed to any proposition which may tend to the closer union of the colonies and the mother country.

To Push West Indian Products.

For some time past efforts have been made to bring more closely before the notice of the people in this country the products of our West Indian Colonies. The advantages derivable from the judicious advertisement of our pure cane sugars, cocoa, fruit, mineral products, cigars, cattle foods, etc., are so obvious that it is needless to expatiate upon them. With a view to stimulate this movement we arranged last year for an exhibit at the Royal Exchange Colonial Exhibition, which was participated in by Messrs. Jas. Philip & Co., (the Pure Cane Sugar Co.) Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co., The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. and the Direct West India Cable Co., and attracted much attention. We have now obtained permission for the Exhibition of West Indian Produce at the Temporary City Inquiry Office of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 49, Eastcheap, E.C. Members of the West India Committee desirous of availing themselves of this opportunity of showing what can be done by the West Indies, are requested to forward to the West India Committee Rooms without delay, such articles as they may wish exhibited. It should be mentioned that the space in the sample room is limited. We have already received a small exhibit from Mr. W. A. P. Shephard, the energetic secretary of the Monocane Sugar Co., Ltd., of Fish Street Hill, which is doing so much to popularise West Indian produce.

West Indian Cable Communication.

As the result of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 28th ult. the following letter was on June 5th forwarded to Mr. Chamberlain regarding the above subject:—

SIR,

We beg respectfully to call to your notice the serious inconvenience to which West Indian Proprietors are put through the constant breakdowns which are experienced in telegraphic communication with and between various West Indian Islands.

2. From the accompanying table it will be seen how frequently interruptions have occurred during the past year, and though in some measure the volcanic disturbances may be held responsible, we feel that it is not entirely owing to that cause that the inadequacy of the present service is due.

3. It will be noted how often the Trinidad-Demerara No. 2 Cable has failed, cutting off Demerara from the outside world, and we are informed by a firm of Merchants that they have lost thereby an order for the sale of a large quantity of sugar in Canada, the contract having fallen through owing to their inability to communicate by cable.

4. Again, owing to the break in the St. Vincent-Grenada cable, Barbados was from May 8th last to June 2nd inst. cut off from telegraphic communication with this country at a time when the sugar crop was coming to market and it was of the utmost importance that the planters should be kept in close touch with the world's markets.

5. Apart from the commercial aspect of the matter, we must not in the light of recent experience overlook the grave risk, in the event of a disturbance arising, which is involved when a community is cut off from all communication with the outside world.

6. We do not propose in the present letter to suggest a remedy for the existing state of affairs, but we think that the question merits the closest investigation as to whether some relief might not be found by the introduction of a system of wireless telegraphy between certain islands, and whether some improvement might not be gained by the amalgamation of the existing companies, the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company, and the Direct West India Cable Company.

We have the honour to be, etc.,

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

The following is the table of interruptions referred to in Section 2 of our letter:—

Interruptions in Cable Communications, 1902=3.

	FROM	TO	
Trinidad-Demerara No. 2 Cable ...	30th January ...	11th February...	Cutting off Demerara.
Jamaica-Puerto Rico, Ponce Cable	23rd February ...	24th February...	
" " " San Juan Cable	23rd February...	2nd March ...	
Jamaica-Colon ...	13th March ...	10th April ...	
Dominica-Martinique ...	5th May ...		Not repaired.
St. Lucia-St. Vincent ...	7th May ...	16th September ...	
St. Lucia-Martinique...	7th May ...		Not repaired.
St. Lucia-Grenada ...	7th May ...	11th October ...	
St. Lucia-St. Vincent ...	18th September ...		Not repaired.
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable ...	1st November ...	1st December ...	Cutting off Demerara.
Guadeloupe-Dominica ...	4th November...	11th December ...	
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2. Cable ...	21st December ...	1st January, 1903 ...	Cutting off Demerara.
Jamaica-Colon ...	31st December ...	4th May ...	
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable ...	3rd January, 1903 ...	5th January ...	Delay.
St. Thomas-St. Kitts...	14th January ...		Delay.
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable ...	27th February...	19th March ...	Cutting off Demerara.
St. Vincent-Grenada ...	8th May ...	June ...	Cutting off St. Vincent and Barbados.

Since this letter was sent in, the breakdown of telegraphic communication between Trinidad and Demerara has been reported to us by the West India and Panama Telegraph Co. This emphasises the need of remedial measures being speedily adopted. On the 18th inst. we received from Mr. Chamberlain the assurance that this matter was receiving his careful attention. Copies of our letter were sent to the two Cable Companies, and on the 19th inst. we received the following letter from the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Ltd.

Dear Sir,

June 19th, 1903.

With reference to your letter of the 5th instant to Mr. Chamberlain, I am afraid your Committee does not appreciate the difficulties we have always had in maintaining West India telegraphic communication and particularly since the volcanic disturbances at Martinique and St. Vincent in May last year. As a result of those disturbances we not only lost our repairing steamer "Grappler" and all hands but we also lost the 100 miles of cable which she carried for repairing purposes, and we had no less than four of the cables mentioned in your table interrupted by the two catastrophes.

Within five weeks after the receipt of the news of the loss of the "Grappler" we fitted out and equipped the chartered steamer "Newington" and despatched her to the West Indies to take the place of the "Grappler" until a new repairing steamer could be built.

2. After encountering almost insuperable difficulties owing to the great depth of water, and possibly a change in the sea-bed due to submarine upheaval, the "Newington" succeed in repairing the St. Lucia-St. Vincent section (No. 6 on your list) on the 16th September. It was, however, again interrupted two days afterwards by renewed volcanic disturbances of the St. Vincent Soufriere, and part of the new cable which had just been laid in was picked up in a very mangled condition.

Another attempt was then made to repair the section and while doing so there was a most violent eruption of the Soufriere without a moment's warning, and the "Newington" only escaped suffering the same fate as the "Grappler," by precipitate flight at full speed from the locality.

In these circumstances we have been compelled to suspend further repairing operations upon this cable until the return of a state of things less disturbed and perilous. If the present comparative inactivity of the volcano continues it is our intention to make another attempt to repair the cable when our new steamer "Henry Holmes," which arrived in the West Indies on the 16th instant, is at liberty to do so.

3. The repair of the St. Lucia-Grenada cable (No. 8 on your list), broken at the time of the St. Vincent catastrophe, was 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. Whilst engaged in this operation she picked up a piece of cable which had only been laid down four years previously but which was twisted, crushed and mangled in an extraordinary way. Perhaps it may be interesting to your Committee to examine it and see for themselves the condition to which it has been reduced by volcanic action even in this great depth of water; and with this object in view I am sending it to you.

4. Owing to the risk ships run in approaching the North West coast of Martinique in consequence of the continued disturbed condition of Mont Pelée we have not yet been able to repair the Dominica-Martinique and the Martinique-St. Lucia sections, both of which were broken off St. Pierre by eruptions of that volcano; and under these circumstances we are considering the most effectual way of joining up the two cables so as to make them one section only between Dominica and St. Lucia, thus again restoring the duplicate route from the northern part of our system to St. Lucia.

I may say that the French Company have not yet repaired their Martinique cables owing to the dangers above mentioned.

5. We much regret the recent interruptions of communication with Demerara, which are attributable to the corrosive action of the mud on the iron armour of the cable, arising from some deleterious property in the mud in which it is laid.

This cable is 345 knots in length and was laid in November, 1891 over a route several miles to the eastward of the original cable, in the hope that by so doing the sea bottom would be found more suitable. Unfortunately this has not proved to be the case, and the Company have been heavy losers by reason of the cost of repairs, and by the entire stoppage of the subsidy during the periods of interruption.

6. As regards the interruptions of the other cables mentioned in your list, in nearly every instance they have been caused by chafe and corrosion. The chafing arises from the cable being chafed on rocks and coral formations,

and the corrosion from chemical action on the iron armour of the cable when it lies on a metallic bottom. In order to better convey to the minds of your Committee the corrosive effect on parts of an otherwise perfect cable, I am sending you specimens of ends picked up during repairs, from which it will be seen that the iron armour has been gradually eaten away to needle points. When this occurs, it is only a question of a very short time before the cable breaks, as there is no strength in the core of it which merely consists of the copper conductor coated with gutta-percha.

To demonstrate to your Committee that it is not only the cables of this Company that are subject to interruptions in these seas, I would mention that those of the French Company are similarly affected, as they have now the following cables interrupted :—

Guadeloupe-Martinique,	...	...	...	...	interrupted since May 9th, 1902.
Porto Plata-Martinique,	...	...	...	..	.. July 10th, 1902.
Cayenne-Pineiros	...	...	...	..	.. August 13th, 1902.
Paramaribo-Cayenne,	...	...	...	..	.. February 27th, 1903.
Haiti-New York,	...	...	...	..	.. April 13th, 1903.

7. Your Committee appear to labour under the misapprehension that all interruptions other than those arising from volcanic disturbances are due to causes entirely under the control of the Company. I have thus thought it right to point out to you in detail that such interruptions are in fact due to various causes of a purely physical nature over which the Company has absolutely no control.

Yours faithfully,

R. T. BROWN, *Manager and Secretary*

The Direct West India Cable Company wrote to us as follows :—

Dear Sir,

June, 25th, 1903.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, covering copy of a letter addressed by your Committee, to the Colonial Office on the 5th instant, on the above subject.

The views of my Companies on the matter of West Indian cables have already found expression in the " Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Cable Communications," but we are not at one with that Committee in their opinion that our sphere ends at Jamaica, but on the contrary—and if information in our hands is of any value, West Indians and the public generally concur—we should take part under proper conditions—alone or in conjunction with other Companies serving the West Indies—in bringing telegraphic communication to places beyond Jamaica, in whatever form, to the same efficient condition as that given by my Companies to Jamaica.

The great inconvenience caused by interruptions of cables and the existence of block rates charged us at Jamaica by the West India and Panama Company, deprive the public of the full use of a British cable route between Great Britain and its West Indian possessions. These points and their paralyzing effect upon the work of our Companies, which have been of great utility to the Colonies, have, for a long period, formed the subject of representation by my Companies to the Colonial Office and the General Post Office, and we agree with your Committee that a remedy should be found to bring the existing system of telegraphic communications into a condition to meet the present business requirements. The power necessary for this, of course, lies with the Colonial Office, and we have expressed our opinion there, that it should be used.

We fear, however, that a decision by the House of Lords upon an action at law between the West India and Panama Company and the Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company is being regarded by the Colonial Office as some obstacle to the attainment of the object yourselves and my Companies have in view, but we are of the opinion that it merely solves a dispute between the Companies mentioned and should prove no bar whatever to the realization of the legitimate wishes expressed in your letter.

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH RIPPON, *General Manager.*

Cotton Growing Experiments.

The progress of the experiments for Cotton growing in the West Indies are being watched with great interest by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, and it is gratifying to find the subject being so heartily taken up in British Guiana and the Islands. By the last mail we received from Berbice, British Guiana, three samples of Cotton grown experimentally in that Colony, and forwarded it at once to the British Cotton Growing Association, to whose efforts, it will be remembered, we pledged our

support in a resolution passed on April 2nd last, (Circular 94, page 4). These samples were reported on as follows:—

1. Probably grown from Egyptian Abassi seed; clean, bright, and retaining all characteristics except strength. The fibre is long and silky, but weak. Not very desirable. Price 7½d. to 8d.
2. Cotton of Brazilian character, starchy and leafy, badly prepared, probably hand picked. Price 6.30-100 to 6.40-100d.
3. Clean, bright staple of the character of semi-rough Peruvian, short staple but very strong. Desirable. Price about 7¾d.

This is satisfactory, but in Montserrat even better results have been attained, several parcels of cotton already received from that island having been sold at as good a price as 10½d. and 11d. This was the Sea Island variety, which, it is evident, is well suited to the soil and climate of the West Indies. The Hon. Francis Watts, the Government analytical and agricultural chemist of the Leeward Islands, who is at present in this country on a mission in connection with the proposed erection of a central factory in Antigua, recently attended a meeting at Manchester and has favoured the British Cotton Growing Association with some valuable suggestions for organising and putting on a uniform basis the experiments now being conducted with such good prospect of success. Mr. Watts suggests that an agent of the Association should visit the islands and show growers the chief points to be aimed at in producing the various kinds of cotton most likely to find a remunerative market, and who could help organise the work of cotton exporting, either by buying on the spot at the time when the cotton crop is coming in or by instructing local merchants as to handling, buying and shipping cotton. The presence of such an agent would be an assurance that cotton is really wanted, and as a result larger plantings would follow. The agent, who should go out in December and remain until April, could by his report largely determine how best the energies of the Association can be applied to consolidate the work. From Barbados we learn by this mail that the Government have granted the loan of a site on the pier head for the erection of a building to contain an engine, gin and baling press, all of which have already arrived in the island for the new cotton central factory, which was to be proceeded with at once. A supply of Peruvian cotton seed had arrived and was to be planted directly the required rain fell.

Immigration to British Guiana.

In his annual report Mr. Mitchell, C.M.G., the Immigration Agent in India for the Colony, states that at the commencement early in June, emigrants were so plentiful that on the 30th of that month he was obliged to give instructions to send no more lest the Depot should be overcrowded. By the 30th of July, however, there was a complete change in emigration prospects, and he was compelled to telegraph as urgently for people as he had previously done to decline them. "A few showers, more or less, in July determine the supply! Want is the only incentive to emigration among a peasantry who live from hand to mouth." The number of emigrants collected up country was 3,325; 556 were medically rejected there; 2,355 arrived at the depot; there were 2 births; 279 were rejected at the depot; 36 deserted; 14 were claimed; 47 were unwilling; 3 deaths, and 1,977 were despatched to the colony. The health of the emigrants was exceptionally good. The mortality was about the lowest on record, only one death actually occurring in the depot, a child that arrived in a very sickly condition.

Mr. Mitchell describes fully the strict system of medical inspection before embarking, and proceeds "After so much care has been expended on the selection here, it is very disheartening to learn, that owing to disease on the voyage, or boisterous weather, the people have landed in indifferent health and condition. The first two shipments of emigrants by the 'Arno' and

'Forth' were exceptionally fine people, and they left an exceptionally healthy depôt. After years of famine it is almost impossible to secure people who are robust and free of anæmia. They may be fed up, and for a time appear physically fit, but the first attack of illness prostrates them completely, and they very slowly recover from its effects. Some years ago the Inspector General of Jails collected the heights and weights of some 28,000 Bihari adult prisoners, and found their mean height was only 5 feet 3 inches, and the mean weight of this large number only 110 lbs."

Sir John Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and who has spent more than twenty years of his service in the North West Provinces, where most of the emigrants are recruited for this colony, recorded his impressions at the time in a resolution on colonial emigration. He was very favourably impressed at a visit to the Demerara depôt so shortly after a famine in the regions of Upper India. He expected to see broken-down peasants who had despaired of bettering their fortunes in their own country. He was surprised to find that the emigrants were the pick of the agricultural population, strong sturdy men and women, robust in health and bright in spirit.

The poorer classes have to put up with very indifferent food in India, and many of them have to be contented with one square meal a day. It is difficult, says Mr. Mitchell, to understand the anxiety as regards repatriation, with periodical famines, which are invariably attended with serious mortality. Even when the emigrant does return with comparative wealth, which he never could have amassed honestly in India, he at once becomes the victim of relatives, priests and other "birds of prey." The returned emigrants continue to bring back to India large amounts. These have now reached the enormous total of £754,927. Mr. Mitchell concludes his interesting review of the year by an acknowledgment of the support of the Secretary of State. The agents constantly realize the value of it when confronted with exceptional difficulties.

Colonial Reports—St. Lucia.

The Report of Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G., the Administrator in St. Lucia, for the year 1901, has been laid on the table. The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.			
1897	...	£60,639	...	£57,123	...	£3516 Surplus.
1898	...	67,628	...	60,975	...	6653 "
1899	...	71,479	...	63,821	...	7658 "
1900	...	72,107	...	64,750	...	7357 "
1901	...	67,365	...	67,486	...	121 Deficit.

At the close of the financial year on March 31st, 1902, the balance sheet of the Colony showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £19,416 9s. 4d., being an increase of £862 7s. over that of the preceding year. The following table gives the value of the principal exports of local produce and the total exports for the past four years:—

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Sugar—Muscovado	£3197	£474	£1903	£3167
„ Usine	49,370	36,319	51,674	44,348
Cocoa	25,377	25,734	38,247	18,185
Rum	916	381	897	1337
Total Exports	£166,508	£170,668	£229,436	£188,067

The decrease in the exports in 1901 was principally due to the falling off in the exportation of cocoa, of which product there was a short crop, while a large quantity was shut out from European

markets during December, when the Colony was quarantined for yellow fever, and to a decrease in bunker coal taken by steamers. Owing to the yellow fever scare, steamers and warships requiring coal avoided Castries and obtained their supplies elsewhere. In his general remarks, which are curtailed owing to his having resided only a few months in the Colony, Sir George Melville repeats the hopes expressed by his predecessor that means of communication with Europe especially may be extended and improved, and that more suitable buildings may be provided for the conduct of the business of all public departments; that the Colony may be opened up by better roads and bridges, so as to enable the people to take up the cultivation of land as a livelihood, and that, to make this valuable coaling station more useful and more widely known than at present, the harbour may be entirely dredged and more facilities given to vessels coaling, not only from piers or wharves, but also at anchor in the harbour.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Tagus" anchored at Plymouth at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17th, and the Mails from the West Indies generally were delivered by first post on Thursday, June 18th. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, June 10th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Tagus." :—

Antigua.—(A. St. G. Spooner, Esq.) June 2nd. Crop was coming to a close on some estates at the west end of the Island, but at the other end it would continue for some time still. The weather remained seriously dry, and unless good soaking rains fell before the end of the present month the prospects for the next crop would not be very rosy. Molasses was quoted at 20 cents with not much business doing, and 89° Muscovado sugar was worth nominally \$1.42½ per 100 lbs.; very little was being sold locally just then, however, nearly all was going to the Canadian market on growers' account. Mr. A. P. Cowley had been appointed as the Antigua Agricultural Society's nominee to the West India Committee in the place of Mr. James Wilson who had left the Island.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne) June 4th. It was felt very desirable that a deputation of the Committee should attend the meetings of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in Montreal in August. Mr. J. O. Wright, of Messrs. Collymore & Wright, would represent the Barbados Chamber of Commerce. It was hoped that the vexed question of the adulteration of Molasses and its possible prevention might be enquired into. The past fortnight had been disappointing, for there were signs that the good rains which were looked for at the end of May were at hand. Only a few showers fell, however, and the average rainfall for the month could not be more than 2½ ins. The young canes in some places were beginning to feel the fiercely hot suns, and a heavy rain of two or three inches was much desired. The wind had been very light, and windmills had a bad time of it. The Crops were closing up, but there had been no improvement in the yield. Only in the Scotland district had the canes done fairly well, and on a few exceptional estates. The crop of the island would be very short, and the writer did not think that more than 32,000 Hhds. would be reached. No improvement had taken place in the price of sugar, which had dropped to \$1.25 per 100 lbs. Molasses was still at 18c., but there was very little of it. Potatoes were unsaleable at one cent per hole, and were rotting in the ground, though one hole often gave 11 to 13 lbs. of potatoes. It was certain that they would be face to face with a very serious state of things after the crop. The Comptroller of Customs had just issued his report, by which it appeared that the gross receipts for the year amounted to £95,902 10s. 5d. against £108,638 8s. 8d. in 1901—a decrease of £12,735 18s. 3d. This would have been greater still had not 20% additional rate on all duties levied come into operation on October 21st, 1902. The total value of imports was £872,679 against £1,021,680 in 1901—a decrease of £149,001. On account of the quarantine regulations, less transit goods were imported into the island, and less for Home consumption also, the purchasing power of the people having been reduced through the depression and the low price of sugar. Over 400 letters, which should have been delivered in Barbados on May 11th, were misplaced in London in a Jamaica bag, and did not reach this island till May 23rd, too late for a reply. This gross piece of carelessness caused much inconvenience. As the mail closed the weather seemed to have set up for rain.

British Guiana.—(A. Summerson, Esq.), June 3rd. Dr. Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, arrived in Demerara on May 27th, and left again by the mail for Barbados. During his stay he had visited

plantation Vergenoegen, and inspected the system of mechanical tillage now in use there. He had also visited plantation Diamond and Albion, and addressed a meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society on Cotton growing and other agricultural matters.

Mr. Fleming, of Diamond and Mr. Bethune of Enmore, were passengers by the mail to England. There was no abatement in the epidemic and some cases sent over to the "Best" isolation hospital were reported to be of a severe type. There had been one death (pneumonia) there, and one birth. Refining crystals were quoted \$1.86. Some 4600 tons had changed hands during the fortnight at \$1.90 to \$1.86. The weather during the fortnight had been much too wet and cultivation generally was feeling the effects of it. (A copy of correspondence with regard to the evidence given by Dr. Hormasji, before the Immigration Expense Commission was received by the mail and can be seen at the West India Committee Room.—A.E.A.). Mr. Frank Fowler, who, had acted as Commissioner of Lands and Mines since the amalgamation of the two departments on October, 1st 1901, had been confirmed in that appointment.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) June 3rd. A meeting of the Agricultural Society had been held to consider the possibilities of Cotton-growing in that Island. Several members pledged themselves to plant experimental plots. Mr. Blattan who had come from the United States, with a view to establishing a factory for the making of Cassava Starch was present, and laid his scheme before the Society. It was well received and hopes were entertained that this gentleman would remain, it being felt that a large cassava industry might grow up, to the advantage both of estate owner and peasants alike. The weather had again become very dry.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas), June 4th. The long spell of dry weather still continued in the North and East of the Island, where the cocoa fields were looking worn and burnt: otherwise, everything was going on smoothly. Mr. Symington was expected by the mail, though quarantine would somewhat hamper his arrangements. As far as Grenada was concerned, his scheme would prove a success in time, but not immediately, as not sufficient fruit was as yet grown in the Island to ensure large shipments. Provided that paying prices were offered for the fruit, Grenada would enter heartily into the scheme and do her best to make it a success.

Jamaica.—Messrs. Delgado Bros. wrote to us on May 30th, that Harbour Improvements were to be carried out at Falmouth; work to be begun in four or six weeks' time. The Government have given the contract to a Mr. Laidman. It was estimated that the cost would be somewhere about £12,000. The opening up of Falmouth Harbour would mean that Falmouth, once second only to Kingston as a port in the Island, but which owing to the shutting down of Sugar Estates had become one of the poorest places in Jamaica, would very shortly be equal to any other port except Kingston, as large tracts of land were to be planted out in Bananas.

Nevis.—(Hon. C. A. Shand), June 2nd. The Governor had just paid a flying visit to the Island. The writer convened at his request a meeting of the Proprietors and Lessees of Estates and their representatives at Queen's House on the 26th of May. At this meeting His Excellency put forward certain proposals for the benefit of the planter and peasant population. The feeling of those present was strongly in favour of accepting the Government proposals. It was satisfactory to find the country waking up to the advantages of alternative industries, and it was probable that a sufficient area of cotton would be planted by August to enable the Imperial Department of Agriculture to give effect to their promise of a Gin and Baling Press. The breeding of stock from imported sires (Boars, Rams, with Sheep and Goat) and a Jack ass was being taken up very readily, and if only the weather were more propitious and good rain fell, things would be looking up. Nevis was under a cloud though not *sub nubibus*. A move was being made to start an Agricultural Society. The want of a circulating medium was sadly felt.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) June 5th. The Governor had left the Island for St. Lucia, en route for England, and the greatest anxiety was felt as to what scheme he would lay before the Colonial Office for the resuscitation of the industries of the Colony. Some proprietors were evincing considerable keenness concerning the planting of cotton. Within the past few days there had been every sign of the rainy season having begun, but the heat for the time of year was almost unprecedented.

Trinidad.—(Edgar Tripp, Esq.) June 5th. The writer had been appointed one of the Delegates from the local Chamber of Commerce to attend the meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at Montreal in August. It would appear that the all important question for consideration would be the fiscal policy of Mr. Chamberlain. The report of the Commission into the recent riots was anxiously awaited. Mr. W. C. Nock of Montserrat had been appointed Warden and Magistrate of Tobago, in succession to Mr. J. T. Rousseau, who had accepted the post of Superintendent of Crown Lands. Mr. W. L. J. Kernahan, Clerk of the Peace of Arima, went as Warden to Montserrat.

New York.—Mr. John Farr, our hon. correspondent, wrote on the 12th inst, that the sugar market during the last fortnight had been dull and steady. Receipts to Refiners had been very heavy and a considerable percentage of the

arrivals had had to go in store for lack of room at the Refiners. The available supply of sugar appeared to be larger than was anticipated, in view of the smaller Beet crop, and the statistical position was undoubtedly disappointing. This market continued however, so far below the Beet parity, that the feeling prevailed that with the closing of the Cuba crop and smaller offerings from there, prices would soon do somewhat better. Further sales of Demeraras had been to Montreal, two steamer cargoes aggregating about 7,000 tons, having been sold at about \$2. per ton net, above quotations to New York. This demand however appears to be satisfied for the moment. Mr. W. H. Perot, senior partner in the house of A. W. Perot & Co., Demerara, died at his home in Baltimore that week at the age of seventy-six, and his death removed the last of the old school of West India merchants. He had seen great changes in his time and was closely identified during his long life with the development of the West India trade with this country. He was highly esteemed and respected by all who knew him.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana.—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) June 16th. "Weather again wet and unfavourable."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Barbados—								
Jan. 1 to June 4, 1903	14,909	—	—	—	—	19,120	—	—
" " 4, 1902	25,452	—	—	—	—	31,715	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to June 2, 1903	40,074	56,162	—	10,125	4532	2098	33,676	2859
" " 3, 1902	37,827	29,512	—	12,309	3100	845	39,757	5711
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Calls.				
Apr. 1 to May 16, 1903	4116	3242	6214	314,164	3,714,602	1849	2,322,673	540,800
" " 17, 1902	5183	2007	18,154	471,064	3,354,900	2686	2,203,004	3,646,400
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Puns.	Tres.	Brls.
Jan. 1 to June 4, 1903	319,738	22,041,920	34,920	158	5,926,227	2051	85	133
" " 4, 1902	386,941	18,817,130	23,160	244	5,980,777	2162	111	191
								Tons.
								61,050
								55,575

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Tagus," June 17th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. T. Baden Powell, Mr. and Miss Hyndman, Mr. J. T. Chandler, Mr. J. Thompson. **Demerara.**—Rev. J. T. Roberts Rea, Master Shaw, Rev. J. Rannie, Mr. and Mrs. H. Von Ziegesar, Mr. A. Wilson, Miss D. Stevenson, Rev. P. Bruce Austin, Mr. J. Fleming, Mr. Jas. Moyes, Mr. L. Dornford, Rev. and Mrs. W. G. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. B. Shields, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Kaps, Mr. C. E. Shepherd, Miss L. E. McKinnon, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Hill, Mr. Weir, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Bethune, Miss Cruickshank. **Jamaica.**—Rev. and Mrs. Baron Hay, Mr. R. J. Miller, Mr. Lehmkuhl, Mr. and Mrs. E. Pratt, Mr. P. E. Laroque, Mr. W. H. Hesketh, Mr. and Mrs. I. Samuels, Mr. G. C. Hart, The Hon. Oscar and Mrs. Marescaux, Mr. N. M. Joynson, Mr. G. H. Haly, Major W. F. Elmslie, Major-General and Mrs. Black, Mrs. Barthorp, Mr. Salim Breedy, Mr. A. C. Hearn, Mrs. Pollard, Mr. J. H. Holbrook, Mr. R. Crowl, Sergt. Whitehorn. **Trinidad.**—Mrs. L. H. Whitehead, Miss Hammer, Mr. J. A. Bulmer, Miss Laverack, Mr. J. A. Ayres, Mr. A. Stewart, Miss Stewart, Mrs. McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Rankin, Mr. A. Laverack, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Da Silva, Mrs. Massy, Mrs. Desmontils, Mr. E. A. Robinson, Mr. F. Farfan, Mr. J. G. MacIntosh, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Miss M. Urich, Mr. W. Archibald, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, Mr. W. Keating, Mr. and Mrs. W. Appleby. **Antigua.**—Mr. J. F. Alexander, Rev. V. A. Whittenham, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Jarvis. **Dominica.**—The Misses M., L., and E. Riviere. **Grenada.**—Mr. A. J. Lines, Miss W. A. Lines, Mr. G. E. St. George. **St. Kitts.**—Rev. and Mrs. F. Caunt, Dr. and Mrs. Branch, Mr. Branch. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. C. R. Kennaway, Lieut. Taylor. **St. Vincent.**—Mrs. E. Bidby, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Kernahan.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," June 24th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Col.-Sergeant-Major Callaghan. **Demerara.**—Mr. C. H. Easton, Dr. J. Ireland, Mr. J. Dalzell, Mr. J. Harrison, Mr. W. Fogarty, Mr. E. J. Macquarrie, Mr. A. Sharer, Mr. W. A. Wolsley, Mr. F. J. Bankart. **Jamaica.**—Mr. J. Anderson. **Trinidad.**—Mrs. M. Plummer, Miss L. Fraser, Lieutenant P. W. E. Hill, R.N., Engineer-Lieutenant C. T. D. Greetham, R.N., Miss Boileau, Hon. S. Henderson, Mr. R. H. Black, Mr. J. Higgins. **Dominica.**—Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lockhart, Mrs. E. Pinheiro, Rev. Fr. G. Willems. **Grenada.**—Rev. H. and Mrs. Given, Miss Callander. **St. Lucia.**—Col.-Sergeant-Major and Mrs. Gane.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," June 17th, 1903:—Miss I. Brandy, Mrs. Bowen, Mr. Barker, Mr. F. W. Blood, Mr. Barton, Mr. Wm. Conran, Dr. E. H. Cooke, jr., Mr. and Mrs. H. Coote, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Constant, Mr. W. S. Evans, Mrs. Espeut, Mr. A. Farewell, Mr. C. J. Gillies, Miss Eva Gray, Lady Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hamilton, Mr. Hulatt, Miss M. Johnson, Mrs. Jameison, Mrs. Kenny, Dr. Lockett, Mr. Mortimer, Mrs. D. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. F. Pamment, Mr. and Mrs. D. Perkins, Rev. Canon Ripley, Major and Mrs. Skey, Mr. Tyrer, Miss E. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Barker, Mr. W. A. Dunn, Mr. F. E. Evans, Miss Rogers, Mr. S. Shaw, Mr. T. Smith, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. A. R. Hamilton.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," June 20th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Three Misses Campbell, Mr. T. W. Clarke, Mrs. J. R. Fletcher, Mrs. J. M. Fletcher, Mr. S. A. Gooch, Mrs. Grubb, Mr. H. C. Law, Mr. G. N. McGrath, Mr. Richmond, Mr. J. S. Taylor, Mr. A. Foerster, Miss Marsh, Mr. Gerard Noyelle.

West India Committee Circular.

Telegrams:
"CARIB" LONDON.
A.B.C. Code Used,
4th Edition.
Telephone:
"6642" CENTRAL.

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.

Monday, July 6th, 1903.

The West India Committee Rooms.

We would remind our Members that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS are now ready for their reception. They are conveniently situated upon the first floor at 15 Seething Lane, next to Mark Lane Station upon the Metropolitan and District Railways, and form a useful rendezvous for our friends from the West Indies when they visit their Merchants in the City. Writing materials are provided, and in addition to all Official Gazettes, Parliamentary Papers, etc., the following newspapers are, through the courtesy of their Editors, filed:—

<p><i>The Barbados Agricultural Reporter</i></p> <p>„ <i>Barbados Globe</i></p> <p>„ <i>Barbados Advocate</i></p> <p>„ <i>Daily Gleaner (Jamaica)</i></p> <p>„ <i>Jamaica Daily Telegraph</i></p> <p>„ <i>Jamaica Times</i></p> <p>„ <i>Mirror (Trinidad)</i></p> <p>„ <i>Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad)</i></p> <p>„ <i>Argosy (Demerara)</i></p>	<p><i>The Demerara Daily Chronicle</i></p> <p>„ <i>Antigua Observer</i></p> <p>„ <i>Antigua Standard</i></p> <p>„ <i>Dominica Guardian</i></p> <p>„ <i>Dominican</i></p> <p>„ <i>St. Christopher Advertiser</i></p> <p>„ <i>Federalist and Grenada People</i></p> <p>„ <i>Voice of St. Lucia</i></p> <p>„ <i>Times (St. Vincent)</i></p>
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The large increase of Membership of the West India Committee—115 new Members have been elected since January 1st—has proved that we were fully justified in making arrangements to obtain more commodious premises. But there is much more we can do yet, and if the support is still forthcoming it is our purpose to endeavour to make the *West India Committee Circular* increasingly attractive by enlarging its scope and size.

The next election will take place on July 9th. Candidate forms can be obtained from the Secretary. The following new Members were elected on June 25th inst.

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
The Hon. MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, M.P.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	H. K. Davson, Esq.
A. P. COWLEY, Esq.	A. St. G. Spooner, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
A. WATERFIELD, Esq.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.
E. L. ATKINSON, Esq.	L. Bert de Lamarre, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.

We regret to say that a considerable number of subscriptions, due on January 1st, remain unpaid. We earnestly appeal to those Members, who have not already done so, to forward to the Secretary a remittance for the amount of their subscription at their earliest convenience. By punctual payment, Members can greatly facilitate the work of the Hon. Treasurers.

Our Fiscal Policy—An Enthusiastic Meeting.

A special general meeting of the West India Committee was held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1st, at 15, Seething Lane, to take into consideration the suggestions made by Mr. Chamberlain for preferential trade within the Empire and the advisability of retaliation in the cases where foreign fiscal policy operates unfairly upon Imperial industries and Imperial markets. Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Chairman of the West India Committee, presided. The attendance was so large that it was impossible to ascertain the names of all those present who included Lord Stanmore, G.C.M.G., Sir Walter Sendall, G.C.M.G., Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., Mr. Henry K. Davson, Deputy Chairman, Mr. J. E. Tinne, of the West India Association of Liverpool, Sir E. Noël Walker, K.C.M.G., His Honour A. Van W. Lucie Smith, Mr. J. F. Alexander, Mr. W. Anderson, Mr. P. S. M. Arbuthnot, Mr. W. E. Atkinson, Mr. Edward G. Barr, Mr. M. M. Beeton, Mr. Leon J. Bernstein, Mr. Claude T. Berthon, Mr. G. G. Browne, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. W. C. Dyett, Messrs. Eves & Co., Ltd., Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. J. Grierson, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. H. Hales, Rev. R. Hart, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. W. C. Kenny, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, Chairman of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Mr. E. Kynaston, Lieut. G. A. O. Lane, Mr. R. G. Lee, Mr. E. Leigh-Bennett, Mr. Elliot G. Louis, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. G. B. Mason, L.R.C.P., Mr. C. E. de Mercado, Mr. Allan E. Messer, Mr. Alex B. Neilson, Mr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. F. Preston, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. J. W. Previté, Mr. J. Price, Mr. J. Rippon, General Manager Direct West India Cable Company, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. A. P. Sheppard, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Mr. George Shute, Mr. G. M. Stewart, Mr. A. N. Tayler, Mr. E. Tennant, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. Ernest E. Williams, and Mr. T. B. Younger. Letters and messages of regret at their inability to attend were received from Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Bart., M.P., Sir Charles Tennant, Bart., Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., Mr. T. C. Garth, Mr. T. Hankinson, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Mr. A. M. Lee, Colonel B. H. Martindale, C.B., the Hon. Matthew White Ridley, M.P., and Hon. Aucher Warner.

The Chairman announced that cable advices had been received to the effect that resolutions favouring the objects of the Meeting had been passed in Jamaica, Trinidad, and Barbados, on June 19th, 22nd, and 27th respectively; and that, on June 29th, the following resolution was passed at a meeting of the West India Association of Liverpool, whose representative, Mr. J. E. Tinne, he was glad to see present:—

“That this Association, believing that the present economic condition of the Empire requires careful consideration, gratefully appreciates and will warmly support the action of His Majesty’s Government in promoting enquiry into our Fiscal System, and trusts that the result may be to secure for all parts of the Empire such fair conditions of competition and such freedom of mutual relations as may enable each to make for the common benefit full and unrestricted use of its natural advantages.”

The Chairman then proceeded to move a resolution welcoming the resolve of His Majesty’s Ministers to undertake a full inquiry into the existing Fiscal System of the United Kingdom, and said—“Our meeting to-day has been called to consider the new departure in regard to our fiscal system. In his speech at Birmingham, on May 16th, Mr. Chamberlain indicated that a re-consideration of our fiscal policy was desirable. On the same day Mr. Balfour, in reply to a deputation on the corn duties, urged that a policy of fiscal retaliation in certain cases ought to be brought within the power of the Government. Since then the Government have announced their intention of holding an enquiry not only in regard to a policy of retaliation but also to that of preferential trade within the Empire. Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain have more recently given

us a distinct indication of what the questions are which have to be threshed out by the British public and the Government during the next 12 or 18 months. As I understand them there are three. The first is the question of some Imperial preferential arrangement between all portions of the Empire, involving duties on food. The second is the question of the desirability of our resorting to a policy of retaliation in cases where Foreign Governments permit legislation which gives to their industries such an artificial advantage in our Imperial markets as to cause prejudice to British or Imperial industries in those markets. Third, the policy which Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain describe as a policy of negotiation, involving what may be shortly described as 'keeping a shot or two in our locker.' I propose to deal with these three questions separately.

"With regard to the first, viz., that of preferential treatment within the Empire; as far as I can gather, there is hardly any difference of opinion as to the advisability of this, provided that it can be done on lines that are at once fair to the Mother Country and to the Colonies. There can be no doubt that a large part of the cost of our Navy is due to the fact that our Colonies, scattered as they are all over the world, require a very large Navy to be maintained for their protection in any emergency—a Navy larger than would be required merely for the protection of the British Isles. Thus it seems to me that the first condition of any preferential trade must be the acceptance on their part of some share of the expenditure for our Navy. The next point is this—that they shall give us a fair commercial consideration for any fiscal advantage that we may concede to them. They are in the main agricultural communities, we are in the main a manufacturing community. If in exchange for some fiscal advantage for their agricultural products, they would give us some real fiscal advantage for our manufactured products, there seems to be no good reason why an arrangement should not be come to. But if our Colonies imagine that by placing a wall of duties against our manufactures sufficient to shut them out, and then by raising that wall 20 to 30% higher against Foreign countries, they will obtain any preferential treatment from us, I venture to think they will find themselves entirely mistaken. You will gather, therefore, that in my opinion the question of a preferential arrangement within the Empire, depends absolutely upon what our Colonies are prepared to do on their side.

"There are some, possibly many, thoughtful people who entertain grave doubts whether our Colonies will be willing to go as far as I have indicated, even for the maintenance of the Empire. But consider for a moment what the disruption of the Empire would mean. We all recognise that it would be a very bad thing for us; but think for a moment what it would mean for them. How long would they retain their present freedom and independence if they were separated from us? We recognise that it is worth while to make a sacrifice, possibly a considerable one, for the permanent maintenance of the Empire. I can see no possible reason why they should not be willing to make a sacrifice on their part. They have very much to lose unless they are so willing, and it seems to me quite premature, if not unreasonable, to assume that they will not meet us fairly and squarely in regard to trade within the Empire. There are, again, some who doubt whether the maintenance of the Empire is at all dependent upon preferential treatment. This, at any rate, does not appear to be the view taken in the Colonies, nor do I think it is the view taken by the most thoughtful men in this country.

"Now I come to the second question, and in regard to this I find it difficult to understand that there can be any difference of opinion on the part of reasonable men. As I understand the proposition, it is that we shall secure to our industries fair play in the markets of the Empire: that where our industries are placed under disadvantages by means of foreign bounties, trusts, or cartels, we should exercise what power or powers we possess—and they are effective or can be made so—to

restore to those industries, at any rate, equality of condition within the markets of the Empire. Bounties, trusts, and cartels, are all interference with Free Trade: and, therefore, I cannot suppose there can be any serious opposition to this part of Mr. Chamberlain's scheme. West Indians will, at any rate, approve of it.

"I now come to the third head, and here again it seems to me that our common every-day knowledge ought to satisfy everyone that our present policy of offering our cheek to the smiter has not been attended with any advantage to us, but has been taken full advantage of by the smiter. We all know that when we have neither weapon nor reward to offer, we are not in an advantageous position to make a bargain. Bismarck's policy of '*do ut des*' is the only practical one. I noticed the other day that Mr. Asquith, speaking at Boston, made the sweeping statement "that there was not a single retaliatory duty which would not do more harm to the people that imposed it than to the people against whom it was directed." If by this he means that retaliatory duties are always ineffective, his statement is not in accordance with facts and experience. If he means that such duties are of advantage to the people against whom they are directed, because they result in reducing their high wall of protection, he will probably find Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain in entire accordance with him. In fact the object Mr. Balfour evidently has in view, is by effective negotiation to reduce this high protective wall. To whatever extent we may succeed in doing this, to that extent we create a freer trade than before. And certainly no free trader ought to object to this.

"We must all recognize that these are very large questions, upon the right decision of which depends largely the future of our Empire. It is disappointing to find that they are treated by some of the leaders in our political sphere, as a mere football of party politics. I hardly think the country will take so light a view. The intense interest which has been aroused, far exceeding any that I can remember, except that excited by the Crimean and the South African Wars, seems to me to prove that Mr. Chamberlain has touched a chord which has been long vibrating—in audibly perhaps to the majority—in the minds of the more thoughtful portions of the community. For myself I wish to say in the words of Mr. Ritchie, that I am a "convinced Free Trader." As a real free trader I protest against the new-fangled doctrines of the Cobden Club, and I welcome an enquiry into our present fiscal system, believing as I do, that it will, and must result, in a far larger measure of real free trade than we at present enjoy, or can ever hope to enjoy so long as our hide-bound system of "*laissez-faire*" is allowed to continue. It is high time that some people realized that free trade does not mean the promotion of foreign trade, by hook or by crook, at the expense of our own. In the belief therefore, that a proper enquiry will result in greatly enlarging the Freedom of our Trade, I cordially support the suggestion of the Government for a full enquiry into our present fiscal system, and now beg to move—

"That the West India Committee cordially welcomes the resolution of His Majesty's Ministers to undertake a full enquiry into the existing Fiscal System of the United Kingdom."

Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Ex-Governor of the Leeward Islands, in seconding the motion said that Free Trade had been very accurately described by Mr. Chamberlain as that which brought about free intercourse of commodities at their natural price. If that policy could be carried out all the world over, no one would be stronger free-traders than those who were assembled at that meeting. This was a matter like any other matter of business, and however prosperous a business might be, a time arrived when those connected with the business had recourse to 'stock-taking,' and that was all the country was asked to do at the present moment. It had been said that if we retaliated we might create ill-feeling. Possibly the good feeling had never existed to the extent some people thought. We did not so much want affection and goodwill, but respect and fear.

An examination of figures showed that our exports to our Colonies had increased in a much greater proportion than our exports to foreign countries, and it would be seen that these latter consisted in a very great measure in the exportation of coal. That meant digging into our capital, and providing other countries with the means of competing with us very seriously in matters which were likely to be detrimental to our interests. Then, again, emigration to foreign countries of recent years had been much greater than to the Colonies, and it should be remembered that emigration carried away not only individuals but capital. If they believed the proposed policy would have the effect of strengthening the bonds between the Colonies and the Mother Country he hoped the country would not take any steps to disunite that Empire. (Hear, hear!)

Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., supported the motion, expressing the hope that the Government's inquiry would be as thorough and as exhaustive as possible.

Lord Stanmore, G.C.M.G., said he thought it right as one of the Members to dissociate himself from the resolution. He would not go into arguments, because he did not think that arguments at that stage would be likely to convince. He merely confined himself to expressing his own view and opinion that, however plausibly they might be urged, the doctrines which were brought before them were doctrines which were radically wrong and unsound economically. (No, no!) He did not ask them to agree with him, but, having the honour to be a Member of their body, it was but fair and right that he should express his dissent from that which he believed to be the view of the majority in that meeting. One other thing of a comparatively trifling nature which would prevent him from voting for the resolution was the wording of it. His Majesty's Ministers had not undertaken, as the resolution said, to make "a full inquiry into the existing fiscal system of the United Kingdom." The inquiry was to be conducted, not by the Government or by a Commission, or by experts, but by the British people and the Press.

The Chairman said that Mr. Balfour had stated most distinctly in the House of Commons that the inquiry was going to be undertaken by the Cabinet. In addition they had invited the general public to consider the matter.

Lord Stanmore said unfortunately the Government had expressed itself in different ways at different times, and the last announcement which he heard in the House of Lords, which was not contradicted, was that the inquiry was to be undertaken by the people and the Press.

The motion was then carried with enthusiasm, Lord Stanmore being the only dissentient.

Mr. Henry K. Davson, Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee, then rose to propose the second resolution :—

"That the West India Committee, being of opinion that the present economic condition of the Empire demands the most careful consideration, pledges itself to support the action of His Majesty's Ministers in promoting open discussion and enquiry, and expresses the hope that this may result in securing for British Colonies equality of opportunity and freedom from unfair Foreign Competition in British Markets, thus strengthening the Commercial ties between the Mother Country and all parts of the British Empire."

He said—"The resolution is the outcome of Mr. Chamberlain's speech at Birmingham, followed by that delivered at the Constitutional Club. It follows up his suggestion that enquiry should be made as to whether our present fiscal policy is suited to our present exigencies, and it is not drawn on party lines, but it can be supported equally by Protectionists and Free Traders, for Free Trade is not a fetish; it can stand on its own merits, and if the disciples of Free Trade shun an enquiry it will show that they have no confidence in its stability. Surely it is time for England, which is no longer an island bounded by the sea, but a vast Empire covering a large portion of the World,

to watch her various trades and not allow them to be wrested from her by unfair foreign competition. Surely it is time that she should fight shoulder to shoulder with her Colonies in the ever-present war of hostile tariffs, as she has fought shoulder to shoulder in her military wars.

“ Sir Nevile Lubbock has given us a quotation from Prince Bismarck. It has brought to mind another quotation from a speech of his made years ago, opening a suggestion, which I have always remained surprised has not been already acted on. He said that England had such vast and valuable possessions that if she ever consolidated her Empire she would become so powerful that no combination could attack her power or her trade, and that this is still the idea of German statesmen is proved by their recent attitude to Canada—a Colony that has always clamoured for reciprocity between England and her Colonies, and one that has done all in its power to foster trade with the West Indies which we represent. I hope that the coincidence of this meeting being held on ‘ Dominion Day ’ is a good augury that that great Colony will succeed in its efforts. I shall not detain the meeting any longer, as I am to be followed by Mr. Tinne and Mr. Shephard, who can speak with greater force than I can.”

Mr. J. E. Tinne, of the West India Association of Liverpool, seconded the resolution, which had, he said, the full support of the Association which he represented.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, in supporting the resolution, said that he wished to define what he meant by the word ‘ unfair ’ used in the resolution in respect of foreign competition. He had the authority of Adam Smith, Ricardo, John Stuart Mill senior, and the late Professor Cairnes for the proposition that the fundamental basis for that policy termed by politicians ‘ Free Trade ’ was a free competition between all producers relying on their respective natural advantages, so that the fittest might prevail. But as soon as Bounties and specific State-aid were given to the foreign competitor, the British producer had to find the equivalent out of his own pocket; in short, as Mr. Gladstone once said, he had to pit his capital and industrial resources against ‘ the long purse of the foreign government which was backing his competitor.’ As soon as the competition of natural advantages ceased, free trade ceased, and the competition became ‘ unfair.’ From such a form of unfair foreign competition had the West Indies long suffered, and the natural trade relations between those Colonies and the Mother Country had thus been arbitrarily interfered with, to the manifest injury of the labour and capital dependent on the Colonial trade and industry.

The Chairman then put the resolution to the meeting and it was carried unanimously amid cheers. A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. C. Czarnikow and seconded by Lord Stanmore, brought the proceedings to a close.

West Indian Cable Communication.

In our last issue we published the correspondence which has passed between the West India Committee, the Colonial Office, and the Cable Companies regarding the constant interruptions of the cable communication with and between the British West Indian Colonies. A copy was forwarded to the Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain, the Postmaster-General, who informed us, on June 24th, that the question of Cable Communication in the West Indies is “ now receiving the attention of His Majesty’s Government.” At our request he forwarded to us a copy of the reply of the Post Office, dated May 23rd, to the Memorial of the Chambers of Commerce which advocated Imperial Cables, touching only on British territory, all round the world. The pith of this reply from the point of view of the West Indies is—that the Postmaster-General does not consider it necessary or desirable that the State should undertake at the present time any further large Cable extensions, but the question

of laying an additional Cable from Jamaica to St. Lucia, as recommended by the Cable Communications Committee of 1900, is now receiving the consideration of the Government. This brings the matter a step forward. It remains for the West Indies to continue, as we shall do, to urge the necessity of reform. Telegraphic communication with Demerara which was interrupted on June 10th was restored on June 30th.

West Indian Cotton.

So much has recently been written by the Press in the West Indies regarding the Cotton growing experiments that they call for brief notice only in the Circular. Up to the present time the British Cotton Growing Association has made grants amounting to £400 to the West Indies, to be distributed in the form of bonuses or prizes. Power Gins and several Presses have been sent out, and also a large quantity of seed, as free gifts; but if more are required they will have to be paid for out of the Cotton grown. It will be remembered that in our last issue we advocated the despatch of an Agent to the Islands to instruct growers as to the most suitable kind of cotton to grow, etc. We have since been the medium of conveying to the British Cotton Growing Association a generous offer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to afford such Agent a free passage by the Company's steamers to the West Indies and back. This offer is now under the consideration of the Association, and will, we hope be formally entertained. It may be useful to give a few hints to Planters who are disposed to grow cotton. The cost of planting and bringing an acre of cotton to bearing is about £3. In most of the Islands where drainage is good the Planter should plant from one to fifty acres of Sea Island cotton, obtaining his seed through his Botanic Station. He will require a gin (costing £30 to £40), and may ship in bags for the first experiment, or get a simple press (particulars being obtained from the British Cotton Growing Association, 19, Queen Street, Oldham). If he is a man without means, he may ask the local Government, or at the Botanic Station, if the British Cotton Growing Association is going to lend a gin to anyone in his neighbourhood, and if so he may get his cotton ginned there. Much literature has been published regarding Cotton Cultivation, the most important works on the subject being *Cotton Planting*, published by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1896, and *Cotton; its uses, varieties, yield, climate, and cultivation*, by Brooks, published in London and New York. But as these deal with Cotton in temperate climates, we would advise our friends in the West Indies to study in the first instance Pamphlet No. 21, "*Cotton and Onion Industries*," recently issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, copies of which can be obtained from the West India Committee, post free 2½d.

Birthday Honours.

The West Indies are well represented in the list of Birthday Honours published on Friday, June 26th. Dr. DANIEL MORRIS, M.A., C.M.G., Imperial Commission of Agriculture in the West Indies, is promoted to be a K.C.M.G. HIS HONOUR C. T. COX, Administrator of the Presidency of St. Christopher and Nevis, HIS HONOUR H. H. J. BELL, Administrator of Dominica, and VALENTINE G. BELL, M.I.C.E., Director of Public Works in Jamaica, become Companions of the same order (C.M.G.). Among other names which will be recognised by West Indians are those of SIR HENRY BERGNE, K.C.M.G., C.B., late of the Foreign Office and now British Delegate on the International Sugar Commission, who has been made a Knight Commander of the Bath., PATRICK MANSON, ESQ., LL.D., M.D., F.R.S., Medical Adviser of the Colonial Office, who becomes a K.C.M.G. for special services in connection with tropical diseases; and G. R. LE HUNTE, ESQ., C.M.G., Governor of South Australia and late Colonial Secretary of Barbados, who is raised to a similar dignity. To all these gentlemen we offer our sincere congratulations.

Molasses Cattle Foods.

We are informed, as at present arranged, it is proposed that the remission of duty upon Molasses containing under 50% of sweetening matter shall take effect from September 1st, next. It is intended to limit the concession to Molasses used for cattle feeding, and the necessary precautions for this purpose are under consideration. Any concession made to imported Molasses will be extended to similar Molasses turned out from Home Refineries. No rebates will be granted on stocks.

Notes.

IN THE FIRST LINE SECOND PARAGRAPH of the article "Great Britain's Fiscal Policy" in *Circular* 99, "Mr. Chamberlain's motion" should read "Mr. Chaplin's motion."

THE HON. A. M. ASHMORE, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of British Guiana, was, on June 22nd, entertained at dinner by the West Indian Club. The Chair on this occasion was occupied by Mr. Henry K. Davson.

MR. W. G. FREEMAN, lately Technical Assistant to Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, has been appointed superintendent of the Economic Collections at the Imperial Institute, which is now under the Board of Trade.

THE WEST INDIA AND PANAMA TELEGRAPH COMPANY have courteously acceded to the request of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, made at the instance of the Barbados Commercial Hall, that the quotation of Puerto Rico Molasses should be published in their cabled Prices Current.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR FREDERICK HODGSON, K.C.M.G., Governor of Barbados, has consented to attend an informal Meeting of Barbados proprietors at the West India Committee Room, at 2.30 p.m., on Wednesday, July 15th.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, in reply to Sir Charles Dilke, in the House of Commons on July 3rd, said he hoped the Report of the Trinidad Riot Commission would be ready for delivery to Members not later than the 22nd, inst.

NO DATE HAS YET BEEN FIXED for taking the Sugar Convention Bill in the House of Commons, but on July 2nd, Mr. Balfour, in reply to Mr. Lough, stated that he thought it would be advisable to take the London Education Bill first, though he would not absolutely pledge himself to that arrangement.

WE REGRET THAT MR. J. E. KERR has been compelled through ill health to resign his seat upon the Executive of the West India Committee. His resignation was accepted with regret, on June 26th, and hopes were expressed, which we cordially endorse, that he might live for many years and enjoy steadily improving health in Jamaica, where he has now decided to reside.

THE PORTRAIT OF SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, by Professor Hubert von Herkomer, R.A., which it is hoped to present to our Chairman at a Banquet in the near future—of which due notice will be given—has been temporarily placed in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOM, for the inspection of Members. All will, we think, agree that it is a striking likeness.

DR. G. B. MASON, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., whose name is familiar in connection with the inauguration of the West Indian Club, has contributed an Article, entitled: "The needs of the West Indies," to

"*The Empire Review*," July number, (Vol. V. No. 30, 1/- net, Macmillan & Co., Ltd.). He deals in this article with the need of uniformity and efficiency in the Government of the Islands, Education, the Church, and the Civil, Legal, and Medical Services.

ALL PUBLICATIONS OF THE IMPERIAL DEPARTMENT of Agriculture for the West Indies are obtainable through the West India Committee. A remittance to cover cost and postage must accompany every order. Since the last notice in the *Circular* we have received *The Agricultural News*, Vol. II., No. 29, 30, and 31, 1d. per copy. The interest of this Fortnightly Review, to which every planter should subscribe, is well maintained.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored at Plymouth at 4.55 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1st, and the Mails from the West Indies generally were delivered by first post on Thursday, July 2nd. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, June 24th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Atrato".

Antigua.—(A. St. G. Spooner, Esq.) June 16th. Practically no business was being done in the sale of sugar and molasses for export. The former was being generally shipped to Canada. Deliveries of Molasses, which was still quoted at 20 cents, were being effected rather than fresh sales made. A break had at last occurred in the long spell of dry weather and frequent showers had fallen during the fortnight amounting to about 1.80—2.00 on many estates: as usual however some estates got much less.

Barbados.—(Hon. Forster M. Alleyne) June 11th. Commenting on Mr. Chamberlain's Birmingham Speech and Fiscal proposals, our Hon. Correspondent wrote: "It seems to us that if such a scheme were carried out, justice would at last be done to the Colonies, and a chance of their proper development be given to them. As long ago as 1886, the Inter-colonial Exhibition at Kensington gave ocular demonstration of the fact that the Colonies could provide every article of food or merchandise needed by the Mother Country, and that ability has increased ten-fold since. It has been only because they have been handicapped by foreign tariffs, and railway charges on their home market, that they have not gone still further ahead. The debates at the meeting at Montreal, and Mr. Chamberlain's own speeches, when the campaign is really opened, cannot fail to have great effect. It seems to me our plain duty to endeavour, in our humble way, to support the Zollverein; first by meetings at the Agricultural and Commercial Halls, and then by means of the Legislature. The initiatory measure have not been lost sight of."

The state of things in the Island continued most unsatisfactory. One of the shortest crops on record had been reaped, and sugar had dropped to \$1.25 and \$5.00. There was a fine young crop on the ground, but rain was wanted badly. Of late years rains had come on about May 25th, but as yet only showers had fallen. As the canes were extremely forward, they would be thrust back and the effects would be disastrous. The average rainfall for June to date, did not exceed 1.50 inch. The price of Molasses was maintained at 18 cents per gallon, but it had almost all been sold and the quantity made had been small. Besides impairing the yield, the dust had also affected the quality of the sugar. There was therefore no department of their manufacture or revenue in which they had not been hard hit this year. Potatoes used to be a valuable asset to the planter as an offal crop, now the very beggars at the door refused to take them. A man recently sent 20 cents to buy potatoes, and his servant brought back 260 lbs! and there seemed no demand for shipments of them to the Islands.

British Guiana.—(J. C. McCowan, Esq.) June 17th. Regarding Mr. Chamberlain's proposals there could be no question as to the benefit the Colonies would derive from preferential duties, and it was hoped that Mr. Chamberlain would be strong enough to carry the Country with him. A meeting of the Planters' Association was held on the 9th inst, when several letters from the Government were under discussion. The principal ones were about increased allowance to Medical Officers from Sugar Estates for attendance on Managers and Staff, there being more work entailed now, owing to amalgamation, than there was in 1873, when the present rate—\$80 per annum—was fixed. The Government also suggested that an increased rate of pay should be given to Indentured Immigrants, to make up for the time lost in going

to and from their work, which they stated had been increased owing to amalgamation. They were also asked about the advisability of recruiting Panjabis as labourers for the Colony, but this was decided against. There had been no meetings of the Legislature during the fortnight. The Governor had gone to Massaruni for a week, and the acting Government Secretary, Mr. Darnell Davis, would act as his deputy during his absence at any time from the city. Twelve Coolies were being tried at the Berbice Criminal Ssssion for the rioting at plantation "Friends." Their defence was being conducted by Mr. Wills. He regretted to report a continuance of wet weather, which was taxing the cultivation considerably. In Berbice-Corentyne district, some villages being flooded out. There was a good demand for Coal, for draining purposes, but at present the supply was not equal to the demand, and it might be a serious matter if rains continued. About 2700 tons Refining Crystals had been sold during the fortnight. The price on June 17th was \$1.80.

Dominica.—(E. A. Agar, Esq.) June 18th. The lime crop was opening and the export of green limes to the United States was in full swing. In the preceding week a steamer took 1100 barrels from Dominica, and a like quantity was leaving that day. During the fortnight a fair amount of rain had fallen, and it was hoped that the wet season had really set in. It was a month later than usual.

Grenada.—(Hon. D. S. De Freitas) June 18th. The fever was speedily dying out in Carriacou, and in Grenada there remained only three cases in isolation, two of which were to be discharged in the following week. So far, not one death had been attributed to fever. At date they had shipped 59,887 bags of Cocoa; the island was therefore 1398 bags short of last crop, which yielded 61,285 bags. The deficiency should be made up by the end of August. Abundant showers continued to fall daily, and crop prospects were consequently reasonably bright. The Grenada Agricultural Society had offered an annual subsidy of £50 for the services of a Suffolk Punch Stallion and for a Jack Donkey, 15 hands high. The services of these animals would be highly appreciated in the island, especially by the small proprietors, of whom a large number kept a mare or two.

Jamaica.—(J. L. Asbenheim, Esq.) June 15th. Except in Vere, which had been dry since the beginning of June, they had been having good rains throughout the Island, and they still continued. Regarding the Pimento Crop, on the South side the reaping would be at the usual time and prospects pointed to a good crop; on the North side reaping would be late, but if the blossoms held there would be a large crop. There were prospects of a large Coffee crop. Mr. Dawson, an Indian tea expert who had visited the Island at the instance of Sir Alfred Jones, had expressed opinion that there was a good opening for persons desirous of investing money in the cultivation of tea there. The tea grown experimentally in Jamaica resembled in many respects the finer Chinese blends, and was quite unlike that produced in Ceylon.

Montserrat.—(C. Watson, Esq.) June 16th. The weather continued dry and hot, retarding the cultivation of land for cotton and the sowing of seed. About 5000 lbs. of cotton was being shipped by the mail, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company having generously offered to carry it free of charge.

St. Kitts.—(Hon. Edward G. Todd.) June 16th. The weather was very favourable. Thunder and lightning with soaking showers of rain. Mr. Andrew Munro, who had been seriously ill was out of danger, and had been moved from Town to the Port.

St. Vincent.—(Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.) June 17. Dr. Morris has visited the Island, and had held out such good prospects for Cotton, that several planters' were going in for that industry on quite an extensive scale. Only half a crop of arrowroot would be shipped that year, but there was no outlet even for the reduced quantity.

Trinidad.—(Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick) June 19th. Messrs. George Goodwille, Edgar Tripp, and Geddes Grant would represent Trinidad at the Meetings of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in August. The printing and publishing of the evidence before the Riot Commission could not keep pace with the witnesses, so that at the time of the departure of the Commissioners the printed reports were considerably in arrears and had to be discontinued. The whole would therefore be printed in England, together with the Commissioners report, and would be procurable there. The Legislative Council resumed its meetings on the 8th inst., when the Estimates for the year 1903-4 were passed. As these had been previously approved by the Finance Committee, and as it was not considered desirable to enter upon questions arising out of the recent disturbances until after the receipt of the report of the Commissioners, there was but little discussion on them. Another Private Bill was submitted for the construction, maintenance, and improvement of the Telephone System of the Colony. Like its predecessors, it was referred to a Select Committee. It was suggested by Mr. Goodwille, that the Government should take over all the telephones and work them in conjunction with the Post Office. Though they were now well in the wet season, the rains have been so far moderate, and while benefitting considerably both cocoa

and canes, had not interfered with seasonable field work. The sugar crop returns were not yet made up, but the shipments to date showed about 100,000 bags short of last year's shipments to same date. Markets improved, but making all allowances for this, the crop would prove to be very short. The cocoa crop, though short in some districts, would probably be much larger than that of last year for the whole Colony. From January 1st to date the shipments were about 3,000,000 lbs. in excess of last year to same date.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) June 23rd. "Very dry: rain wanted." June 29th. "Favourable change in the weather." July 6th. "Fine rain generally throughout the Island."
British Guiana.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) June 23rd. "Heavy rain has fallen." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) June 26th. "Heavy rains continue, cultivation in some districts beginning to suffer." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) July 1st. "Weather moderating." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.) July 1st. "Weather showery and unsettled." July 2nd. "There is a favourable change in the weather." (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.) July 3rd (Berbice) "There is a favourable change in the weather."
Trinidad.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) July 2nd. "Heavy rains beneficial for cultivation."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Barbados—								
Jan. 1 to June 18, 1903	19,225	—	—	—	—	21,549	—	—
" " 18, 1902	30,356	—	—	—	—	35,470	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to June 16, 1903	43,938	58,802	—	11,285	4582	3380	36,701	4105
" " 17, 1902	40,464	42,392	—	13,460	3100	845	43,401	5725
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
Apr. 1 to May 23, 1903	4317	3731	6522	318,180	4,062,002	2206	2,662,563	704,800
" " 24, 1902	5609	2564	19,790	472,247	3,687,250	2905	2,539,497	3,646,850
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to June 18, 1903	340,459	29,924,390	34,920	158	6,184,627	Puns. 2408	Tres. 147	Brks. 140
" " 18, 1902	422,136	19,707,760	32,160	1232	6,532,877	2176	111	191
								Tons. 74,301
								61,555

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," July 1st, 1903.—**Barbados.**—Mr. J. W. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Hall, Mrs. G. C. Edghill, Miss M. Bourne, Miss Holt, Miss Sealy, Misses M. and F. Braithwaite, Miss L. Greenidge, Mr. J. Staal, Mr. and Mrs. Massiah, Mr. Abraham Madsen, Mr. G. Hennemann, Mr. A. F. Lindstrom
Demerara.—Mr. S. W. Neale, Mr. W. J. Phillips, Mr. J. Moir, Mr. Uthwait, Mr. J. Whitford, Mr. C. Burns, Sergt.-Major Pepper. **Jamaica.**—Mrs. L. Verley, Miss A. Schloss, Mr. F. Owen, Hon. George Sanftleben, Mrs. Edye, Miss Mammoth, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Sherlock, Master Wylie Sherlock, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Douet, Mrs. J. C. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Steel, Miss D. H. Brett, Mr. C. H. Ward, Major Edye, M. J. W., Miss Florence Ramsey, Mr. and Mrs. G. Robinson, A.S.C. **Trinidad.**—Mr. J. Sergeant, Mr. A. Body, Miss Mitchell, Dr. and Mrs. L. Lota, Mr. F. W. Urich, Messrs. J. H. and F. G. Glendinning, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hamlyn, Miss Macfarlane, Mrs. G. de Lemos, Mrs. and Miss Atthill, Dr. G. Vincent, Mr. M. and two Misses Alonzo, Mr. H. L. Valere, Mr. L. A. Salomon, Mr. J. de la Sauvagere, Mr. A. P. Maingot, Mr. B. H. Stevens, Mr. J. E. Dallison, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, Miss Emily Alum, Messrs. G. and A. Muir, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rust, Mr. G. McIntyre, Mr. FitzGerald. **Antigua.**—Mr. J. Maginley. **Grenada.**—Hon. W. H. Lascelles. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. G. V. Hepburn, Mr. F. F. Gordon.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," July 8th, 1903.—**Barbados.**—Major Todd, Mrs. Jackman, Miss Mann, Mr. George L. Pile, Mr. H. Williams. **Demerara.**—Miss E. Garnett, Master E. Garnett, Master I. Irving, Master T. Irving, Master Cecil Bovell, Mr. A. F. Chapman, Miss Chick, Mr. S. Webb, Mr. A. Touissant, Mr. Jean Guique, **Jamaica.**—Dr. Solomon Isaacs, Mrs. Maud, Mr. Alfred J. C. Browne, Mr. H. Knowles, Mr. and Mrs. Crease, Mr. W. L. Cooper, Mr. E. Crease. **Trinidad.**—Mr. R. Cipriani, Mr. F. Evans, Mr. Benjamin Keene, Miss Jane Mungle. **Grenada.**—Mr. Don Tudor, Mrs. Tudor, Mr. Gustavus Thompson. **St. Kitts.**—Mr. M. M. Barrie, Mr. J. Dabrio

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," June 24th, 1903.—**Jamaica.**—His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, three Misses Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. Hood Daniel, Mr. R. Dawson, Mr. J. Greenwood, Mr. H. Greenwood, Mr. and Miss Heaven, Rev. C. C. Linton, Dr. Lecesne, Mr. A. Maggs, Mr. J. T. Musson, Mr. J. E. Sherlock, Mrs. and Miss Westmoreland, Mrs. and Miss Birchell.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," July 4th, 1903.—**Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Attewell, Rev. G. W. Graham, Dr. and Mr. A. E. Ireland, Mr. A. H. Lopez, Mr. J. C. Sharp, Mr. A. Young, Mr. N. Kury, Mr. A. F. Smith.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—In the last issue of this "Summary" the growth in the production of Beetroot Sugar, fostered by Bounties and Cartels, was given for several years past, and it was then shown that in ten years, viz: from 1892/3 to 1901/2, the crops had increased from 3,420,000 Tons to 6,850,000 Tons, thus doubling themselves during this period. With Cane Sugar unsupported by any artificial Government assistance, production has remained practically stationary, and a perusal of approximate crops extracted from the admirably compiled figures, as given with slight variations, and contained in Messrs. Willett and Gray's, New York, always interesting "Statistical" may be of interest. These figures take no account of the enormous production in British India, which is consumed locally.

CANE CROPS.—Messrs. WILLETT & GRAY.

Season.	America.	Asia.	Australia.	Africa.	Total.
1893/4	2,230,000 a	770,000 b	250,000	260,000 c	3,510,000 Tons.
1894/5	2,230,000	750,000	280,000	240,000	3,500,000 "
1895/6	1,400,000	930,000	340,000	270,000	2,940,000 "
1896/7	1,450,000	760,000	340,000	290,000	2,840,000 "
1897/8	1,500,000	760,000	350,000	250,000	2,860,000 "
1898/9	1,380,000	770,000	450,000	310,000	2,910,000 "
1899/1900	1,750,000	800,000	170,000	290,000	3,010,000 "
1900/1	2,380,000	780,000	140,000	300,000	3,600,000 "
1901/2	2,710,000	860,000	160,000	280,000	4,010,000 "
1902/3	2,620,000	940,000	120,000	260,000	3,940,000 "

a Including Cuba, Hawaii, and West Indies. b Including Java. c Including Mauritius.

These figures include countries not considered in what is called here the "Known World," and referred to in the remarks contained on this subject in the last Summary. Hence the difference in the totals.

Prices of 88% Beet have continued their downward course under the influence of the overwhelming supplies of Bounty and Cartel Fed Sugar, and also under the uncertainty of the manner in which the Brussels Commission will deal with private Cartels, which can reduce the cost of Exporting £1. per Ton, thus neutralising the greater part of the Government Bounties, supposed to be abolished on September 1st. This is a most important matter, and needs firmly dealing with. To-day's quotations of 88% are July 7s. 8½d.; October/December, 8s. 5½d.; January/March, 8s. 7½d. April/June, 8s. 9½d.; all free on board Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

	1903.		1902.		1901.		1900.		1899.	
	7s. 8½d.	10s. 10½d.	7s. 8½d.	10s. 10½d.	9s. 3d.	11s. 4½d.	11s. 4½d.	10s. 7d.	10s. 7d.	10s. 7d.
The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows:—										
	1903		1902		1901		1900		1899	
Europe	2,170,000	2,320,000	1,450,000	1,300,000	1,460,000	1,300,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	Tons.
United States	320,000	130,000	290,000	150,000	290,000	150,000	290,000	290,000	290,000	"
Cuba	340,000	410,000	130,000	40,000	60,000	40,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	"
Cargoes afloat	70,000	50,000	90,000	60,000	90,000	60,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	"
Total	2,900,000	2,910,000	1,960,000	1,550,000	1,960,000	1,550,000	1,960,000	1,960,000	1,960,000	

Crystallized Sugar.—There has been a slow demand during the fortnight, but the small sales made have maintained the value of average qualities at 14s. 9d. A cargo of dark Crystals cannot now be quoted over 9s. 3d. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar unchanged from 11s. to 14s.

Muscovado.—Fair sales of grocery Barbados from 13s. 6d. to 14s. 0d.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date	16,000	40,000	38,000	27,000 Tons.
Deliveries	21,000	21,000	19,000	20,000 "
Stocks	23,000	31,000	27,000	12,000 "

Rum.—The market is steady but quiet, and the sales of Demerara are chiefly at 9½d. to 10d., the former being the value of fair marks. Fair standard marks of Jamaica are now 1s. 8d., and Cuba with other Foreign kinds 7d. to 10d., according to quality and package.

London Figures to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports Jamaica	3500	6500	6100	4200 Puns.
Demerara	7400	11,900	11,200	8100 "
Stocks Jamaica	9300	9600	9400	7200 Puns.
Demerara	7700	9000	7900	3700 "
Total of all kinds	26,742	28,059	26,600	13,177 Puns.

Cocoa.—The production of this article is increasing everywhere, and if it is to keep in stride consumption must wake up. Take the little island of St. Tomé only, as an illustration.

Receipts of St. Tomé cocoa in Lisbon:—

Entire Years.									
1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.		
5950	6700	7500	8800	11,700	11,800	14,300	15,800	Tons.	
First Six Months.									
1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.		
2780	2940	2800	4070	5460	5030	7010	5350	Tons.	

This is a plain explanation of the declining prices now before us.

Stocks in London:—

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
81,000	62,000	104,000	87,000 Bags.

A further reduction in prices has taken place and the general tone of the market is weak. As a rule this is a season of the year when a lessened demand for Cocoa is usually encountered, and this fact undoubtedly adds to the prevailing weakness. The latest sales of West India Cocoa have been as follows:—Trinidad, fair collected 57s., estate marks 57s. to 60s. and up to 65s.; Grenada, fair 50s., fermented 53s. to 55s. and a lot or two 56s.; Native cocoa from other Islands is worth about 48s., and fermented 52s. to 54s.

Coffee.—No improvement. July Santos is quoted 24s. **Nutmegs.**—A good business in West India 54 to the lb. at 2s. 1d., and 120s at 8½d., with intermediate weights at proportionate prices. **Mace.**—Fair sales of West India from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 2d. **Pimento.**—Dull. A small business at 2½. **Ginger.**—Less active, but prices unchanged. **Cotton.**—The value of fair West India is about 6½d.

Arrowroot.—London Figures to 30th June.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	6640	9798	12,001	19,618 Barrels.
Deliveries	7141	8364	9989	8360 "
Stocks	11,923	9153	10,112	13,789 "

Practically there is no demand whatever for the moment, and it is not possible to give a quotation for fair manufacturing that would be otherwise than misleading.

Algernon E. Aspinnall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

Telegrams:
"CARIB" LONDON.

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

Telephone:
"6642" CENTRAL.

15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C.

Monday, July 20th, 1903.

The Sugar Question.

Some of our party politicians appear to have entirely misunderstood—perhaps purposely—the nature of the International Conference of Sugar Manufacturers which was held in Brussels on July 6th and 7th last. The view expressed that it was a plot to raise the price of sugar in British markets is quite erroneous. Bounties have caused an excessive production of beetroot sugar, from which the Continental manufacturers are now suffering, owing to the consequent fall in price below the cost of production. As they lose their bounties on the 1st September, and as the visible supplies are still excessive to the extent of a million tons, they see clearly that the only way to restore equilibrium between supply and demand is to reduce their production. Hence the scheme, originally proposed by the Belgian Society of Sugar Manufacturers who invited the conference, which has led to the adoption of a series of general resolutions affirming that it would be desirable by common agreement to limit production in such a way as to avoid the dangers of over-production. But it is clear that these resolutions are at present purely platonic, and that the task of putting them into actual practice would be almost impossible. The real remedy for the present artificial glut of sugar is to allow natural causes to take their course so soon as the removal of bounties has restored the sugar market to a normal condition. In this connection it is satisfactory to find that the representatives of the Austro-Hungarian sugar industry, at their meeting on the 27th June, resigned themselves to the necessity of the withdrawal of the Government contingent system. We have frequently expressed our opinion in the *West India Committee Circular* that this system would bring Austrian sugar under the Penal Clause. They do not appear to anticipate with much confidence the success of any private cartel arrangement. The findings of the Permanent Commission established under Article VII of the Sugar Convention and the report of the British Delegate have been issued as a Parliamentary Paper (Commercial No. 6, 1903), which can be seen at the West India Committee Room. A useful summary will found in the *Times* of Saturday, July 18th.

Sir J. Hodgson and Barbados Proprietors.

A Meeting of Barbados Proprietors was held at the West India Committee Room at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 15th inst., to meet His Excellency Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., Governor of Barbados. In the absence of Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., the Chair was taken by Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, and there were present Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., Colonel Nourse, Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Trollope, Mrs. Senhouse, Miss Eversley, Mr. G. B. Mason, L.R.C.P., Mr. F. B. Smith, I.S.O., Mr. A. Bovell, Mr. George Carington, Mr. R. A. Daniell, Rev. H. A. Daniel, Mr. Herbert Jackson (Messrs. Thos. Daniel & Co.), Mr. Elliot G. Louis, Mr. Morrison (The Colonial Bank), Mr. Samuel Manning, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. T. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary. Letters of regret at their unavoidable absence were received from Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., Captain C. R. Harris, R.N., Colonel W. A. Collings, Mr. R. Arthur, Mr. Joshua Baeza, Mr. C. J. P. Cave, and Mr. T. C. Garth.

Mr. Shephard, introducing His Excellency to the meeting, said that he had been asked on behalf of the Barbadian proprietors who were present to express to H.E. The Governor their sincere

appreciation of his courtesy and kindness in coming there to meet them that day. He regretted the unavoidable absence of their respected Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, and Deputy Chairman, Mr. Davson, one of whom would have otherwise presided. The existing cause of all financial difficulty in Barbados was, in his opinion, not industrial or local but purely political and Imperial. It had arisen from the Continental Bounty System on the one hand, and the absence of any effective countervailing measures by the Imperial Government on the other. This system had caused an arbitrary depreciation in the natural value of Barbados sugar, estimated at some £3 per ton on an average. Whether market prices rose or fell—were high or low—there was present, as a differential constant against Barbados and in favour of the Continent, some £3 per ton. This on an average of 55,000 to 60,000 tons amounted to an annual loss of from £165,000 to £180,000. These bounties had existed for over twenty years, and if this annual loss were capitalized at 5% interest for that period it would amount to a capital sum of between five and six millions of pounds sterling. This indicated the sacrifice which the capital value and income of the Barbados sugar plantations might be said to have sustained by this political cause; as a consequence their residuary value had now become barely sufficient for the maintenance of working arrangements on any credit basis. Mortgagors and mortgagees had become tied up in inextricable knots, baffling all remedy short of absolute confiscation of the real value of the estates. But, as the Bounty System is about to terminate, there were reasonable grounds for confidence in the revival of the natural value of the plantations. Incidental to the international negotiations for the Sugar Bounty Convention, delay was bargained for by the Continent. To meet this concession, as it entailed a continuance of a loss to the West India plantations, Parliament had voted a grant-in-aid of £250,000, of which £80,000 had been apportioned to Barbados. This really was an emergency fund in aid of cultivation expenses for 1902-3, and as all these expenses were for labour the grant was really a direct contribution to the wages of the labouring population in relief of the owners who would have had, and, as a fact, have had to provide them out of their own resources without any chance of full recoupment at present prices. He would ask, with the Governor's permission, Mr. Rutherford, who had gone into this point very carefully, to make some observations; and, in conclusion, he ventured to state that there now appeared to him substantial grounds for believing in the revival of prosperity in Barbados as soon as this purely political and Imperial cause of the present crisis was, as it was about to be, removed.

Mr. Rutherford said those present cordially endorsed the words of welcome by Mr. Sheppard, and were glad of the opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the services of Sir Frederic Hodgson during his Governorship of Barbados. The Island was passing through a most trying year owing to an exceptionally short crop of sugar and low prices: Molasses, however, were selling well. The volcanic dust from the Soufriere had rendered the manufacture more difficult, and then the unfortunate outbreak of smallpox with its attendant quarantine regulations had greatly hampered the shipping and trading community and had caused a considerable loss to the revenue. Owing to the steps taken by Sir Frederic, the epidemic had been successfully stamped out, and it was to be hoped that the quarantine regulations ruling in the West Indies, which had hit Barbados so hardly during this present outbreak, would be altered so as to harmonise with present day conditions. The thanks of the community were due to Sir Frederic Hodgson for his firm action in dealing with cane incendiarism, with the result that there had been a marked decrease in cane field fires. With regard to the Imperial grant-in-aid of £80,000, Mr. Rutherford briefly related the circumstances leading up to this, and expressed the view that by converting this grant into a loan a grievous injustice had been inflicted on those who declined to come under the onerous conditions of the Plantations in Aid Act, 1902—an Act to deal with £80,000 which was hastily passed in Barbados without opportunity for those on this

side, who had been instrumental in obtaining the grant, to express their views either by themselves or through their correspondents. The grant-in-aid was voted by Parliament to enable the sugar industry to tide over the interval until the Convention signed at Brussels would come into force. Those carrying on the sugar industry during that interval had not received any assistance from the grant, but had at considerable loss to themselves kept labour employed and relieved the Government from difficulties and troubles which need not be enlarged upon. They therefore ventured to claim their share in the distribution of the £80,000, and had expressed their views in the following Resolution adopted at a meeting on June 11th:—

“That prior to the 1st September next it may be declared that the grant-in-aid of £80,000 shall (subject nevertheless to the provisions of the Plantations in Aid Act, 1902) be set apart and appropriated to and for the general benefit of the whole planting community in Barbados who participated in the 1902 crop, in such manner and form as the Barbadian Legislature may determine having regard to the objects for which the Imperial Parliament voted the grant and the obligations by Great Britain under the Brussels Sugar Convention.”

Mr. Rutherford then drew attention to the unsatisfactory state of cable communication with and between the various West Indian islands and the frequent breakdown which was a serious matter alike to both planters and merchants, especially at crop time, and expressed a hope that Sir Frederic whilst he was over here would look into the matter and endeavour to ensure a more certain means of communication either by the adoption of the Marconi system or the amalgamation of the existing Companies. In conclusion, he said that he felt quite sure that it was the Governor's desire to safeguard the interests of absentee owners as well as of those resident in the Island and again thanked him for giving those present the opportunity of meeting him.

Sir Frederic Hodgson said that it always gave him great pleasure to meet those who were interested in Barbados, and to obtain, as he had to-day, their views on Barbadian affairs. As regards the sugar industry, he would not refer to the causes of its decadence as they were well known. What was of more importance was its revival, and he was glad to hear Mr. Shephard express the opinion that eventually this would result from the operation of the Brussels Convention. Exception had been taken to the manner in which the Imperial grant to Barbados had been dealt with, but when the Merchants took the step of refusing to finance certain estates, the Government was confronted with the possibility of having to maintain several thousands of labourers who would be thrown out of employment. It was decided, and in his judgment rightly, to use the money in the first instance in financing the estates in question, in, in fact, keeping them alive until better times came, thus at the same time providing wages for the labourers. The grant was still available for the sugar industry for which it was given. The problem was how best to employ it. Some were in favour of a distribution of the money pro rata among the owners of estates; others in the erection of central factories; and there was yet another scheme, namely the establishment of an agricultural bank on the Raffeisen system. Although owners of estates had lost heavily and were entitled to every possible consideration, he did not see how the first proposals would permanently benefit the industry. He thought the establishment of central factories, worked on co-operative principles as advocated by Mr. Shephard, offered the best guarantee for future success. He would proceed tentatively with one factory, so as to see clearly what the results were likely to be. With regard to the large debts on the majority of the estates, he thought that the matter required attention with a view to seeing whether any steps were possible whereby under Government supervision, the burdens could be lightened. Sir Frederic urged the taking up of alternative industries and thought cotton cultivation more suited than anything else to the Barbadian labourer. Barbados was in every respect adapted to cotton cultivation, and the recently published report showed that cotton could be grown in Barbados as well as in any other part

of the Empire. Referring to Manjak and Petroleum, Sir Frederic said that both had been worked in recent years in a desultory sort of way, but he was in favour of obtaining a complete knowledge of the mineral resources of the Island, and in encouraging those who were engaged in developing them. It was an important matter and would engage his attention upon his return. Referring to Mr. Rutherford's remarks, he said that he regarded the quarantine arrangements in the West Indies as obsolete and in many respects absurd, and he was able to say that the report of the Commission which he had appointed to look into the matter would be made the text for a conference of all West Indian Colonies.

Mr. Carrington said, in response to the Governor's kind intimation of willingness to reply on any points bearing on the welfare of Barbados which those present might raise, he would like to state that his experience of Central Factories had been a caution to him and might be a warning to others not to lightly incur the very heavy outlay incidental to all engineering schemes. He could endorse the statements of the previous speakers as to the great need of help to the owners who were providing the wages of the labourers engaged in the cultivation—they were scanty wages, but even as such, those who paid them were not recouped at present prices.

Lieut.-Colonel Trollope said he feared the Governor hardly realized the position of the absentee owners in respect of the large sums they had sent over to continue the cultivation. Would the Governor be willing to receive some suggestions by way of a scheme for the distribution of the grant in such a way as to benefit all classes of the community.

Replying to Mr. Carrington, Sir Frederic said that central factories, if established, would not be Government factories, nor come under Government auspices: and to Lt.-Col. Trollope, who strongly advocated distribution of the Imperial grant among owners, he said that he wished it to be clearly understood that his remarks with regard to the establishment of central factories were not dictated by any feeling of hostility towards absentee proprietors who were entitled to every possible consideration. He added, that if Lt.-Col. Trollope and those who coincided with him would show some scheme of distribution which would permanently benefit the sugar industry, the matter would receive his most careful consideration.

The proceedings were then brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

West Indian Cotton.

We have been requested by Mr. John C. Atkins, the Secretary of the British Cotton Growing Association to ask that all communications from planters and others in the West Indian Islands should be sent through the various Governors and Commissioners, the Imperial Department of Agriculture at Barbados, or the West India Committee, as it is impossible for all the enquiries to be separately attended to. We understand that the Hon. Francis Watts, of the Leeward Islands, has been in constant communication with the Association and has made valuable suggestions, many of which will be acted upon. On his return, early next month, he will confer with Sir Daniel Morris, Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, and the experience he has gained here will doubtless be very valuable. Negotiations are in progress for sending out one or more Agents in time for the picking and marketing of the crop which is now being planted, and arrangements will be made either for purchasing the cotton grown or making advances thereon. The samples of cotton which have already been submitted are very satisfactory, and with careful cultivation, proper ginning and packing, there is no doubt that cotton can be grown in these Islands equal to the best Sea Island cotton. This means, of course, good and remunerative prices.

The Association greatly appreciates the offer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to grant a free passage to any Agents which may be sent out, and the West India Committee has now

been the medium of conveying to the Association an offer from the Company of a gin and baling press freight free to Barbados. There is one matter which will have to receive serious attention, and that is the cost of transport of the cotton. At present there is no direct service from the West Indies to Liverpool. Unless this is remedied and a low rate of freight arranged for, the industry must necessarily be handicapped.

An influential meeting was held at Bolton, on the 30th ult., under the auspices of the Bolton and District Chamber of Commerce in connection with the British Cotton Growing Association. Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., presided, and in the course of his remarks said he had been engaged in carrying cotton from America, and it was owing to the little that moved that his attention was attracted to the question. Cotton was not an indigent American product. Its natural ground was Africa, and the producers African. We would look to that country for increasing our supplies. The soil was suitable, and labour was cheapest. Men could be got for 6d., 9d., and 1s. a day. In America it cost four to six times that amount. There were plenty of natives to be got. Cotton could also be grown in the West Indies. These islands had been ruined owing to the sugar bounty policy of other countries. Cotton could be grown there, and trials had shown excellent results, and if there was any gentleman there desirous of going out to study the prospects and conditions of trade in the West Indian or West African colonies, he would give him a free passage and do all he could to assist him in other ways. (Applause.) He would also carry some cotton consignments free. The Royal Mail Steamship Company also offered facilities of a similar nature. Mr. Chamberlain also offered free carriage over the West African Railways. So much was being done to encourage the industry. (Applause.) The other speakers included Mr. George Harwood, M.P., Mr. Gill, and Mr. A. A. Paton. Mr. T. W. Shaw, in moving a resolution in support of the Association, said that what was needed at present was an extra million or half a million bales from our Colonies. If ever a great industry needed help from a Government it was the cotton industry in this movement. Other countries tried to make themselves independent of foreign lands for the staple, and we should do so also.

Great Britain's Fiscal Policy.

We have now received from Mr. A. J. Balfour and the Marquess of Lansdowne, acknowledgments of the resolutions regarding the fiscal system of this country, which were adopted at the Special General Meeting of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE on the 1st inst. Mr. Chamberlain wrote to us on the 7th inst., to the effect that he had read the resolutions with great satisfaction. We are informed by cable, that a largely attended and enthusiastic meeting of inhabitants held at Georgetown, Demerara, on the 7th inst., adopted a resolution heartily congratulating Mr. Chamberlain and strongly supporting him in his Imperial Fiscal Policy. Similar resolutions were passed in Jamaica, Trinidad, and Barbados, on June 19th, 22nd, and 27th respectively, and the opinion expressed in our Circular 97, that Mr. Chamberlain's policy would undoubtedly receive the most hearty support of our West Indian Colonies, has thus received ample confirmation.

The Trinidad Riots Commission.

The Report of the Riot Commission has, we understand, been despatched to Trinidad, and its publication on this side may be expected in the near future. We hasten to correct a statement in a paragraph headed "The Trinidad Riots Commission" in Circular 98, page 5, to the effect that certain gentlemen held briefs for the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce before the Commission. The paragraph in question was copied from the *Times* of June 4th. We are officially informed that the

Chamber was not represented, "there being no reason whatsoever for the retention of Counsel by the Chamber, which after the appointment of the Commission took no further part in the proceedings." It is unnecessary for us to add that currency was given to the statement referred to with no malice prepense whatever, and was intended solely as an item of news, the West India Committee being most anxious to maintain an attitude of strict impartiality while the regrettable occurrences of March 23rd—the memory of which will we hope soon be obliterated—were sub judice.

For the Convenience of Our Members.

We earnestly request Members when visiting or leaving this country to communicate their addresses to the Secretary at the West India Committee Room, where an Address Register is kept for their convenience. For this purpose two specially prepared postcards, which it is hoped that Members will keep on their mantelpieces for use when occasion arises, are enclosed with the current Circular, while more can be obtained from the Secretary. Members may have their letters and telegrams addressed to the West India Committee Room "to be forwarded" or "to wait till called for," telegrams being addressed "c/o Carib, London." The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS are conveniently situated upon the first floor at 15 Seething Lane, next to Mark Lane Station upon the Metropolitan and District Railways, and form a useful rendezvous for our friends from the West Indies when they visit their Merchants in the City. Writing materials are provided, and in addition to all Official Gazettes, Parliamentary Papers, etc., all the West Indian newspapers are, through the courtesy of their Editors, filed.

New Members.

The next election of Members will be held on Thursday next, July 23rd. At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on July 9th, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee.

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
CHALMERS' PATENT SAMPLE POSTING BOXES, LTD. }	E. T. Whitaker, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
MESSRS. BABCOCK & WILCOX	Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.	Edward G. Barr, Esq.
J. F. ALEXANDER, Esq.	" "	" "
W. E. ATKINSON, Esq.	" "	" "
JAS. H. ROSENTHAL, Esq.	" "	" "
ALBERTO DE VERASTEGUI, Esq.	" "	" "
S. A. H. CULPEPER, Esq.	Edward G. Barr, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.
MESSRS. J. HALES CAIRD & Co.	Messrs. Wilson Smithett & Co.	Messrs. Paines & Reid.

Notes.

WITH DEEP REGRET we have to record the death of Mr. James Grierson, of Messrs. Adam Pearson & Co., which took place with painful suddenness on the 15th inst. Mr. Grierson, who always took a great interest in our work, was present at our Fiscal Policy meeting on July 1st, when he appeared to be in his usual health. He was one of the Elders of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Hampstead, and was conducting a Prayer Meeting in the Church Hall when he expired.

LORD STANMORE, G.C.M.G., presiding at the Ordinary General Meeting of the Credit Foncier of Mauritius, on July 7th, referred in glowing terms to the qualities of the Indian coolies. When the cattle plague deprived most estates of the bulk, if not the whole, of their draught animals, at the time when they were most wanted, the coolies cheerfully and readily undertook work ordinarily done only by oxen and mules without stipulating for extra advantages.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco" anchored at Plymouth at 4.40 a.m. on Thursday, July 16th, and the Mails from the West Indies generally were delivered the same day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, July 8th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco."

Antigua.—A St. G. Spooner, Esq., June 30th. Sir Daniel Morris had fully explained to cotton growers the means by which the Imperial Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the British Cotton Growing Association and assisted to the fullest extent by the local Government, were prepared to assist in making cotton growing an important industry. It was proposed to distribute seed of the best kind of cotton to intending growers free of charge, and to erect a central ginning and baling station in St. John's for the use of cotton growers throughout the Island. The cotton would be ginned and baled either for the actual cost of the operations, or for the seed. The Imperial Department of Agriculture were prepared, on a demand arising, to send experts, either on the preparation and marketing side of the question or on the cotton growing side, as well as to render all the assistance possible in dealing with insect pests. With such encouragement as this, and with ordinary Antigua Sea Island cotton valued at 10d. and 11d. per lb. in Manchester, as it then was, there was no doubt that an appreciable area would be planted in cotton within the next few months, and one was not surprised to hear that over 200 acres were already being prepared. As to the yield per acre, they had as yet not been able to settle this, the experiments last year were planted far too late and the season was a poor one, so that only about 140-150 lbs. lint per acre were obtained. They were given to understand that fully double this return could be looked for if the cotton was planted earlier, in fact in Montserrat the yield in places had been more than 300 lbs. lint per acre, whilst as high a price as 1/4 a pound had been obtained for some cotton from that island. During the fortnight the weather had been rather more broken with a few very welcome showers amounting in all to 1.50-2.00 inches; as was usual, however, with showers of this kind some parts of the island were almost left out. Rain was still badly needed, the crops looked very backward on the whole for the time of year, and ground provisions and vegetables were things hardly to be got. Sugar was quoted nominally at \$1.40 for 89°; muscos and molasses sales had been made at 21-22 cents per gallon, puncheon included. Those who had a knowledge of Antigua would sympathise heartily with the Hon. T. D. Foote, the veteran planter, in the loss he had experienced by the death of his wife, and with the Hon. J. F. Foote on the death of his mother.

Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, July 2nd. Great annoyance was felt at the late arrival of the "Para," which did not anchor until nearly midnight on Monday, June 22nd, so that the letters could not be delivered until the following day. It was felt high time that a protest should be entered with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company against this steamer being any longer used for the conveyance of the mails. The following was the text of the resolution regarding the Fiscal Question proposed by the writer and carried unanimously at a meeting of the Agricultural Society on June 26th:—

"This Society cordially approves the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain's proposal to strengthen the bonds between Great Britain and her Colonies by means of preferential and reciprocal tariffs."

A similar resolution was passed by the Chamber of Commerce, and a motion to the same effect was before the Legislature. The passing of the Sugar Convention Bill was anxiously awaited, and meantime the price of beet dropped lower and lower, till it had reached 7s. 7½d. This, no doubt, was owing to the fatal policy of the Government in allowing bounty-fed sugar to be sold after September 1st with the advantage of the bounty. It was an outrage upon justice to the West Indies. Locally sugar was selling at \$1.15 and \$5.00 per 100 lbs., a figure which, with the present short crop, meant disaster. The writer did not believe that they would export 30,000 Hhds. On the night of the 29th June a heavy thunderstorm raged over the island for six hours. The thunder was very violent and the lightning vivid. The greater part of the island got some 4 inches of rain, which was badly wanted, but some estates on the western side were left out. The cotton recently planted was springing vigorously, and the building to receive the plant for ginning and baling on the pierhead was being proceeded with.

British Guiana.—J. C. McCowan, Esq., July 1st. Five out of the twelve coolies arraigned for rioting at Friends were found guilty, and three were sentenced to twelve months, and two to six months imprisonment. The following was the text of the resolution regarding the Fiscal Question, to be submitted on the following day at a Meeting of the Planters' Association.

" This Association appreciating profoundly the importance of drawing more closely together the bonds of union between the Mother Country and the Colonies, heartily approves of and supports the proposal of the Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, that the Empire should unite in adopting such a fiscal policy, as will cherish and develop the mutual commerce between its members."

A similar resolution was passed recently by the Chamber of Commerce, and it was proposed to hold a Public Meeting at an early date, to get an expression of opinion from the public on the subject. Some inconvenience was experienced through the early hour at which the mails closed on Thursday morning, five a. m., and at the last two mails, at seven and six a. m. The steamer was to leave the river at eight, and as she could do nothing in Barbados until the Saturday morning, it was the very general opinion that her departure could always be left over until the later tide on the Thursday, as was done at some periods of the year. The run could always be reckoned as taking thirty to thirty-six hours. The fixing of her departure rested with the Captain of the steamer or the Superintendent in Barbados, but the head office might see their way to giving more time there. It was not clear what was gained by the Demerara steamer arriving at Barbados on the Friday evening, while the other boats including the Homeward one, did not arrive until Saturday morning.

He had again to report too much rain during the fortnight. It had held up somewhat, and the worse seemed to be passed. On one estate in Essequibo on the 28th ult., they had 5½ inches in front, and 8½ inches at back of the estate. Sales of Refining Crystals during the fortnight had been made at 1.80 to 1.82½. There was not much left to be disposed of.

Dominica.—E. A. Agar, Esq., July 2nd. A volunteer fire-brigade for Roseau had been formed, which would be equipped by the Government; its upkeep would be provided for partly by the Government and partly by the Town Board. This fire-brigade which would be under the direction of the Colonial Engineer and the Inspector of Police, should do much for the security of property in Roseau, and it was hoped would do much to reduce the present excessively high rates of insurance. The Statement of Revenues and Expenditure for the financial year 1902, was published; as compared with 1901, it stood as follows:—

	TOTAL REVENUES.			TOTAL EXPENDITURE.		
1901 ...	£31,318	8	6	...	...	£29,673 9 7½
1902 ...	£32,839	15	0½	...	...	£32,094 19 4

This showed a healthy state of affairs. Plenty of rain has fallen during the past fortnight.

Grenada. Hon. D. S. De Freitas, July 2nd. The frequent breaks in the Cable Communication between the West Indian Islands, had been a cause of great inconvenience, and the islands would appreciate the action of the West India Committee, in bringing such a source of inconvenience and loss of money to the notice of Mr. Chamberlain. Another important matter was the delay in the receipt of the mails, which was being frequently experienced; this delay was caused by the older vessels—like the 'Para,' for instance—of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., not arriving up to time at Barbados. Such ships were also scathingly criticised by passengers, on the grounds of slowness and lack of proper accommodation and the wonder was often expressed, whether they would ever be replaced by ships like the 'Trent.' The honour conferred on Mr. D. Morris, had met with warm approval in this island, where he was well-known, and his work as Imperial Commissioner was highly appreciated. The Eruptive fever had died out in Grenada, and in Carriacou and Petit Martinique, it was rapidly disappearing. Fine showers had fallen during the past fortnight.

Jamaica.—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., July 1st. Except in Kingston and lower St. Andrews where the absence of rain was very much felt, the Island during the fortnight had experienced fairly seasonable weather. Vere had been favoured with some rain. In Clarendon there was a strong desire to obtain a branch railway—a short line—from Maypen to Frankfield, the Government had consented to survey the route. The coming Pimento crop was estimated at 70,000 bags.

Nevis.—Hon. C. A. Shand, July 1st. Seasonable showers had fallen during the fortnight, and the Island was looking all the better in consequence. The planters were taking kindly to Cotton growing, and at least 50 acres would be planted by 1904. There was a good prospect of establishing a Nevis Agricultural Society, which would supply a desideratum.

St. Kitts.—Sir Gerald Strickland was expected to leave the Leeward Islands, by the mail on July 15th on three months leave of absence. The honour (C.M.G.) conferred on His Honour C. T. Cox, by His Majesty was warmly appreciated.

St. Lucia.—Hon. E. Du Boulay, July 3rd. Mr. William Low, lately Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast had retired, and taken up his abode in St. Lucia, as Proprietor of Union Vale Estate. After some dry weather, refreshing showers had fallen.

St. Vincent.—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., July 3rd. Cotton growing had been taken up by a good many proprietors, while others had started on Pine-growing to quite an extent. St. Vincent was free from the eruptive fever.

Trinidad.—Mr. W. Weldon Symington, J.P., had arrived at the Queen's Park Hotel, with a view to carrying out his scheme for promoting a fruit traffic between the West Indies and the United Kingdom. Mr. Symington was distributing 100 lbs. of potato seeds of a kind which he thought could be grown in Trinidad, as well as in Guernsey or Jersey. Rev. Dr. K. G. Grant, D.D., was leaving Naparima shortly on a twelve months furlough in Canada. The report of the Riot Commission had not been published. (We have reason to believe that the report should reach Trinidad on July 22nd.—A.E.A.).

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) July 13th. "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island, with appearances of more." **British Guiana.**—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) July 10th. "Finer weather during the last few days." July 11th. "Weather favourable for cultivation." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) July 11th. "Rains appear to be breaking up." **Trinidad.**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) July 15th. "Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Barbados—								
Jan. 1 to June 30, 1903	23,825	—	—	—	—	23,017	—	—
" " 30, 1902	33,522	—	—	—	—	37,471	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to June, 30 1903	44,900	65,042	—	11,824	4672	3387	40,482	4139
" July 1, 1902	46,788	55,477	—	14,725	3200	966	47,072	6144
Jamaica		Cwts.		Calls.				
Apr. 1 to May 30, 1903	5040	5388	7687	416,520	4,647,652	3269	2,988,824	765,500
" " 31, 1902	6152	8559	22,277	571,033	4,861,025	3454	2,897,141	3,832,350
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.				
Jan 1 to July 2, 1903	344,674	23,511,570	36,040	208	7,097,602	2908	178	166
" " 2, 1902	430,277	21,341,290	33,600	1232	6,670,177	4413	111	191
								Asphalt.
								Tons.
								84,454
								67,385

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," July 16th 1903: **Barbados.** Mrs. and Miss Hall, Dr. and Mrs. C. J. Manning, Mrs. T. W. Wilkinson, Mr. A. W. Hazell, Mrs. L. Smith, Mrs. and Master W. K. Chandler, Miss Knox, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Piggott, Miss Cunningham, Mr. S. Evenbus, Mr. O. Amudsen, Mr. A. Hilsen. **Demerara.**—Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. D. C. Simpson, Miss Simpson, Mr. A. St. F. Dare, Mr. F. W. Hutson, Lady Rayner, Miss D. Caswell, Mrs. W. A. Abraham, Mr. W. E. A. Laag, Mr. G. H. Richter, Mr. F. Gill, Mr. P. M. Smith. **Jamaica.**—Mrs. Caulfield, Mrs. E. J. Andrews, Captain Sandys, Mr. and Miss Roxbrugh, Miss Cameron, Miss E. Mais, Mr. F. Cundall, Lieutenant Forshaw, Lieutenant Rolph, Justice and Mrs. Beard, Miss and Master Beard, Miss L. McCrae, Mr. R. V. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Friese, Miss G. Levy, Mr. E. Fayad, Miss Webb, Miss Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Smyth, Hon. H. Cork. **Trinidad.**—Mr. H. E. Pittan, Mr. A. Schoefield, Mr. J. Grant, Mr. J. H. Hart, Mr. C. Flanagan, Mr. E. S. Conyad, Hon. R. H. McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Mayer, Mr. and Mrs. V. Casalta, Mr. W. Whyte, Mr. W. Wildman, Miss S. H. Simpson, Mrs. E. H. Marwood, Mr. J. A. Rapsey, Mr. R. Smith. **Antigua.**—Mr. and Mrs. R. Goodwin, Mr. W. H. Evans. **Grenada.**—Mr. J. Copland, Dr. and Mrs. Lang, Mr. A. A. Lang. **St. Lucia.**—Sir R. B. Llewelyn, Mr. Barrett. **St. Vincent.**—Mr. H. Wyatt.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," July 22nd 1903: **Barbados.** Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. A. Cameron, Miss B. L. Smith, Rev. F. B. Read. **Demerara.** Mr. and Mrs. Manly, Mr. W. G. Currie, Miss Tengely, Mr. Humphrys, Mr. S. Busby. **Jamaica.**—Mr. Oughton, two Misses Coke, Mr. Pengelly, Mr. A. B. Kerrie. **Trinidad.**—Miss H. Laird, Misses N. and B. McLelland, Mr. McLelland, Mrs. and Miss Schjolseth, Mr. Darwent, Mr. C. Lambie. **Dominica.**—Mr. G. Forbes. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. and Mrs. R. Duval, Mr. J. Girard.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," July 8th, 1903: **Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Arnett, Mrs. F. O. Abraham, the four Misses Abraham, Miss L. M. Barne, Mr. J. Connor, Mrs. Capper, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Dewar, Lieutenant A. E. Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. Grinan, the three Misses Grinan, Rev. and Mrs. M. G. Hubback, Mrs. Haggart, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Hopkins, Miss B. K. Hopkins, Mr. J. M. Hasling, Mrs. W. L. Kerr, Miss Lund, Miss A. M. McGregor, Miss Ramadge, Miss Smith, Mrs. and Miss Townsend, Miss Walter, Mrs. Wedderburn, Mr. J. McEwen, Mr. E. Hoene.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," July 18th, 1903—**Jamaica.**—Mr. C. J. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. F. Challen, Mr. A. Clodd, Prof. M. F. Fitzgerald, Mr. R. S. Haughton, Dr. Hogg, Mr. R. A. W. Holwell, the three Misses Lyons, Mrs. and Miss Nethersole, Capt. E. B. Scott, Hon. H. Sewell, Rev. W. Stevenson, Capt. J. H. Stewart, Miss E. M. Taylor, Mr. Tom Vaughan, Miss E. Wright.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—The Continental Beet Crops are believed to be progressing favourably, and on the known sowings may well reach 6,000,000 Tons. This, with at least 4,000,000 tons Cane for next season, will give 10,000,000 tons total production, an amount fully sufficient for all probable requirements, unless there is an abnormal increase in Continental consumption under the reduced Tariffs to come into operation on September 1st. If this eventuality takes place, we may then hope to see the surplus carried over from this season dissipated, and by the 1st. October 1904, figures of supply put once more on a workable basis. Truly a long time to look forward to, and with no positive certainty as to the result. In the meantime a small upward movement in prices has set in, chiefly caused by the closing of speculative engagements for August delivery, which is the last month of the season selected for such operations, the disturbing elements of which are now at rest. Great anxiety is still felt on the question of the proposed Cartels, as on the result of these will depend the future course of prices. Bounties were bad enough, but Cartels are worse. To-day's quotations of 88% are July, 7s. 11½d.; October/December, 8s. 7d.; January/March, 8s. 9d.; April/June, 8s. 10½d.; all free on board Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

	1903 7s 11½d.	1902. 5s. 11½d.	1901. 9s. 6d.	1900. 12s. 0½d.	1899. 10s. 6½d.
The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America according to latest dates are as follows:—					
	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Europe	1,900,000	2,050,000	1,150,000	990,000	1,180,000 Tons.
United States	320,000	140,000	300,000	150,000	280,000 "
Cuba	310,000	380,000	120,000	20,000	50,000 "
Cargoes afloat	60,000	50,000	90,000	60,000	50,000 "
Total	2,590,000	2,620,000	1,660,000	1,220,000	1,590,000

Crystallised Sugar.—Has had a better demand and prices have improved 3d. per cwt, the value of average qualities now being 15s. A cargo of dark Crystals would command 9s. 3d. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar in demand from 11s. to 14s.

Muscovado.—Slow. Grocery Barbados is worth 13s. 6d. to 14s. 0d. Low kinds neglected and nominal.

West India Figures since 1st, Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date	18,000	40,000	40,000	40,000 Tons.
Deliveries	23,000	23,000	22,000	22,000 "
Stocks	24,000	35,000	27,000	11,000 "

Rum.—There is but little business doing in this article, the hot weather recently experienced being against the market. In Demerara sales of small extent have taken place at 9d. for fair marks up to 10½d. for the better classes. Jamaica moves off slowly on the basis of 1s. 8d. for fair Standard Marks. Cuba and other Foreign kinds remain at 7d. to 10d.

Board of Trade Returns for 6 months:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	2,985,000	4,697,000	4,229,000 Gallons.
Home Consumption... ..	1,862,000	2,089,000	2,211,000 "
Stocks 30th June	9,683,000	8,687,000	7,886,000 "

London Figures to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports Jamaica	5000	7000	6700	5100 Puns.
Demerara	7700	12,200	11,200	8100 "
Stocks Jamaica	10,400	9800	9800	7800 Puns.
Demerara	7500	8400	7400	3600 "

Total of all kinds:—

	1903.	1902.	Excess.
Stocks	27,596	27,456	140 Puns.

COCOA. In the last issue of this "Summary" attention was drawn to the increasing production of this article, and figures were given of the African crops for the last eight years. While these show rapid strides, a reference to the Board of Trade Returns of Consumption in the United Kingdom for the last ten years shows also a high increase. These are the figures:—Consumption in 10 years.

1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
9319	10,180	10,981	10,948	12,434	14,325	15,185	16,888	18,908	20,377 Tons.

These figures do not take into account the Consumption of prepared Cocoa imported from the Continent, which is an item of some importance. If we were going to maintain this growth of consumption it is obvious production must further expand. The market remains very quiet, and there is only a retail business doing without change in prices, viz: Trinidad, fair collected 57s., Estate Marks 58s. to 62s. and up to 66s.; Grenada, fair 50s., fermented 53s. to 55s.; Native Cocoa from other Islands is about 48s., and fermented 52s. to 54s.

Stocks in London:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	79,000	67,000	107,000	85,000 Bags.

Board of Trade Returns for 6 months:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	14,275	14,309	13,812 Tons.
Home Consumption... ..	10,205	12,422	10,828 "
Stocks 30th June	5931	4104	7967 "

Coffee.—The market continues dull and the value of good ordinary Jamaica is 33s.; with Santos for July delivery 24s. **Peppercorns.**—Sales of West India 70 to 73 to the lb. at 1s. 6d., and 135 to 150 at 6d. to 6½d. **Mace.**—Business in fair reddish, 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d. **Pimento.**—Steady with sales at 2½d. to 2¾d., fair being worth 2¾d. **Ginger.**—Quiet but steady. Jamaica is selling, good bold bright at 62s. to 65s., and ordinary dark 38s. **Cotton.**—Unsettled owing to speculators' manipulations. The approximate value of fair West India is about 6d. **Arrowroot.**—More enquiry with moderate sales at 1½d. to 2d., the latter being the value of fair manufacturing, at which Importers are willing to go on selling.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
London Stocks June 30th.	11,923	9153	10,112	13,789 Barrels.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

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15, SEETHING LANE,
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Monday, August 3rd, 1903.

A Step Nearer the End.

By the comfortable majority of 80 (224 votes against 144) the second reading of the Sugar Convention Bill for the purpose of carrying into effect the engagements arising out of the Brussels Conference for the abolition of Sugar Bounties was agreed to on the 30th ult. We may fairly congratulate ourselves and our fellow workers upon the satisfactory issue of the debate. We must not, however, "halloo before we are out of the wood," and it must be borne in mind that the Bill has still to pass through the Committee stage, its third reading, and the Upper House, before it becomes Law. But we have no anxiety on this score, for as Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain pointed out, the country has pledged itself to the principle of the measure, the House of Commons having already assented to it by its resolution of November last, so that it would be a distinct act of bad faith to reject it. It is noteworthy, that in the course of the debate which extended over two sittings, no new arguments were adduced by the Opposition, who had spiked their own guns by giving the Government ample opportunity of adequately answering them in the preliminary skirmish at question time for the past few months. A determined effort was made to turn the debate into the Fiscal Policy channel but the only result was to enable Mr. Chamberlain to score several distinct points in favour of his proposals. With the present issue of the *West India Committee Circular*, we are making an entirely new departure in presenting to our Members as a full page supplement, a portrait group of the British Delegates at the Brussels Sugar Conference, 1901-2.

A Summary of the Debate.

Being unable through pressure on our space to give a full report of the debate we confine ourselves to quoting the following summary which appeared in the *Times* of the 29th and 30th ult.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR, in moving the second reading of the Sugar Convention Bill, reminded the House that the country was pledged to the principle of the measure, as it had received the sanction of Parliament, and that we could not withdraw, without infinite discredit, from the engagements into which we entered when the Convention was ratified. Dealing, then, with some of the criticisms directed against the Bill, he invited attention to the declaration of the Government that they would not consent to penalise bounty-fed sugar imported from any self-governing colony. This reservation disposed of one of the chief objections to the measure. With regard to the attitude of Austro-Hungary, the Government had every reason to believe that the legislation of that Empire would be brought into harmony with the principles laid down by the Convention before September, and it was also probable that France would shortly amend her system of bounties. The non-contracting countries, Spain, Denmark, Japan, and Roumania, did not send any appreciable amount of sugar to this country, and, therefore, it would not be necessary to exercise any prohibition against

them. In the case of four countries only—Russia, Argentina, Chile, and Peru—did it appear likely that we might have to apply the penal clause. Having said that the amount of sugar imported from these countries was comparatively small, he adduced arguments with the object of proving that probably the average price of sugar would be lower in the next ten years than it was before the Convention was agreed to. For the future there would, he believed, be a moderate, but stable, price, and this would benefit the Indian planters.

Mr. LOUGH, who moved the rejection of the Bill, contended that the price of sugar would be enhanced by it to the detriment of British consumers; and Mr. GIBSON BOWLES, who seconded the amendment and called upon the Government to repudiate the convention, also maintained that the effect of this legislation would be to make sugar dear, as the trade with this country would be monopolised practically by the contracting States. Mr. WYLLIE, on the other hand, supported the measure, as it harmonized with free-trade principles. Mr. W. M. RIDLEY, endorsing the opinion of the President of the Board of Trade, affirmed that the quantity of sugar which would be excluded from our market through the operation of the Bill would certainly not exceed one-thirtieth of our present supply, and probably not one-fortieth. After speeches by Mr. CAWLEY, in support of the amendment, and by Mr. PLATT-HIGGINS, on the other side, Sir J. GORST dilated on the dangers and difficulties attending this question, laying special stress on the fact that Russia had declared that by entering into this Convention we had violated the most-favoured-nation clause in our treaties with that Power. The Bill, he asked the House to bear in mind, would be referred for approval to a tribunal in Belgium consisting of eleven foreigners and only one British subject. To this interference with the sovereign authority of Parliament he had the strongest possible objection.

Mr. BRYCE, who denied that Parliament was bound to ratify the Convention, questioned whether the Government were right in thinking that there would be free trade in sugar in future. Cartels would still be able to control the price. As to the West Indies, their sugar trade with us was very small in amount, and he doubted greatly whether the Convention would avail to set the trade on its legs again. If West Indian sugar could not compete successfully with European beet sugar, he was inclined to ascribe this failure to want of enterprise and to an absence of scientific methods of cultivation. Mr. BONAR LAW, after asserting that cartels would not hereafter be as successful in keeping up prices as they had in the past, brushed aside the argument of the Opposition that the abolition of bounties would be likely to injure people in this country. It would certainly benefit the sugar-refining industry, and the confectioners would not suffer, for under the Convention sugar would still be cheaper in this country than elsewhere. The West Indies would gain, for capital would be attracted to these islands as it was to Cuba after the Spanish-American war. There had been enormous changes in the trade of the world in the last twelve years, and it was high time Parliament began to think about altering its theories with a view to making them conform with facts. After a speech by Mr. MOULTON, the Debate was adjourned, and the House adjourned at 25 minutes past 12 o'clock.

The Debate was resumed on July 29th. The first speaker was Mr. BOSCAWEN, and he was followed by Mr. KEARLEY, who combated the argument that bounties were responsible for the fluctuations in the price of sugar which were said by the President of the Board of Trade to have prevented the West Indies from competing successfully with countries where the sugar was bounty fed. For the sugar consumers of this country the abolition of the bounties would be a very bad business, and therefore he disapproved of the Convention. Sir W. THORBURN testified to the injury inflicted on the sugar refining industry under the operation of the bounty system; and Mr. E. ROBERTSON, who condemned the Bill on the ground that it must increase the price of sugar, called

attention to the complaint of Russia that the policy pursued by the Government involved the infraction of the most-favoured-nation clause in her treaties. Mr. CHURCHILL, amid the cheers of the Opposition, censured the Government for allowing the Colonial Office to control their policy to so great an extent. Viewing the Bill in the light shed by recent events, he saw in it an insidious attack on the principles of free trade. It was apparent now that it was the forerunner of the great scheme for appreciating the price of food in the interests of the Colonies. It was the working model submitted to the country for inspection before the plan for the really extensive reform was laid down. The Bill conformed with the policy of exaggerating colonial interests as compared with the interests of the mother country. The West Indies could only be relieved if the Convention had the effect of raising the price of sugar considerably. Believing that these Colonies could be saved from ruin by methods which would inflict less hardship on the British consumer, he was unable to support the Bill. Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR, as a free-trader, felt justified in voting for the measure, because he regarded it as a protest against the principle of State interference with trade. Mr. LEVY took the contrary view that the Bill was the precursor of protection, remarking sarcastically that it was a curious course for free-traders to take to close our ports against cheap food. Mr. CURR, who supplicated the Government to reconsider their attitude, argued that the Bill would not benefit the West Indies materially, while it would penalize the people of this country. In addition we should, if the Convention were ratified finally, run the risk of complications with other Powers and of offending our Colonies sentimentally, politically, and commercially. What the Government were proposing to do was to raise the price of the British consumers' sugar in order to benefit producers who were now able to supply us with sugar below cost price because the deficiency was met by the foreign taxpayers. Mr. ROBSON, after describing the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade as a speech which was permeated with protection in its most reactionary and mouldy form, asserted that the Government by their action had assisted the formation of a new international cartel aiming at the enhancement of the price of sugar. This they had done by binding the country not to buy sugar except from the signatories to the Convention. It was their object to found the Empire on artificial scarcity—dear sugar, dear bread, dear meat. Sir E. VINCENT also denounced the Convention because it would have the effect of raising the price of an article of consumption without increasing the revenue. He inclined to the opinion that the Convention had been entered into by the Government without a full knowledge of its probable commercial results. Mr. W. F. LAWRENCE voiced the claim of the West Indian Colonies to consideration, and Sir W. HOLLAND, speaking against the Bill, warned the Government that it might lead to tariff wars with countries that were not parties to the Convention. Mr. DUKE taunted the Opposition on its apparent conversion to the policy of bounties, against which their old leader, Mr. Gladstone, used to declaim with such vigour.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN assured the hon. member for Plymouth that no one on the Opposition side of the House advocated bounties. They believed that the system carried in itself the seeds of its own dissolution, and that in any case it was no business of ours to relieve our neighbours from taxation which they imposed upon themselves to our advantage. Having mentioned the reasons which led him to question whether the sugar industry of the West Indies would benefit when the bounties were reduced, he described the Bill as one that was likely to restrict the supply and the consumption of sugar in this country. The Government, he agreed with Mr. Churchill in thinking, were too much under the influence of one dominant will. The Bill, he maintained, would only diminish bounties; it would not abolish them, as the surtax would still be recognised. It was curious, he observed, that the Bill was supported in some quarters on free-trade grounds and in others on protectionist grounds. It was also said by some supporters of the Government that the price of sugar

would rise, while others declared it would not. Never before had a measure been recommended by such contradictory arguments. It was not wise or safe, he insisted, to put any of our commercial interests in the power of the Commission sitting in Brussels, a tribunal representing States which were for the most part protectionist. Having dwelt on the difficulties which the attitude of Russia might cause, he expressed the opinion that outside the West Indies and the refining industry the Convention had not a friend in this country; and the interests of the community were trifled with, for the Convention proposed to close our ports to a cheap form of food and to compromise our freedom in commercial affairs.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, who was loudly cheered on rising, began his speech with a trenchant declaration to the effect that it would be contrary to all usage to repudiate a Convention to which the House had assented by resolution and which the Government had ratified. He went on to justify the policy of prohibiting the importation of bounty-fed sugar, pointing out, however, that countervailing duties might be substituted as an alternative for prohibition, if that should be preferred. The complaint that we had only one representative on the Commission he met by calling attention to the fact that the other Powers concerned had the same representation. After denying that the formation of an international cartel could in the circumstances of the future do us any injury at all, he advised his opponents who believed that we were on the eve of a great economic fight to keep cool and not to give the contest a personal character. He then described the Bill as one that secured what for over forty years every economist and representative man of eminence had regarded as a desirable object to attain. Bounties fostered unfair competition, enabling goods to be "dumped down" in this country below cost price to the detriment of British industry. For twenty years and more the bounties had grown in magnitude, and it was only when retaliation was threatened that foreign countries agreed to abolish them. In Germany bounties had led to an enormous development of the beet sugar industry, and that country had hoped through their operation to create with Hungary a monopoly of the trade. This would have enabled Germany to regulate the price of sugar here. Did not that alone justify the course the Government had taken? The interest of the community was to have sugar as continuously as possible at the lowest possible price for which it could be produced without loss. This he believed the community would obtain under the Bill, and he agreed with the President of the Board of Trade that the removal of the bounties would secure greater stability in price. Noticing predictions which had been made as to the effect of the Convention on particular industries, he said he believed that, if the average price remained about the same as it was now, the fruit preserving and jam industry had nothing to fear. He then showed that in Great Britain the refining industry, about which there was so much alarm, had remained stationary while the bounties operated, although foreign refiners had multiplied their business sevenfold. And yet, he observed, we were told that under our free-trade system everything was for the best in the best of all possible worlds. As to the West Indies, they would be helped by the trade stability which stable prices would ensure. He appealed to the House not to let it get abroad that Parliament was indifferent to the interests of the Colonies. When a part of the Empire suffered an injustice we ought to remedy it, even at the cost of some sacrifice, if sacrifice was entailed. Summing up his main contentions, he asked the House to pass the Bill, because to reject it would be to perpetrate an act of bad faith, because it would secure free trade in sugar and increase the sources of our supply, because it would protect us against monopoly, and because it would repair an injustice to the West Indies.

The division was then taken, and the Bill was read a second time by 224 votes against 144—majority 80. The numbers were received with cheers and counter cheers.

The Trinidad Riots Commission.

The Report, dated London, July 2nd, 1903, of the Special Commissioners, Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, Sir H. Evan James, and Mr. S. C. Macaskie, K.C., appointed, with Mr. R. V. Vernon as Secretary, to enquire into the riot in Port of Spain on March 23rd is embodied in a Parliamentary Paper (Cd 1662) which we received from the Colonial Office on the 22nd ult., together with a Blue Book (Cd 1661) containing Papers and Official Correspondence on the same subject. The Commissioners sum up their conclusions as follows:—

1. That the riots are to be attributed to the public opposition to the proposed Water Works Ordinance, stimulated by the falsehoods and incitement to violence referred to previously, and they were precipitated by the opposition (stimulated in the same way) to the order restricting admission to the meetings of the Legislative Council to those who applied for and obtained tickets.
2. That, with the exception noted in the next clause, the firing by the Police and by certain civilians was amply justifiable.
3. That there was excessive and unnecessary firing by some individual members of the police force, when not under the control of responsible officers, to which some of the wounding and loss of life is attributable.
4. That two, if not three, persons were brutally bayoneted and killed by the police, without any justification whatever.
5. That the Executive Government failed to take adequate measures to correct the misrepresentations about the draft Ordinance with a view to allay the public excitement.
6. That there is, without doubt, a regrettable and serious division between a large and influential portion of the community in Port of Spain and the Executive Government regarding public affairs.
7. That there has been most deplorable delay (for which there is, in our opinion, no justification) in prosecuting the rioters and those whose conduct was in a greater or less degree responsible for the rioting.
8. That it was not foreseen by any one in authority that the public excitement against the draft Water Works Ordinance and the Ticket Regulations would culminate in serious rioting, and in that view the steps taken to maintain order and preserve the peace were not insufficient.

They then submit the following recommendations:—

1. That no further delay should take place in prosecuting those who took part in, or those who incited, the riots.
2. That steps should at once be taken thoroughly to re-organise the police force.
3. That, before any further proceedings are taken in the Legislative Council, the draft Ordinance for dealing with the Water Works in Port of Spain should be considered by a Select Committee. It should be the duty of the Committee, *inter alia*, to report especially as to the provisions made for (a) The prevention of waste; (b) The imposition of rates or charges; (c) The constitution of the "Water Authority." The report of this Committee would, of course, be submitted to the Legislative Council, which would reject, modify, or adopt the recommendations that might be made. Without going into further details we would suggest that the new draft should provide that all Regulations or By-Laws made by the "Water Authority" should be subject to disallowance by the Legislative Council. The Ordinance would have to be retrospective as regards raising the money for paying the interest on the Waterworks Loan.
4. That legislation should be introduced dealing with offences committed by the Press.
5. That legislation should be introduced similar to the Imperial Statutes 13 Car. 2, c. 5, 57 Geo. 3, c. 19, s. 23, prohibiting crowds from assembling in the immediate neighbourhood of the Legislative Council during its sittings.
6. That legislation should be introduced dealing with the carrying, storing, and selling of arms and ammunition.
7. That the Fire Brigade should be placed under the control of the Inspector-General of Police.

An important feature of the Blue Book is Mr. Chamberlain's cabled despatch, dated July 11th, to Sir C. A. Moloney, the Governor of Trinidad, commenting on the Report, which we give in extenso :—

" By last mail I forwarded to you Report of Riot Commission. It contains the strongest condemnation of the apathy which the Colonial Authorities have shewn in failing to bring persons who were employed in, or who instigated, the riot to trial. Full information as to what persons have been charged as taking part in, or instigating, the riot, and on what charges, should be sent at once. The Commissioners report strongly on Newbold's and Nanco's inflammatory speeches, and state that Maresse-Smith incited people to violence, and intended so to incite them. They state, further, that they do not believe his evidence, which was given on oath. They find that Mole either invented false statements or published rumours, not knowing and not caring whether they were true or false, and they sum up that the riots are to be attributed to the public opposition to the proposed Water Works Ordinance, stimulated by the falsehoods and incitement to violence to which previous reference has been made in the report.

" You should report what action you advised to take as regards the prosecution of these four persons.

" It is also stated in the report that there was, in several instances, uncalled for and excessive shooting, especially down St. Vincent Street, and that there was no justification for the use of the bayonet. The report expresses most profound regret that the perpetrators of these atrocities have not been discovered, and trusts that even now no effort will be spared by the authorities to obtain further evidence with a view to the conviction of the guilty.

" You are instructed to appoint immediately a formal commission of enquiry into the conduct of the police on these points. The enquiry should be conducted by the Acting Chief Justice; evidence should be taken on oath; and counsel should be allowed.

" The Commissioners' first recommendation refers to the delay in prosecuting the rioters; the second is that steps should be taken at once thoroughly to reorganize the police force; and the seventh and last recommendation is that the fire-brigade should be placed under the authority of the Inspector-General.

" In this connection Owen will be called upon to resign at once, and the question what retiring allowance, if any, he can receive, will be matter for further consideration. You will inform Darwent at once that he is dismissed from the Government service, and Whiteman's services in the fire-brigade should be dispensed with. The further steps to be taken in reorganizing the police will be considered later.

" The report makes favourable reference to the Light Horse, but excepts Troop No. 1 as having signally failed in its duty. Colonel Brake should consider whether Troop of Light Horse No. 1, Port of Spain, should not be disbanded. I will address you further hereafter as to Light Infantry, of which report speaks unfavourably.

" The third recommendation is that the Waterworks Bill should be considered by a Select Committee. As at present advised, I approve this course,

" I will address you on the remaining recommendations, and on many other points which are raised in the report, when I have received your comments on the report, which you should send at the earliest possible date after its receipt.

" I understand that Knollys has postponed his leave on public grounds. I see no reason why it should be further postponed, and I shall have an opportunity of personal communication with him on his arrival here. I will take steps to appoint a special *locum tenens*, on learning that he has arranged to leave, and you will hereafter ask the Legislative Council to make special provision for this temporary appointment."

Dock Charges on Rum.

It will be remembered that subsequent to the correspondence which was fully reported in the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 83 and 85, a conference between a Joint Committee of the West India Committee and the leading Rum dealers and Mr. Scott of the London and India Docks Company was held on January 26th, at which we urged certain modifications of the terms upon which Rum has hitherto been sold in London. Our representations were not without avail, for we are now officially informed that the London and India Docks Company have agreed to make the following

(7)

alterations in their charges on Rum. The Consolidated Rate of 10/- per 100 gallons will in future include 26 weeks free rent instead of 16 weeks as hitherto. Rum upon which the period included in the Consolidated Rate has not expired will be entitled to the extension of 10 weeks. Rent accruing on Rum on and after the 1st of January next will be reduced as follows: Puncheons to 3d. per week, Hogsheads to 2d. per week, Barrels to 1d. per week. The Lading Rate of 5/- per 100 gallons will in future include 14 days free rent instead of 7 days as hitherto.

Green Limes.

With the lime industry of Montserrat recovering rapidly from the effects of the disastrous hurricane of August 1899, and that of Dominica increasing by leaps and bounds no opportunity should be lost of bringing the delectable qualities of this refreshing fruit before the British Public. In a letter to the *Standard*, on July 16th, Mr. George Hughes pointed out the advantage of green over the yellow limes. The rind of the green lime contains a most pleasant essential oil, which gives the delicious refreshing flavour to the palate. The volatile oil is lost by evaporation as the fruit ripens and turns yellow. The limes can be packed when very green in clean sand and will then be found to arrive in a satisfactory condition, though of course this form of packing adds to the cost of freight. Green limes in this country cost about 4d. a dozen, and we are of opinion that if concerted action were taken by the lime growers of the West Indies, either through the medium of the large restaurants or caterers, to popularise the fruit, much good would result, for it is an admitted fact that after a lime squash the lemon squash appears mawkish and unpalatable. We shall be glad to receive any suggestions from our Members on this subject, which is receiving the attention of the West India Committee.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on the 23rd ult., Mr. Henry K. Davson presiding, the following were elected Members of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
JAMES INNISS, Esq. (Barbados)	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.	S. Manning, Esq.
MESSRS. WATSON LAIDLAW & CO.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.	Edward G. Barr, Esq.
C. P. BOWEN, Esq. (Barbados)	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.
WILLIAM N. ALLEYNE, Esq. (Barbados)	C. K. Gibbons, Esq.	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.
WILLIAM LOW, Esq. (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. Du Boulay	Hon. S. D. Melville
JUAN GRINAN, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	Henry K. Davson, Esq.

The next election will take place on August 6th, and Forms of Application for Membership can be obtained from the Secretary. For the convenience of our friends in the West Indies, arrangements have been made for the West India Committee Circular to be posted to candidates pending their election.

The West Indian Club.

At the Half-yearly General Meeting of the West Indian Club on the 15th ult. our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., was elected Chairman also of the Club. This is a significant indication of a strengthening of the *entente cordiale* between these two Associations. The Club is doing

useful work in bringing West Indians together socially and merits the fullest support. The following Committee of Management for the year 1903-4 was elected.

Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G.,	L. de Mercado, Esq.	The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby.
Chairman.	Allan E. Messer, Esq.	H. Powell Rees, Esq.
Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq.	A. McD. Nathan, Esq.	J. Rippon, Esq.
E. R. Davson, Esq.	Col. Sir J. Roper Parkington,	R. Rutherford, Esq.
W. A. M. Goode, Esq., Hon. Sec.	J.P., D.L.	Sir Walter J. Sendall, G.C.M.G.
A. N. Lubbock, Esq.	G. H. H. Pile, Esq., M.A.	W. P. B. Shephard, Esq., M.A.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, who has acted as Chairman of Committee since the inauguration of the Club in 1898, and the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby were elected Vice-Presidents. The Club dinners will be resumed after the summer holidays.

Notes.

THE QUESTION OF THE RUM SURTAX is brought to the fore again by the publication of the report of Mr. J. Steele, C.B., on the excise restrictions in force in the West Indies and British Guiana (Parliamentary Paper Cd 1681). This report will be dealt with in a future issue.

BY AN OVERSIGHT, THE NAME OF MR. F. B. SMITH, I.S.O., proposed by Mr. Elliot G. Louis, and seconded by Sir E. Noël Walker, K.C.M.G., was omitted from the list of new Members elected on Thursday, July 9th, which appeared in the last West India Committee Circular.

AFTER GOING TO PRESS with last issue it was found impossible, owing to the Postal Regulations, to enclose with the Circulars for transmission to the West Indies the postcards referred to in the paragraph regarding the address register on page 6. They are obtainable from our Hon. Correspondents.

WITH REFERENCE TO THE remission of duty on Molasses Cattle Foods containing under 50% sweetening matter, we were informed by H. M. Commissioners of Customs, on the 28th ult., that it would be permissible to bond such cattle food upon arrival in this country and then take it out after September 1st without paying duty.

WE ARE INDEBTED TO MR. J. H. HART, F.L.S., the Superintendent, for a copy of the Annual Report of the Botanic Department of Trinidad for the year ended 31st March, 1903, which records a year of useful work, and also for the Quarterly Bulletin for July, 1903. Both can be seen at the West India Committee Room.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE EXHIBIT is now in situ at the Temporary City Inquiry Office of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 49 Eastcheap, E.C. The following Members have participated; Messrs. James Philip & Co., The Monocane Sugar Co., Mr. T. K. Bellis, Messrs. William Alfred Jones & Co., Mr. George Hughes with "Molascuit," Chalmers' Patent Sample Posting Boxes Co., Ltd., and the Direct West India Cable Co.

SACCHARINE. The case of the Attorney General v. White and others was an information filed by the Attorney General on behalf of the Crown to recover penalties under the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876, from the defendants for being in possession of 696 lbs. of Saccharine on which duty had not been paid. The trial took place before Mr. Justice Lawrance and a Special Jury in the King's Bench Division of the Supreme Court on July 17th, and judgment was given for the £4176 duty claimed by the Crown.

Supplement to the "West India Committee Circular," 102, August 3rd, 1903.



THE BRITISH DELEGATES AT THE BRUSSELS SUGAR CONFERENCE, 1901-2.

E. PHIPPS, Esq., F. J. PITTAR, Esq., SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G., E. C. OZANNE, Esq., C.S.I., A. A. PEARSON, Esq., C.M.G., GEORGE MARTINEAU, Esq., C.B., B. F. ALSTON, Esq.,
Secretary. Board of Customs. Chairman, West India Committee. India Office. Colonial Office. Secretary.

SIR HENRY BERGNE, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., SIR CONSTANTINE PHIPPS, K.C.M.G., C.B., SIR HENRY PRIMROSE, K.C.B.,
Foreign Office. British Minister at Brussels. Chairman, Board of Inland Revenue.

ALL PUBLICATIONS OF THE IMPERIAL DEPARTMENT of Agriculture for the West Indies are obtainable through the West India Committee. A remittance to cover cost and postage must accompany every order. The *Agricultural News*, Vol. II., No. 32, price 1d., to hand by last Mail, is an interesting number and contains readable articles on "Mr. Symington's Fruit Proposals," "Cacao Machinery in Trinidad," "Barbados' Bananas," "Bird and Insect Notes," "Leaf Diseases and their Treatment," in addition to the usual features. As we go to press we have received the following additional publications: *Agricultural News*, Vol. II., No. 33, containing an important article upon "Cotton Cultivation," price 1d. "Report on the Experiment Station, Tortola, Virgin Islands, 1902-3," price 3d. "Report on the Botanic Station, Agricultural School, and Land Settlement Scheme, St. Vincent, 1902-3," price 3d.

The Homeward Mail.

We recently had occasion, at the request of our Hon. Correspondents, to call the attention of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to the delay in the arrival in the West Indies of the R.M.S. "Para," which on her last outward voyage did not anchor in Carlisle Bay until almost midnight on the Monday (June 22nd) instead of 8 a.m., so that mails were not delivered in Barbados until Tuesday morning, June 23rd. On her last homeward voyage but one, she did not reach Plymouth until Saturday (May 9th) at 2.25 p.m., instead of Wednesday, May 6th at 9 p.m., but now she has eclipsed her previous record, and on her last homeward journey she arrived at Plymouth on Sunday morning (August 2nd) at 6.45 a.m. instead of 9 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29th, her scheduled time. This vessel is, we believe, thirty years old, and it is worthy of very serious consideration whether she should not be replaced by some more capable vessel, though we are assured that her voyages from April, 1902, to February, 1903, were quite satisfactory. Upon the present occasion it appears that defects in the machinery were responsible for the delay. Two or three days out from Barbados there was a breakdown. After twelve hours repairs were effected and the voyage resumed, but 36 hours later there was another mishap, and twelve hours again elapsed before the defects were remedied. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, July 22nd. Owing to the delay in the arrival of the "Para," and the fact of our being thereby compelled to go to press on the Bank Holiday, we can only give very brief extracts from the valued letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

Antigua.—A. St. G. Spooner, Esq. July 14th. The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, the unofficial members of the Legislative Council also concurring :—

"That this meeting of the Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society heartily approves of the preferential policy proposed by the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, which in its opinion will tend to draw together the bonds of unity between the Mother-country and her Colonies and develop the mutual commerce of the Empire."

The weather continued very dry indeed, for the last week the wind had been blowing very strong from the east and north-east, making matters all the worse for the young canes. Unless the land got a good soaking rain soon the canes for next crop would be very late. Owing to the long spell of dry weather, ground provisions and cotton could not be planted. Crop had come to a close with the exception of one or two windward estates now finishing. The Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland returned to England by the mail.

Jarvis.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, July 16th. The weather for the past fortnight had been all that could be wished. The Island crop was green and vigorous, and should do well if it escaped disease. Cotton was being widely planted, and the arrival of onion seed anxiously looked for. They were dissatisfied in the Island at the decision of the Colonial Office, that the Quarantine Commission should not come out until the so-called eruptive disease was at an end throughout the West Indies.

British Guiana.—J. C. McCowan, Esq., July 15th. The "Rhine," the first returned coolie ship of the season sailed on June 25th with 615 adults, who remitted \$31,448, and took away jewellery valued at \$5250. Sales of refining crystals had been made during the fortnight at \$1.80 to \$1.82. The weather was favourable. Showers and sunshine had taken the place of the heavy rains recently reported.

Dominica.—E. A. Agar, Esq., July 15th. The Legislative Council had unanimously passed a resolution in favour of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, and the matter was to be brought before a meeting of the Agricultural Society at an early opportunity. Preparations were being made to extend the telephone system right round the Island. Much rain had fallen during the fortnight.

Jamaica.—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., July 13th. With the exception of Vere, the Island generally during the fortnight had not enjoyed what might be called seasonable weather. There had been rains more or less in different localities but they had come along with winds in squalls and no regular or lasting downpour. Vere had had a couple of showers but needed more. The pimento crop was estimated at 70,000 bags for the entire Island. The Governor had replied sympathetically to the Planters regarding the proposed railway from May Pen up the Rio Minho Valley to Frankfield, but as the line would cost £200,000 the Government could not as yet entertain the idea. A cassava starch factory was in course of erection at Longville Estate, Clarendon, 4½ miles from May Pen railway station.

Nevis.—Hon. C. A. Shand, July 15th. Some showers had fallen, but heavy rains were required, as the growing crops were very backward. The writer had convened a meeting at Charlestown for the purpose of forming an Agricultural Society, and had already enrolled about 20 members. The furor for Cotton growing was increasing and about 150 acres would be put in for 1904.

St. Kitts.—Hon. Edward G. Todd, July 13th. The writer forwarded a copy of the *St. Kitts' Gazette*, containing an account of the death of his dear and valued friend, Mr. Andrew Munro, who had left a fine name and character behind him. (The Hon. Andrew Munro, member of the Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis, and ex-member of the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands, died on July 4th at 7-40 p.m., after an illness of eight weeks. Mr. Munro always took an active interest in the West India Committee, for which he often acted as hon. correspondent. His death will be deplored by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. A.E.A.)

St. Lucia.—Hon. E. Du Boulay, July 17th. Good rains had fallen of late, very beneficial to the growing crops.

St. Vincent.—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., July 17th. A public meeting was about to be held in the Court House at Kingstown, to pass resolutions in favour of Mr. Chamberlain's proposed fiscal policy. Cotton growing continued to absorb attention, and great interest was being manifested in Mr. Symington's fruit scheme. Fine cultivation was being started on no mean scale. Recent investigation of the Soufrière top revealed a state of quiet, and the approaches from both Windward and Leeward showed a wonderful cooling down—green vegetation being perceptible on all the slopes. It was hoped therefore that the Soufrière had gone to sleep for another century, or better still, for all time.

Trinidad.—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, July 17. The desire was very generally and very strongly expressed throughout the Colony, that the Bermuda and Halifax Line should be assisted in extending its line from Jamaica to all the British West Indies, so there would be a wholly British Line of communication with the Mother Country. Liberal allowances were being made for the difficulties and expense caused to the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., by the Volcanic disturbances of last year, but the business people were by no means disposed to let the matter rest where it was. Heavy rains had fallen frequently during the fortnight. There were complaints from some districts that they had been rather too heavy, but on the whole they had been beneficial to the growing crops.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) July 21st. "Weather all that can be desired."
Trinidad.—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) July 28th. "Rain has fallen heavily."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Melasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	llhs.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Barbados—								
Jan. 1 to July 16, 1903	25,912	—	—	—	—	24,256	—	—
" " 16, 1902	42,060	—	—	—	—	41,479	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to July 14 1903	54,517	86,932	—	13,064	4684	3387	44,248	4306
" " 16 1902	48,169	70,623	—	15,814	3200	1215	52,347	6396
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
Apr. 1 to June 6 1903	5742	5972	8164	444,117	5,161,252	3534	1,294,121	929,550
" " 7 1902	6397	4126	23,128	620,031	5,152,275	4242	3,233,485	3,850,300
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Melasses.	Tres.	Bris.
Jan. 1 to July 16 1903	352,650	24,322,640	36,040	208	7,174,202	3008	178	166
" " 16 1902	439,527	22,348,370	39,680	1251	7,173,943	2629	111	196
								Asphalt.
								Tons.
								91,887
								80,779

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Para," August 2nd, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. A. S. G. Tanner, Mr. A. Belfield, Miss Belfield, Mrs. R. G. Dix, Mr. R. G. Dix, Master L. Archer, Mr. and Mrs. Groves, Mr. M. J. Taurel, Mr. H. Teitz. **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Gordon, Mr. M. Ormeling, John Carston, A. Shinder, A. Morton, S. Jomsen, A. Ahlstdt. **Jamaica**—Miss M. J. Levy, Miss M. L. Poole, Dr. C. B. Mosse, C. B., C.M.G., Miss Sybil Corinaldi, Mr. George Harrison, Mr. G. H. Malcolm, Dr. J. D. Donovan, Mr. C. Hope Levy, Mrs. W. R. Buttenshaw. **Trinidad**—Mr. A. de Verteuil, Mr. D. Costa, Mr. S. W. Fitt, Mr. J. Daglish and Daughter, Mr. P. Gonzalez, Mr. H. L. Cleaver. **Antigua.**—Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Cowley, Rev. Father Banckaert, His Excellency Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., Lady Edeline Strickland, three Misses Strickland, Miss Jenkins, Miss Cowen, Mrs. Robertson, Mr. W. Hart. **Grenada.**—Mr. John F. Munro, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hayward. **St. Kitts.** Sister Perpetua, Miss E. French. **St. Lucia.**—Major W. B. Stansfield, Gunner J. W. Ramsey. **St. Vincent.**—Mrs. E. J. Cameron.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," August 5th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. D. Baker, Mr. Adams. **Demerara**—Dr. Woodward, Mr. Davson and family, three Masters Murray, Mr. R. Duckworth, Mr. and Mrs. Toplady, Mr. T. M. Hunter, Mr. W. Von Winckler, Mr. C. Miller. **Jamaica.**—Mr. E. Girdlestone, Mrs. A. Isler, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. da Costa. **Trinidad.**—Mr. V. Moralejo, Mr. E. Herrera, Mr. C. E. Dumanoir, Mrs. A. Taitt, Mr. B. H. Stephens, Miss M. Gonzalez, Mr. L. G. Alston. **Antigua.**—Hon. F. and Mrs. Watts, Mr. W. N. Sands. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. Geo. Hepburn. **Dominica.**—Mr. W. S. Vaughan.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Royal," July 22nd, 1903:—**Jamaica**—Mr. P. J. Browne, Hon. T. Capper, Mr. A. N. Crosswell, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Cox, three Misses Cox, Ven. Archdeacon Downer, Miss Edridge, Mr. L. H. Facey, Dr. Gifford, Mr. Grossman, Miss A. King, Captain L. J. Lee, four Messrs. Lothian, Mrs. Lothian, four Misses Lothian, Mr. Law, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Morales, Mr. A. H. Miles, Miss Marsh, Mr. J. G. Peet, Miss M. Pearman, Miss C. G. Pearman, Mr. S. Taylor, Mr. and Miss Tozer, Mr. W. A. Thwaites, Mr. A. C. Westmoreland, Mr. C. L. Walker, Mr. R. H. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Wyke, Mrs. E. Burke, Mr. H. S. Cooke, Mr. James McPherson.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," August 1st, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. T. G. Brinkley, Mr. R. Clark, Miss Fenwick, Master D. Gideon, Mr. B. Haigh, Mr. C. Hall, Mr. W. Henderson, Lieut. H. V. H. Ireland, two Misses Kemp, Dr. G. V. Lockett, Masters C. S. and J. G. Moseley, Dr. A. Mutis, Rev. D. W. Panton, Mr. and Mrs. Porter, Master W. Roxburgh, Mr. M. G. Clegg, Mr. T. E. Draper.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar 88 per cent Beet, July 30th.—The Political aspect of the Brussels Convention is dealt with in an article to be found elsewhere in this Circular. As the 1st September approaches, when Cartels and Bounties are supposed to cease, and, as the prospects are less unfavourable for the consummation of this desired end, confidence is slowly returning and a feature has been increased buying on the part of Consumers and the Trade, tending to maintain prices. As we approach the New Season for Beetroot Crops, indications are not wanting that some partial improvement in prices may not unreasonably be hoped for. At the present moment, the quotation of 88% beet for the first six months of the season is approximately 8s. 9d., a price which of course leaves a loss to the producer, and which he will not be anxious to accept until forced to do so. To assist him in his efforts to improve his position there is the prospect of a more or less large increase in Consumption on the Continent, when the reduced duties come into operation on the 1st September. It is true his price for next crop is about 9d. per cwt. over the value of old crop sugar, but still 8s. 9d. leaves him a loss and he may resist it as long as he can and so help the market. Of course, we shall be told that the overwhelming supply of Cartel and Bounty-fed Sugar will exercise a depressing effect on prices for a long time to come, and this may be partially correct, but, with confidence restored a price of 10s. may not be impossible, and it will then be below the average of the ten years dating from 1892/3 to 1901/2 which was 10s. 3d., and which included one season, viz: 1901/2 at 6s. 6½d. The opponents of the abolition of Bounties and Cartels, and others therefore, who state that Sugar will be increased in price from this abolition 2s. to 2s. 6d., make a statement that is not in accordance with known facts, and it cannot be too clearly laid down that about 10s. is the natural price of 88% beet, and this has been proved beyond question of dispute. Of course 10s. is about 2s. over the average of this season, and 3s. 6d. over that of 1901/2, but these years crops were raised as everyone knows under the baneful influences of Cartels, and could not possibly continue to be so raised for any lengthened period. The arguments therefore of the increased prices to be for ever paid by Consumers are entirely fallacious. The beet crops of 1902/3 produced 3,420,000 tons, and those of 1901/2 6,850,000 tons, as shown in the Circular of the 22nd June last. A truly remarkable growth, first through Bounties and latterly through Cartels. The growing crops have so far done well, but they may change with unsuitable weather. Prices on the 30th July, were as follows:—August delivery 8s. 0½d.; October/December, 8s. 8½d.; January/March, 8s. 10½d.; April/June, 9s. 0½d.; all free on board Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years on 30th July:—

	1903. 8s.	1902. 6s.	1901. 9s. 4d.	1900. 12s. 1½d.	1899. 10s. 9d.
The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America on July 24th were as follows:—					
	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Europe	1,910,000	2,040,000	1,140,000	980,000	1,180,000
United States	320,000	130,000	270,000	140,000	270,000
Cuba	300,000	360,000	110,000	20,000	50,000
Cargoes afloat	60,000	50,000	90,000	60,000	50,000
Total	2,590,000	2,580,000	1,610,000	1,200,000	1,580,000

Crystallised Sugar.—Has continued in good demand and free sales have taken place chiefly from 14s. 9d. to 15s. 3d., with a few choice lots from 15s. 6d. up to 16s. 3d. in retail. The value of average qualities is fully 15s., and for a cargo of dark Crystals 9s. 6d. could possibly be obtained on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar is scarce and wanted from 11s. to 14s. Retail lots have realised 15s. to 15s. 6d.

Muscovado.—Little here. Grocery Barbados is selling at 13s. to 14s. The quality this season is very poor.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date	18,000	49,000	41,000	32,000
Deliveries	25,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Stocks	22,000	37,000	26,000	14,000

Rum.—The concessions made by the Docks on charges, referred to elsewhere in this Circular, have strengthened the market, and will ultimately benefit Importers to a not inconsiderable extent. Business has been concluded in fair marks of Demerara at 9½d., being already ½d. advance, whilst fair Standard Marks of Jamaica are difficult to buy at 1s. 8d. Cuba and other Foreign kinds may be quoted from 8d. to 11d.

London Figures to date:—

	1903	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports Jamaica	5600	8400	7300	5300
.. Demerara	7700	12,800	13,000	8800
Stocks Jamaica	10,700	11,000	10,100	7600
.. Demerara	7100	8700	7700	4000
Total of all kinds:—	1903	1902.	1901.	1900.
Stocks	27,700	29,375	27,700	1675

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:—

	1903	1902.	1901.	1900.
	78,000	71,000	111,000	90,000

With the exception of some stray purchases by the Government of certain qualities, the tone of the market has continued to rule exceptionally dull, and our chief manufacturers, who now buy largely of African cocoa for direct shipment, have given but little support to this market. Prices are irregular, Native and undesirable qualities being lower and extremely difficult of sale. Quotations now are: Trinidad, fair collected 58s., Estate Marks 58s. to 62s. and up to 66s. Grenada, fair 50s., fermented 55s. to 57s.; Native Cocoa from other Islands is worth about 47s., and fermented 52s. 55s.

Coffee.—There is no improvement in this market. July delivery Santos is quoted 2½s. **Spices.**—All these markets are quiet, prices being unchanged. **Cotton.**—Irregular. Fair West India about 6d. **Arrowroot.**—Very dull, and fair manufacturing is offering at 2d. without attracting buyers.

Stocks of Arrowroot, June 30th:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	11,923	9153	10,112	13,789

Lime Juice.—1s. 1s. 2d. per lb.; Concentrated, £14 10s. per lb.; Distilled, 1s. 6d. per lb. Hand Pressed Lime Oil, 2s. 9d., 3s. per lb.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

West India Committee Circular.

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"6642" CENTRAL.

15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C.

Monday, August 17th, 1903.

At Last!

At last the West Indies are to receive the fair play and equality of opportunity in British Markets for which they have so stubbornly fought for over a quarter of a century, and unless anything unforeseen occurs, her sugars will, after September 1st next, meet foreign beet on even terms. Since the last *West India Committee Circular* was published, the Sugar Convention Bill has passed through its remaining stages,—Committee, Third Reading, and House of Lords—and received the Royal Assent. Already an Order in Council has been promulgated, excluding from this country after September 1st, the bounty fed sugars of Denmark, Russia, and the Argentine Republic. Greater confidence and activity may now be looked for in our markets, as well as on the Continent, where consumption should steadily increase consequent upon the reduction of the Excise duties. An improvement in values may be expected, pending the development of production on a natural basis. It is but natural that we should feel jubilant at the happy result of our efforts; and the following telegram, which we sent on July 20th to Mr. Chamberlain, who has so persistently championed our cause, will be cordially endorsed by all who have the welfare of the West Indies at heart.

"West India Committee desire congratulate you succesful issue Sugar Convention Debate and again tender grateful thanks for what you have done for West Indies."

Regarding our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, we need only say that additional significance and éclat will be given to the Banquet to be held in his honour in November next, when the presentation of the testimonial in recognition of his life work for our West Indian Colonies is to be made to him.

The moment is opportune for presenting to members the *West India Committee Circular* in a considerably enlarged form. The Circular has appeared without intermission since the year 1886, when it succeeded the half-yearly reports of the Executive Committee which until that year used to contain the principal official correspondence of the West India Committee. At first the Circular was published monthly, but thanks to the loyal support accorded to us by our members, whose numbers are increasing by leaps and bounds, we were able last year to issue it fortnightly. As in the past, we shall continue to use our best endeavour to make the *West India Committee Circular* of general interest, and we shall cordially welcome any suggestions our Members may have to offer with this object in view. Of the Press at home and abroad, who have stood by us for so long, we invite criticism, though the development of the Circular is only in its initial stages.

The Sugar Bill in Committee.

The House of Commons on August 4th went into Committee on the Sugar Convention Bill, and there was a prolonged discussion on an amendment directed against the policy of prohibiting the importation of sugar from bounty-giving countries. We extract from the *Times* the following summary of the proceedings.

MR. BUXTON, who spoke in support of the amendment, contended that the Government had put the country in a most awkward position by agreeing to the Brussels Convention, and he pointed out that if bounties could be met by countervailing duties we should at least obtain revenue. By prohibition we should gain nothing, but lose much. MR. GERALD BALFOUR, who denied that under the

WSET INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Convention the Government were bound to prohibit, explained that, if the Commission should put it on record that one of the contracting States was giving bounties, the other contracting parties would not be compelled either to prohibit the importation of sugar from that State or to impose countervailing duties. If such a thing were to occur, the proper course to take was to call a fresh conference. It was only when a non-contracting State was found by the Commission to be giving bounties that the contracting Powers would have to prohibit or to put on countervailing duties. The contention that the Government should have taken power to impose countervailing duties in all cases he met by citing the authority of Sir W. Harcourt, who had said that no one could prefer such duties to prohibition. The Government believed that in almost every case prohibition would be the better policy to adopt; at the same time they recognised that in some cases countervailing duties would be preferable, and accordingly they had provided for their possible imposition in the Bill. SIR C. DILKE deprecated the submission of our interests to a foreign Commission, for Commissions abroad were always hostile to British trade and anxious to clip its wings. MR. ROBSON foresaw the time when this Convention would bring us into diplomatic and commercial conflicts with the United States, and MR. BRUCE endorsed the views of Mr. Buxton as to the advantages of preferential duties as compared with prohibition. MR. LLOYD-GEORGE, describing the position as it presented itself to his eyes, declared that we had entered into a conspiracy to rob ourselves by excluding cheap sugar, and MR. MOULTON denounced the Bill as a clumsy blunder. In a further reply, MR. GERALD BALFOUR advanced the extreme simplicity of prohibition as a reason for its adoption. He intimated, however, that countervailing duties would be resorted to if it should appear at any time that our supply of sugar was being seriously reduced; but of this he had no fear. The amendment was negatived, on a division, by 154 votes against 86.

On August 5th the consideration was resumed. MR. LOUGH proposed an amendment which would have sanctioned the exclusion of bounty-fed sugar coming from the self-governing Colonies, his contention being that if bounties were unfair to trade in this country they should be discountenanced within the Empire as well as outside it. MR. GERALD BALFOUR reminded the hon. member that the Government had declared explicitly that they would not consent in any circumstances to penalise bounty-fed sugar imported from the self-governing British Colonies, and that this had been made clear to the signatories of the Convention. The amendment, of course, could not be entertained. SIR C. DILKE and other members of the Opposition asked whether it was proposed to allow the importation of bounty-fed sugar from our protectorates, mentioning Zanzibar, Egypt, Uganda, Cyprus, the Malay States, and British Borneo. MR. GERALD BALFOUR replied that as these countries were not in the least likely to send bounty-fed sugar to Great Britain the point raised was not of any practical importance, and that it need not be considered unless the permanent Commission should draw attention to it. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, having been asked for his opinion, spoke of the point as one for future settlement. What might have to be done would depend largely on the view which the permanent Commission took of the matter. His view at present was that the protectorates which had been named would be regarded for the purposes of the Bill as foreign countries. Egypt, the Soudan, and Zanzibar certainly would be so regarded. In the protectorates over which we exercised the right of legislation the Government, he thought, would be bound by the Convention to prevent, as far as they could, the institution of bounties. Therefore in these cases the question of prohibition could not arise. The amendment was negatived on a division by 147 votes against 65.

MR. E. ROBERTSON moved an amendment providing that the penalty of prohibition should only be resorted to against bounty-giving countries that were not parties to the Convention. His desire was to bring the clause into conformity with the declaration of the Government that the subsection in regard to penalties was not intended to apply to the contracting Powers. MR. GERALD BALFOUR ex-

369

plained that if a contracting Power continued to grant bounties a fresh conference would probably be called, and that this Conference might recommend the adoption of a prohibitive penalty. The contingency was not likely to occur, but he held that it would be unwise for Parliament to tie its hands by acceding to Mr. Robertson's proposal. The amendment was rejected by a majority of 157 against 68.

Upon an amendment moved by MR. KEARLEY, who wished to bring sugared goods within the operation of the clause, there was a long and animated discussion. MR. GERALD BALFOUR refused to make the alteration on the ground that it was undesirable to do more than was stipulated for in the Convention. SIR S. HOARE, as a confirmed free-trader, urged the Government not to admit articles manufactured with bounty-fed sugar; and MR. BRYCE expressed surprise at the determination of the Government to sanction the importation of such articles while prohibiting the bounty-fed raw material out of which they were largely made. The Government by their action were really encouraging foreign industry at the expense of British manufacturers. MR. LLOYD-GEORGE, MR. GIBSON BOWLES, SIR C. DILKE, and MR. BUXTON having also protested against the refusal of the President of the Board of Trade to penalise bounty-fed sugar products, MR. GERALD BALFOUR repeated that the amendment went beyond the provisions of the Convention. The contracting States, he pointed out, would not be in a position to grant bounties in respect of sugar products, and he was of opinion that there was not much danger of successful competition with our sugar products by the non-contracting States. But he admitted that it was conceivable that makers of confectionery, jam, &c., might be exposed to unfair competition at a future time, and he undertook to meet the danger, if it arose, by independent legislation. MR. HARWOOD represented that under the Bill as it stood his constituents, who were largely interested in manufactures depending on sugar, would be deprived of cheap bounty-fed sugar and be exposed at the same time to the competition of bounty-fed sugar-products. SIR J. GORST, who supported the amendment, dilated in a sarcastic vein upon the danger of interfering with the natural course of trade and of arranging to impose duties on foreign articles for other purposes than revenue.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER explained that the acceptance of the amendment would make it necessary to have all sugar products manufactured in bond. He did not believe, he said, that bounty-fed sugar products would be introduced. They could not come from countries which were parties to the Convention, and if they were imported from other countries action would at once be taken. The Government did not want to put all traders who made articles composed largely of sugar to the inconvenience of manufacturing in bond. MR. BUTCHER and MR. MIDDLEMORE, from the Ministerial side of the House, urged the Government to provide in the Bill against the danger which they admitted might arise; but MR. GERALD BALFOUR adhered to his decision that it would be better to deal with the difficulty, if it should become necessary to do so, in a separate Bill. MR. ASQUITH denounced the conduct of the Government as paradoxical and unbusinesslike. The closure was moved and carried by 161 votes against 90, and then the amendment was rejected by a majority of 68.

After some minor amendments had been either negatived or withdrawn, MR. LOUGH moved the omission of the second subsection of the clause, which provides that prohibited sugar brought to this country shall be dealt with under section 42 of the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876. Under this section the sugar, he stated, might be forfeited or destroyed, and he objected to such drastic measures. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER assured the hon. member that destruction would never be resorted to, and that an importer would be allowed to carry the sugar away after the payment of a fine, if it should be thought necessary to impose one. The Opposition, not being satisfied with the right hon. gentleman's explanation, challenged a division, and the amendment was rejected by 181 votes against 76. MR. LOUGH next asked that certificates of origin should be dispensed with when sugar was brought to our ports for transshipment purposes only, but the amendment which he

moved was resisted by the PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE and defeated by a majority of 98. MR. GERALD BALFOUR then moved that the question that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill be now put. This was carried by 156 votes against 64, and the clause was agreed to after another division. All but one of the amendments to Clause 2 were ruled out of order, and after a short discussion the clause was passed by 144 votes against 59. Eventually the Bill passed through Committee without amendment.

The Third Reading.

On August 6th, on the motion for the third reading of the Sugar Convention Bill, MR. LOUGH made a last impassioned protest against legislation which he believed to have been introduced with the sole object of benefitting narrow commercial interests in the West Indies, and which he regarded as the first fruits of the Government's revolutionary fiscal policy. MR. BRYCE having said that the Government's adhesion to the Sugar Convention amazed him, and having recapitulated the principal arguments directed against the Bill by the Opposition, MR. BALFOUR, in a short speech, defended the policy of his party on the general ground that it was desirable that international trade in any article should be carried on upon the lines which had always found favour with the great free traders, who all disapproved strongly of the policy of stimulating trade artificially by the system of bounties. The Government, he reminded the House, had by this Bill initiated no new policy, for long ago, when LORD PALMERSTON was Prime Minister and MR. GLADSTONE was his Chancellor of the Exchequer, it was agreed that the abolition of bounties was desirable. After speeches by SIR C. DILKE and other members, the Bill was read a third time by 119 votes against 57. The House adjourned at 12 minutes past 2 o'clock.

In the House of Lords.

In the House of Lords on August 10th, LORD LANSDOWNE, in moving the second reading of the Sugar Convention Bill, remarked that although it dealt with some highly controversial questions there were certain points on which unanimity prevailed. He believed that nobody in their lordships' House would contradict him when he said that the system of bounties on sugar was a bad and objectionable institution, and that we ought to endeavour to get rid of it if possible. A great many unsuccessful attempts had been made since the year 1862 to bring about its abolition. In the meantime the evil was steadily increasing. The Continental bounties were doubled, and there grew up that system of cartels or trade combinations which were able, under cover of the bounties and the wide difference between the Customs and excise duties in bounty-giving countries, to force up prices in their home markets and to inundate other countries with sugar which they were often able to sell below cost price. The result was the occurrence of violent disturbances in the sugar industry, and those disturbances affected this country in a special degree. One after another the refineries in places like London, Liverpool, Bristol, and Greenock were closed, and the number of persons employed in the sugar industry was greatly diminished. Again, the report of the Royal Commission of 1897 showed that the depression in the West Indies was mainly due to the competition of bounty-fed sugar. His Majesty's Government agreed to take part in the Brussels Conference of 1901, and they instructed their representatives to express their readiness to resort if necessary to legislation. The result was the Convention of last year, to which all the important sugar-producing Powers gave their adhesion. The Powers proposed that a Permanent Commission should be appointed to decide in cases of dispute, and they agreed to accept a clause binding them to penalise bounty-fed sugar. The policy of the Convention was accepted by the House of Commons last year, and by the present Bill the Convention would be ratified. He could not bring himself to believe that the noble lord opposite who had given notice of his intention to move the rejection of the Bill really desired that it should not become law,

Indeed, if the Bill were rejected they would be guilty of a breach of faith in reference to the other Powers.

LORD SPENCER moved that the Bill should be read a second time on that day three months. He pointed out that this House was placed in an embarrassing and humiliating position by being asked to deal with this most important subject in the last week of the Session. He traversed the allegation that there would be a breach of faith if Parliament did not pass this Bill. LORD LANSDOWNE, interposing, said the Convention was ratified by His Majesty's Government. LORD SPENCER thought that power was always reserved for the Parliaments of the different Powers to give their assent to conventions, and certainly nothing would give him greater pleasure than to see this Bill rejected by their lordships. The policy of the Convention was to check or stop sugar bounties. But why should we step in, as international philanthropists, in order to stop, at very great loss to ourselves, the losses and disadvantages incurred by other countries in consequence of this bounty system? He maintained that they were not bound, as free-traders, to interfere with other countries, and by doing so to inflict losses on the people of this country. The Convention itself had by the protocol adopted absolutely protective doctrines; and we had placed ourselves in the power of a foreign Commission on which we were barely represented. LORD WELBY and LORD FARRER supported the motion for the rejection of the Bill.

The DUKE of MARLBOROUGH said there was no force in the argument that under the bounty system the consumers in Great Britain had benefitted to a very great extent. If we had gained some advantages how long were they likely to last? If His Majesty's Government had declined to join in the Convention it was possible that in the course of a few years a gigantic sugar monopoly might have been created in Continental countries. LORD TWEEDMOUTH said one thing would of itself be a bar to free trade and that was the proposal with reference to the surtax which was merely a bounty in another form. LORD ONSLOW claimed for the Convention that it would confer immense advantages on the West Indies. On a division the motion for the second reading was carried by 108 votes against 16: and the Bill was then passed through its remaining stages.

On the following day the Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Sugar Convention Act. The *London Gazette* of August 12th contained Orders in Council as provided by the provisions to the Act, to the effect

"That, from and after the 1st day of September next, and subject to any such provision by Parliament as hereinbefore treated, all sugar from Denmark, Russia, and the Argentine Republic (not including molasses and sugar-sweetened products) shall (except in transit) be prohibited to be imported or brought into the United Kingdom."

and further

"That, from and after the 1st day of September next, inclusive, every sugar factory and sugar refinery and factory for the extraction of sugar from molasses in the United Kingdom shall be under the supervision either of the Commissioners of Customs or of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

West Indian Cotton.

Never again shall it be said that the West Indian Planters are slow in paying attention to subsidiary industries. The enthusiasm with which they have taken up the question of Cotton cultivation, to say nothing of the Fruit industry, in such Islands as are specially adapted to it, afford direct proof to the contrary. We are constantly being asked what is the present acreage under Cotton in the West Indies. We hope shortly to be in a position to afford more precise information on this point; but meanwhile we may say that from returns recently to hand it would appear not improbable that 4000 acres will be placed under Cotton in the Windward and Leeward Islands and Barbados, during the present planting season. A considerable area will also be planted in Jamaica, British Guiana,

Trinidad, and Tobago. For this satisfactory state of affairs the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which has assisted the Planters in obtaining seed and furthered the proposal for erecting Central Ginning Factories in Barbados, Antigua, and St. Kitts, may claim a large share of the credit.

The present prices of cotton are of course exceptionally high and it is unlikely that they will continue at the present level; but even allowing for a considerable drop, there would appear to remain a considerable margin of profit for the planter. In an address delivered by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture at Antigua on June 29, he stated that a careful estimate had been formed of the probable cost of establishing cotton in Antigua, and it was understood that about £4 per acre would cover all expenses up to the time of picking the cotton. Other expenses might be placed at 15s., making a total of £4 15s. per acre. The crop would probably reach not less than 300 lb. of lint per acre, and this, at the low valuation of 7d. per lb. (for good Sea Island cotton), would realize £8 15s., leaving, without taking account of the value of the seed, a net profit of £4 per acre, earned within about eight months from the time of planting. There would, also, be a ratoon crop to be reaped soon after. Moreover, in Barbados where root fungus is again prevalent, cotton will prove useful to grow in rotation to sugar cane, and so get rid of the disease by the natural process of exhaustion.

The more promising portion to the West Indies for cotton-growing appear to be the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Barbados, the southern portions of St. Lucia, Montserrat, the south-eastern parts of Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitts, and the Virgin Islands. In the current number of the *Agricultural News* it is pointed out that Sea Island cotton is likely to suit the climatic conditions of the West Indies better than any other. According to Brooks—

"The Sea Island cotton plant has a larger and more vigorous growth than Upland cotton. It withstands the vicissitudes of the heat and cold better, and is less subject to disease; the so-called blight and rust do not affect it as readily as they do the Upland cotton, nor does it shed its flowers and bolls to anything like the same extent. The early growth of the Sea Island is so vigorous, that it maintains itself in fields infested with Bermuda and nut grass, as the Upland could not. The leaves are larger, smoother, and of a brighter green than Upland, and the flowers are larger, handsomer, and of a more golden yellow. But the bolls are smaller, and instead of being five-lobed are usually only three-lobed."

On July 31st last, the small Cotton Central Factory on the Pierhead, Barbados, was opened by Lady Morris. The factory, which occupies a site a little above the old Harbour Police station, is a strongly built wooden building 100 feet in length and 26 feet in width. The machinery consists of one Platt's Double-action Gin, and a Baling Press. Places for two more ginning machines have been marked off. The power is supplied by a ten horse-power engine, in the boiler of which native petroleum is burnt.

The success of the cotton industry is, of course, all a question of prices. No one can accurately forecast what the future of the market will be, but the following expert's report, courteously obtained for us by the British Cotton Growing Association, upon a sample of cotton grown by Mr. Geo. A. Sealy on one of his estates in Barbados requires no comment.

"This is a most excellent sample and worth to-day 13d. to 14d. per lb. Of course you are aware that this is a time of scarcity and that prices consequently are high, but I don't think that the value of such cotton as this can drop below 12d. per lb. until a very much larger quantity is grown than has ever yet been done."

It may be mentioned that the cotton referred to was simply the raw article as plucked, the seed having been separated from the cotton by hand picking.

Gold, Diamond, and Forest Industries of British Guiana.

Through the courtesy of the Hon. B. Howell Jones, M.E.C., President of the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana we have received copies of a pamphlet which has just been issued by the Government of that Colony, giving general information with regard to its Gold, Diamond, and

Forest Industries. The object of this publication, which is ably edited by Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, F.G.S., Secretary of the above named Institute, and is to be issued annually, is to meet the frequent enquiries which are addressed to the Colonial Office regarding Mining in British Guiana and the Mining and Land regulations and Timber resources of the Colony. Its pages contain information and statistics with regard to the Ballata and Timber industries as well as the Gold and Diamond industries; some notes as to the methods of acquiring Crown Lands, a digest of the Mining Laws of the Colony, hints as to equipment, geological notes, together with particulars as to communication with and in the Colony, and with the Gold and Diamond Fields. The white colonist possessed of a few hundred pounds can start on prospection in the interior, and, should he be successful and maintain his health, there is no reason why he should not do a hundred-fold better on his small capital than he could do in any country in the world. The Crown Lands of the Colony can be purchased outright for 7½d. per acre, the purchaser paying the cost of surveying, 10d. per acre, and office fees of 5d. per acre, or in all say 1s. 11d. per acre; or leased for number of years. Land on which valuable timber is growing is not sold but reserved for wood cutting purposes, and is leased out in tracts of 2000 acres and under. Land is rented at 2d. per acre if cultivated and 3½d. if uncultivated. A royalty of ¾d. per foot is exacted on all hardwood at over a specific gravity of .7, and ¼d. per foot on wood under this weight. Ballata pays a royalty of 1d. per lb., and tracts of 40 to 60 square miles are licensed for the purpose of obtaining the gum for £5 8s. 4d. per annum. Charcoal, which is made on tracts licensed for wood cutting purposes, pays a royalty of ½d. per bag of 100 lbs. Homestead grants for areas not exceeding five acres are made for 5d. per acre and no other charges, but the grantee must continually reside and beneficially occupy the tract for 10 years, at the end of which time the land becomes his absolute property. Land is leased for quarrying purposes in small areas, and all stone is liable to a royalty of ¾d. per ton, and kaolin clay 2½d. per ton. A detailed account of the Ballata, Timber, and Gold industries follows, with the future prospects of each.

Interest in mining proper has been revived by the formation of a company to continue the development of the Barima Mine. Some experiments which are now being conducted by the St. Elie Company in French Guiana at Adieu Vat may possibly teach us a lesson as to the best method of developing our quartz reefs. It has invariably been the case that time and money have been wasted in following up the reef in a mass of decomposed rock which is exceedingly troublesome to mine in. It has been far from uncommon to follow up one by one the disjecta membra of what may have been at one time a continuous reef; but which now lacks all semblance of continuity, until in the long run the last of the available capital has been spent in pumps, timbering, new drives, attempts to recover the lost scent, and in the end the inevitable winding up. At Adieu Vat a new principle has been adopted. The whole of the superincumbent mass of laterite is being cleared away, so as to locate the reef where it is in solid formation instead of burrowing after it in shafts, drives, and tunnels.

Some exceedingly rich quartz has lately been brought down from the Potaro and Barima rivers. The day will come when the question of quartz-mining will be seriously taken up in British Guiana, and when the work is taken in hand properly and scientifically, good results may be expected. Many of the so-called mining experts who have come here from time to time were but pseudo-scientists whose sole utility was the framing of a glowing report. What the Colony requires is properly trained mining men. With very few exceptions, the people working alluvial gold in British Guiana at the present time know gold from pyrites and that is about all.

During the year ending March 31st, 1903, the following precious stones have been declared:—

Diamonds from the Mazaruni river	...	...	...	...	162,892
„ „ Potaro river	...	...	...	...	788

Many of the diamonds found lately have been much larger than those found in 1901 and 1902, at least one exceeding five carats.

During the twelve months ending June 30th, 1902, 132,077 diamonds had been declared at the Department of Mines. Of these stones, 1414 were found in Potaro, 18 in Conawarook, five on the Essequibo river, three in the Cuyuni, one in the Barima, and the rest on the Mazaruni. This seems to show that the area over which the drift is scattered is a very considerable one. An encouraging sign has been the discovery quite lately of stones larger than the ordinary run. Up to this, the larger stones have been found in the Potaro district; but this is probably due to the fact that the stones being mostly found in the sluices accidentally while washing gold the smaller ones were overlooked, whereas in the Mazaruni district, where work is carried on systematically, scarcely any stones would escape notice. The stones hitherto found in British Guiana are exactly like those coming from Diamantina, in Brazil, and were probably formed under the same conditions.

A treatise on the Geology of British Guiana is given, and elaborate advice as to equipment, clothing, etc. A digest of Ordinance No. 1 of 1903 and the mining regulations thereunder is not the least useful part of this publication, and an Appendix containing a full alphabetical list of Colony words is the collection of the institute, beginning with Arrisouro and ending with Wallaba. The concluding page contains the following table of Exports of Gold, Diamonds, Ballata, Timber and other Forest Products, during the financial year 1902-3.

PRODUCTS.	QUANTITY.			VALUE.
	ozs.	dwt.	grs.	
Bullion—Raw Gold	102,351	9	8	\$1,789,585.91
Diamonds—rough ...	10,949½	carats.		96,710.12
Ballata	540,800	lbs.		195,056.67
Gums—Locust, &c.	6,817	lbs.		975.01
Timber	340,260	cubic feet.		111,761.52
Charcoal	77,822	bags.		40,458.08
Woods—Wallaba, Firewood, &c. ...	—			7,073.16
Lumber—Greenheart, &c.	33,667	feet.		6,108.94
Shingles	1,243,000	shingles.		4,278.29
Railway Sleepers	1,828	sleepers.		1,029.60

The Jamaica Cyclone.

At a time when the West Indies should be jubilant over the passing of the Sugar Convention Bill, it is distressing to have to record one of those disasters which of late years have unhappily been too frequent in the Caribbean. In 1898, Barbados and the Windward Islands were swept with a hurricane; in the following year it was the turn of the Leeward Islands, and now Jamaica has met with similar misfortune. On August 12th the following telegram from Sir A. W. L. Hemming, Governor of Jamaica, was received at the Colonial Office:—"Deeply regret to inform you that cyclone struck Island last night; serious loss sustained; Kingston and neighbourhood much damaged; many banana cultivations to the east destroyed; have not yet heard from northern side, but fear severe loss; telegraphic communication with interior suspended. Will telegraph further." At midnight on August 13th the following additional message was received:—"Further reports show all Island, with exception of three parishes south-west, suffered from cyclone; most severe loss St. Thomas. Portland, St. Mary, St. Andrew, by destruction of fruit trees; buildings received damage; many homeless; several lives lost. Port Antonio and other towns to the eastward practically destroyed. I am taking organised means of ascertaining distress to be relieved immediately." Mercifully, the loss of life appears not to have exceeded 60, but the damage to fruit plantations and property appears to have been enormous.

A meeting of members of the West India Committee interested in Jamaica is now sitting with a view to devise means of relief for the sufferers, who it is feared, are very numerous, and it is expected that an immediate appeal to the British Public, which has so generously responded to similar appeals in the past, will be decided upon.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Copies of the following publications of the IMPERIAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE which are to hand by the Mail can be obtained from the Secretary of the West India Committee. A remittance to cover cost and postage must accompany every application. The *West Indian Bulletin*, Vol. IV., No. 2 price 6d. This number contains articles on "Ground Nuts," by William G. Freeman, A.R.C.S., B.Sc., F.L.S., "The cultivation of Pineapples," "Bay Oil and Bay Rum," "Chemical Selection of the Sugar Cane," "The Culture and Uses of Species of Eucalyptus," "Kola Nuts in the West Indies," etc. *The Agricultural News*, Vol. II., No. 34, price 1d. This is an exceptionally interesting number, containing articles on "Cotton Cultivation (continued)," "The History of Tea in Jamaica," "Oranges, Bananas and Roses in Jamaica," etc. *Reports on the Botanic Station, Economic Experiments and Agricultural Teaching, Antigua, 1902-3*, price 3d. Mr. Freeman's paper above referred to, gives an account of the methods of cultivation of ground nuts in the West Indies; the uses to which the various products of the nut are put, and suggests an extension of the area at present under ground nuts. The paper on pineapples was first read by Mr. C. E. Smith at the Mico College, Jamaica. The papers on Bay Oil and Rum deal with the preparation of these commodities. The notes on chemical selection of the sugar cane give the results of some experiments carried out by the Hon. Francis Watts, Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist for the Leeward Islands, to test how far it is possible to improve the saccharine qualities of the sugar cane by a process of chemical selection.

New Members of the West India Committee.

The membership of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE continues to show a remarkable expansion, no less than 137 new members having been elected during the first eight months of the current year. Of these Antigua has contributed 1; Barbados, 19; British Guiana, 26; Jamaica, 21; Trinidad, 5; Dominica, 5; Grenada, 1; and St. Lucia, 4; while fifty-five are resident on this side and directly interested in the West Indies. At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on the 6th inst., Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding, the following were elected Members of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
WM. M. B. SHIELDS, Esq. (B. Guiana)	C. Algernon Campbell, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
HON. R. A. L. WARNEFORD (Antigua)	Messrs. J. Hales Caird & Co.	Walter S. Vaughan, Esq.
HENRY ATTLEE, Esq.	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
PAUL CRESSALL, Esq., Jr. (B. Guiana)	G. Wyatt, Esq.	John Brice, Esq.
R. C. CURTIS, Esq. (B. Guiana)	G. Wyatt, Esq.	Wm. Morison, Esq.
HON. C. M. BROWNE, C.M.G. (Grenada)	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	E. R. Davson, Esq.
MESSRS. D. STEWART & Co. (1902), Ltd.	Edward G. Barr, Esq.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

Colonial Reports—British Honduras.

The Report of Mr. P. C. Cork, Administrator of the Government of British Honduras, on the Blue Book for 1902 has just been published (Colonial Reports—Annual, No. 390). The following is a comparative table of the Revenue and Expenditure of this Colony for the past five years.

	REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.	
1898	\$274,690	\$301,413	\$26,723 Deficit.
1899	250,458	262,413	11,955 "
1900	289,727	246,201	43,526 Surplus.
1900-1... ..	292,689	249,186	43,503 "
1901-2... ..	272,142	256,910	15,232 "

*Including 9 months of 1900.

The export of articles grown and produced in the Colony amounted to \$811,772, and was made up principally of the items shown in the following table:—

Article.	1902.		1901.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity	Value.		
Bananas Bchs.	438,200	\$107,805	538,751	\$152,514	—	\$44,709
Cocoanuts No.	3,767,175	36,865	3,265,357	41,114	—	4,249
Cocoa Lbs.	1,078	194	665	131	\$63	—
Plantains No.	1,624,310	13,168	1,883,450	14,988	—	1,820
Mahogany (local) ... Ft.	5,851,621	314,909	5,970,928	315,938	—	1,029
" (foreign)	192,200	11,749	515,024	43,282	—	31,533
Cedar (local)	413,256	20,459	414,254	20,545	—	86
" (foreign)	73,100	4,201	6,977	432	3,769	—
Logwood (local) ... Tons.	12,417	241,622	16,355	301,058	—	59,436
" (foreign)	2,783	60,744	3,327	75,511	—	14,767
Rosewood	59	530	—	599	—	69
Rubber Lbs.	39,338	14,763	44,044	23,237	—	9,074
Sapodilla Gum (local) "	249,686	37,698	136,391	24,342	13,356	—
" (foreign) "	3,247	487	—	487	—	—
Sarsaparilla	2,797	688	7,515	737	—	49
Hides and Skins (local) "	55,601	4,962	64,650	5,494	—	532
" (foreign) "	10,318	1,056	—	—	1,056	—
Sponges	7,663	1,536	10,785	2,553	—	1,017
Tortoise Shell	3,278	14,335	2,971	14,562	—	227

During the first eight months of the year a most severe depression took place, and the revival, which took place in September, rescued the Colony from grave difficulties. Fortunately the public finances were in a healthy condition, and no anxiety was felt on that account, but there can be no doubt that business was for a time almost at a standstill. The year which commenced with despondency ended hopefully, and with a generally improved tone in business and industrial circles.

For a summary of other Colonial Reports we would refer Members to the following *West India Committee Circulars*: Barbados (368) No. 87; Jamaica (373) No. 87; Leeward Islands (374) No. 87; Grenada (376) No. 88; British Guiana (378) No. 88; Trinidad and Tobago (382) No. 93; St. Vincent (385) No. 98.

Notes.

THE HON. A. M. ASHMORE, C.M.G., Government Secretary of British Guiana, who is at home on leave, has been granted an extension of three months from the 7th of August.

THE KING'S SPEECH at the prorogation of Parliament on August 14th, contained the following passage: "I congratulate you on passing an Act enabling the Government to carry into effect my engagement to co-operate with other Powers in bringing about the abolition of bounties on sugar."

ERRATA. BY A PRINTER'S ERROR, the letters "C.B." were omitted from the description of Mr. T. J. Pittar, under the illustration in our last issue; and "per lb." was wrongly put against the quotations of Lime Juice, in our Produce Market Summary.

H. E. SIR GERALD STRICKLAND, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Leeward Islands, has arrived in this country on leave. During his absence the Government of the Colony will be administered by His

Honour C. T. Cox, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts. H. E. Sir Robert Llewellyn, K.C.M.G., Governor-in-chief of the Windward Islands, is also home on leave of absence.

COMMANDER COOMBS' ANNUAL REPORT on Indian Immigration to Trinidad has been issued as a Council Paper. For the year ended March 31st last, 2358 East Indians arrived, 1600 being men, 661 women, and the remainder children. The immigrants are stated to have been a decided improvement on some received in preceding years. New districts—Rhotala, Lower Punjaub, and Ajnere, have been exploited with apparent success.

MR. C. ALGERNON CAMPBELL, MR. EDWARD R. DAVSON, MR. ARTHUR N. LUBBOCK, AND MR. H. A. TROTTER, have been appointed as sub-committee to deal with Mr. Steele's report on the Excise Restriction in British Guiana and the West Indies, to which reference will be made in a future issue. Mr. F. I. Scard, honoured a preliminary meeting with his attendance on August 13th.

THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN TRINIDAD, arranged for by Mr. Weldon Symington in connection with his West Indian fruit scheme, took place at Diego Martin, on Saturday 11th ult. A large number of gentlemen interested in the scheme attended, and an interesting address was delivered by Mr. Symington, after which he replied to various questions put to him by members of the audience.

SIR COURTENAY C. KNOLLYS, K.C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Trinidad, has arrived in England on leave, during which he will confer with the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the recent riots in Port-of-Spain. Sir C. C. Knollys has been connected with the West Indies Civil Service for nearly forty years, during which he has served in many of the Islands, and has administered the Government of Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, and Trinidad.

THE BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY have endorsed a petition praying for Legislature to offer a reward for the extermination of the mongoose. The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne in seconding the adoption of the resolution said it was high time they heard the last of the mongoose as experience had proved that the money spent in importing them into the island had been expended in vain. He also made reference to the investigations of the Revd. N. B. Watson, which showed that in the case of the stomachs of fifty-nine of those animals examined by him, only one was found to contain any portion of a rat, the animal which the mongoose was intended to destroy.

THE HON. J. O. WRIGHT, AND MR. EDGAR TRIPP, will represent the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, at the fifth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, will be held in the great hall of the Hotel Windsor, Montreal, Canada, on August 17th and 20th next. The programme of business includes the following subjects: Codification of Commercial Law of the Empire; Commercial Education; Commercial Relations between the Mother Country, her Colonies and Dependencies; Foreign Treaties and Tariffs; Defences of the Empire; Fast Steamship Services; Imperial Postal System; Metric System; and Trade Marks. Owing to the keen interest taken throughout the Empire on the question of preferential trade, the importance of these meetings will this year be greater than usual.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S., "Trent," anchored at Plymouth at 10.45 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11th, nearly 24 hours before her contract time, and the mails from the West Indies generally, were delivered the next morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Morant," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, August 5th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our hon. correspondents, received by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Trent."

Antigua.—A. St. G. Spooner, Esq. July 29th. No statement had been made public as to the conditions under which cane would be bought for the Central Factory, which it was hoped would be erected in time for the 1905 crop. There were several excellent sites for a factory combining an adequate supply of water, with easy facilities for cane haulage, and for the shipment of sugar. During the fortnight a few light showers had fallen, but the Island was still suffering badly from drought accentuated by the very high winds that had prevailed. The windward part of the Island had not had

so bad a time since the drought of 1894, but in the neighbourhood of St. John's showers had been more frequent, and the canes although very backward for the time of the year, were still looking green and fresh on the whole. The drought had been all against the planting of cotton, and of provisions, which latter were getting quite scarce.

Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, July 30th. As Bananas shipped from Barbados had done well in England this year, considerable number had been planted in water-courses and plots near the estate buildings, where they would be less liable to theft, which was the curse of our population. The month of July had been favourable up to the last, showers having fallen almost every day. They had fallen beautifully, and there had been no wash. There had been a good deal of thunder and lightning, and the flagstaff at Bissex Hill Police Station was struck, and several trees on the high lands, but no serious damage done. The canes everywhere had immensely improved, and the vegetation was most luxuriant. The Cotton was coming on nicely, and they were anxiously looking for the arrival of the Onion Seed which had been ordered. The rainfall on Porter's (the writer's) estate for the month to date had been 7.10 inch, and all the Island had fared well. The Bishop had proceeded to England by the mail. The Quarantine Commission seemed postponed like everything else. Sugar remained \$1.30 per 100 lbs, and most people were tired of waiting for a rise, and had cleared out, fearing a loss in weight. Molasses were still at 18 cents, but little remained.

British Guiana.—J. C. McCowan, Esq., July 30th. The weather had been fine and favourable generally during the fortnight. Good showers would however be beneficial to cultivation. About 1500 tons of Refining Crystals were sold during the fortnight at \$1.85 to \$1.87. Everything had at the time of writing been sold out.

A concession had been granted to the Massaruni Company, Limited, to occupy, for fifty years or during His Majesty's pleasure, 5858 acres of Crown land on the Seranamu and Putareng creeks, Massaruni, for the purpose of mining for precious stones. Seventy-three cases of eruptive fever were reported during the week ending July 11th, as compared with the eleven in the previous week. Of the 918 cases notified between February 10th, and July 11th, 487 were "certified to small-pox."

Dominica.—E. A. Agar, Esq., July 30th. The following was the text of the resolution anent Mr. Chamberlain's tariff proposals passed by the Legislative Council on July 9th. "That this Council cordially endorses the Secretary of State's Policy, for the encouragement of British trade within the Empire, and expresses its gratitude to Mr. Chamberlain, for his efforts in this direction." A Bill to establish a Defence Force had been passed by the Council.

Grenada.—Hon. D. S. de Freitas. No fresh cases of eruptive fever had occurred in Petit Martinique since June 10th, and none in Carriacou since June 2nd. On July 30th, there remained four cases in isolation in the latter Island, all of which would be discharged by August 1st, and the Station closed. The local quarantine restrictions against arrivals from Carriacou and Petit Martinique, were removed on July 20th.

Jamaica.—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., July 21st. The weather during the fortnight in Vere, south-side and north-side, had been dry with strong winds. Rain generally was wanted; in some localities much more than in others. In Kingston and St. Andrew's, the weather was very dry, and rain was urgently needed. The Vere Irrigation Scheme was progressing. Water in the land had reached Bog Estate. Rumours of damage to the pimento crop from high winds, etc., filled the air, but the estimate of 70,000 bags for the entire Island still prevailed. It was said that Mr. Charles Hannay had made arrangements for the opening of a Banana Trade with New Orleans. The fruit to be supplied principally from May Pen, Linstead and also from Ridimoun, down to Kingston. The Leyland Line of Steamers would do the conveying, the service to be fortnightly, taking 20,000 to 30,000 bunches every 14 days. The name of the Company would be the "United Fruit Grower's, Ltd.," and many of the banana growers in several parts of the Islands had taken shares. A patent called the "Bain-Hannay," process was to be used. The business would be operated by a Glasgow Limited Company, with a capital of £35,000 of which 10,000 shares were reserved for Jamaica. Subscription among Jamaica growers was to be on a co-operative plan—2/- on allotment, and a guarantee of the whole or part of their fruit supply to the Company, subscribers paying the balance for their shares by supplies of fruit from time to time.

St. Kitts.—Hon. Edward G. Todd, July 27th. The weather was all that could be needed in spite of alarmist reports. Until the canes began to fruit no damage was done to the crop. The turning of the blades to yellow was nothing. Provided goods rains fell from August to December, the crops would be all right.

St. Lucia.—Hon. E. Du Boulay, July 31st. Abundant rains had fallen of late.

Trinidad.—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, July 31st. Mr. Edward Tripp was about to leave by the S.S. "Sars-ton" for Montreal, to represent the Chamber of Commerce and the West India Committee, at the meetings of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire. There had been no further meetings of the Legislative Council, since he last wrote you, so the proposed reduction of import duty on Sugar had not yet been made Law. Sir C. C. Knollys started by the mail on his long deferred leave. His *locum tenens* would be specially appointed by the Secretary of State. The Commission had been appointed to enquire more closely into the present state of the Trinidad Police Force, and Sir H. A. Bovell, K.C., Chief Justice of British Guiana, had been appointed Commissioner. The revolution in Venezuela might be

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—The Royal Assent having been given to the Sugar Convention Bill, the subject of Bounties may now be considered closed, a tardy but satisfactory termination of the struggles of both sides of the House of Commons for the last twenty to thirty years to put an end to this injurious system. The final vapourings of a few self-interested people and notoriety seekers, have been of no avail to stop this measure of justice to British Colonies, and unless some unexpected circumstances arise on the Continent, to interfere with the intentions of the Brussels Convention, Cane and Beet Growers will now meet on even ground, and both will have the same chance of pursuing their industry, unfettered by Bounties of any kind. It has taken a life-time to reach this point, advocated during the whole time in this Country by both Conservative and Liberal Governments. This final step continues to increase the confidence of the Trade in Sugar, and with an extended demand, prices are slowly improving, being however still far below a profit yielding point; this of course is attributable to the heavy accumulation of Sugar, over produced during the late Cartel periods, and which will take a long time to dissipate. When prices are rising this is lost sight of, but when a pause takes place, it again stares one in the face and suggests caution. The growing crops need sun and warm weather, and the future is far from assured. They may reach 6,000,000 tons on the sowings or may not. In the meantime prices are as follows:—August 8s. 5½d.; September 8s. 5½d.; October/December, 8s. 11¾d.; January/March, 9s. 1½d.; April/June, 9s. 3d.; all free on board Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

					1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
					8s. 5½d.	6s. 1½d.	8s. 4d.	11s. 9½d.	10s. 4½d.
The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America are as follows:—									
					1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Europe	+++	+++	+++	+++	1,690,000	1,730,000	860,000	700,000	880,000 Tons.
United States	+++	+++	+++	+++	270,000	150,000	200,000	110,000	210,000 "
Cuba	+++	+++	+++	+++	240,000	280,000	100,000	10,000	50,000 "
Cargoes afloat	+++	+++	+++	+++	110,000	170,000	170,000	160,000	210,000 "
Total					2,310,000	2,330,000	1,330,000	980,000	1,350,000

Crystallised Sugar.—Has been in active request and prices during the fortnight have advanced fully 6d. per cwt., the value of average qualities being quite 15s. 6d., with a general range of 15s. to 16s. Deliveries are well kept up and our Stocks show a deficiency of 16,000 Tons compared with last year, "Imitations" are selling slowly from 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d. White Continental Beet from which these are made is now obtainable at about 10s. in bond, whereas for October delivery 10s. 9d., must be paid for this Sugar, which certainly indicates improving prices for crystallised as the season advances; if nothing happens to cause a general decline in Sugar which seems highly improbable. A cargo of Dark Crystals to Cane Refiners should command about 9s. 9d., for present delivery on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar is much wanted. Values in quantity are from 11s. to 14s.

Muscovado.—Small sales of low quality Barbados at 12s. to 12s. 6d. Grocery would realise 13s. to 14s.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date	19,000	52,000	41,000	33,000 Tons.
Deliveries	26,000	26,000	25,000	25,000 "
Stocks	22,000	38,000	24,000	13,000 "

Rum.—The value of Jamaica is slowly improving, partly on account of the extended rent allowed by the Dock Companies and the reduction in the rate at the termination of the six months after import. Fair Standard Marks are worth 1s. 9d. and none too easy to buy thereat. Demerara is firm with quotations ranging from 9½d. to 12d., the former being the value of fair marks. Cuba and other Foreign kinds are worth 8d. to 11d. according to quality and package.

Board of Trade Returns for 7 months:—

					1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	+++	+++	+++	+++	3,530,000	5,700,000	4,710,000	Gallons
Home Consumption	+++	+++	+++	+++	2,080,000	2,310,000	2,390,000	"
Stocks 31st July	+++	+++	+++	+++	9,860,000	9,290,000	8,020,000	"
London Figures to date:—								
Imports Jamaica	+++	+++	+++	+++	6600	8600	8700	5600 Puns
Demerara	+++	+++	+++	+++	8300	13,800	13,100	8800 "
Stocks Jamaica	+++	+++	+++	+++	11,400	10,800	11,100	7700 Puns.
Demerara	+++	+++	+++	+++	7300	9400	7000	3600 "
Total of all kinds:—	+++	+++	+++	+++	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Stocks	+++	+++	+++	+++	28,484	30,617	2133	Puns.
Cocoa. —Stocks in London:—								
	+++	+++	+++	+++	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	+++	+++	+++	+++	77,900	76,400	102,000	92,200 Bags.
Board of Trade Returns for 7 months.								
Imports	+++	+++	+++	+++	15,814	16,897	15,999	Tons.
Home Consumption	+++	+++	+++	+++	11,549	13,653	11,891	"
Stocks 31st July	+++	+++	+++	+++	5733	5082	4537	"

The market remains quiet without change in prices. There is no special feature to comment upon except, perhaps, the fact that prices, are on a moderate level. Crops generally appear to be abundant this season. Quotations of West India Cocoa are as follows: Trinidad, fair collected 58s., Estate Marks 58s. to 62s. and up to 66s.; Grenada, fair 50s., fermented 54s. to 57s.; Native Cocoa from other Islands being worth about 47s., and fermented 51s., 54s.

Coffee.—Like many other large articles this market is in the hands of speculators in Santos and Rio Coffee futures, the present crops of which are again expected to reach 15,000,000 bags. Fluctuations are frequent and disturbing, rendering values of other Coffee uncertain. The present quotation of good ordinary Jamaica is about 33s., and of Santos for this month's delivery 25s. **Nutmegs.**—Dearer, with sales of West India 60 to the lb. at 2s. 6d., down to 6d. for 160 to the lb., with intermediate weights at proportionate values. **Mace** also dearer, fair to good pale 2s. 1d. to 2s. 4d.; fair red 1s. 11d., 2s. **Pimento.**—Rather more enquiry, fair being worth 2½d. **Ginger.**—Less active, fair to good bright sold at 2s., 56s.; low middling to middling 43s., 46s.; and ordinary 39s., 41s. **Cotton.**—Firmer for the present. The value of fair West India is about 6½d. **Arrowroot.**—A moderate business has been done in fair manufacturing at 2d. and further quantities are offering thereat. Deliveries are unsatisfactory as will be seen by the following statement:—

					1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
London Figures to 31st July:—								
Imports	+++	+++	+++	+++	8192	14,727	12,208	19,713 Barrels.
Deliveries	+++	+++	+++	+++	7764	8866	11,617	13,226 "
Stocks	+++	+++	+++	+++	12,679	13,580	8691	9018 "

Lime Juice.—A slight error crept into the last Circular quoting this article; also Lime Oil. The correct quotations should have been as follows: Lime Juice 1s. to 1s. 2d. per Gallon; Concentrated £14 10s. per Cask of 108 Gallons; Oil, Distilled 1s. 6d. per lb., and Hand Pressed 2s. 9d., to 3s. per lb. These are to-day's prices also.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

MONDAY, AUGUST 31st, 1903.

No. 104.

A Personal Reminiscence of Lord Salisbury.

Our Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., has communicated to us the following personal reminiscence of Lord Salisbury, the news of whose death on Saturday, August 22nd, will have been received with profound regret in the West Indies as it has been at home. "My first interview with Lord Salisbury took place when he was Minister for India. It was with a deputation of the West India Committee in regard to the Coolie question, We thought the Indian Government were not giving any encouragement to this emigration, which we were satisfied we could show was immensely in favour of the emigrants from India. We asked the Right Hon. E. P. Bouverie to introduce the deputation, which he did, but with some tremors, as his recollection of Lord R. Cecil in the House of Commons led him to fear we might get a doubtful reception; and he told me Lord Salisbury would turn us inside out. However, we went, and received a most courteous reception. Lord Salisbury told us he considered the question of importance, but that he would like to hear it threshed out, and invited me and Mr. Thomas Daniel Hill, who was at that time the Chairman of the West India Committee, to meet the Indian Council. He subsequently invited Mr. Hill and me to see him privately and I told him a good deal about the West Indies and the necessity for Coolie immigration. I well remember a remark he made to the effect that 'the West Indies were still suffering from the breakers of the great anti-slavery storm.'

"The result was a meeting of the Indian Council, Lord Salisbury, Mr. Hill, and myself. I had been the spokesman on each occasion, and, in accordance with Lord Salisbury's wish, I acted as plaintiff and attacked the Indian Government for throwing all sorts of paltry difficulties in the way of this Immigration, which it was easy to show was at once a benefit to India, to the Coolies emigrating, and to the West Indies. Sir George Campbell was the defendant for the Indian Government, and he answered my attacks by defending the acts of the Indian Government in detail; but admitted that the emigration was a good thing for India and the Coolies, and ought to be encouraged. Lord Salisbury thereupon wrote to the Indian Government calling their attention to the matter and asking for their views. It was nearly two years before he got an answer but he kept on, as he called it, pegging away all the time, and finally he got his answer, and we have never since had any trouble with the Indian Government. Most Ministers at that time would have considered they had done their duty in writing a letter to the Indian Government: not so Lord Salisbury, who did not leave the question alone until he had got his reply.

"I had an opportunity of reminding him of this some years ago, when I was acting as spokesman for another West Indian deputation, and thanking him for what he had done for the West Indies. He seemed quite surprised and had evidently forgotten all about it. I saw him on several other occasions on matters connected with the West Indies, and if it is not impertinent in me to express an opinion upon Lord Salisbury, I should say that he was the most able and most thorough minister, with one exception, of all those, and they have been many, whom it has fallen to my lot to meet during the last 40 years.

"Of his services to the country it is not for me to speak, but the mere fact of his having been at the helm for so many years through all sorts of difficulties both Home and Foreign, that he leaves the country stronger in every way than he found it, in spite of the South African War, proves that his guiding hand was a prudent one. His name will be handed down to posterity as one who served his country well."

The Jamaica Cyclone.

As was to be expected, the Royal Mail Steamer "Tagus," which left Jamaica on August 11th, the date of the disastrous cyclone, brought with her little news of that unfortunate occurrence. When she sailed, the elements were venting their fury in Kingston. The railway and electric car service was stopped, and telephonic and telegraphic communication in Kingston and with the interior completely cut off. We have however to-day received via the United States, advices from Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, our Hon. Correspondent in Jamaica, dated August 12th and 13th, which confirm the news of the disaster which has reached us by cable, and have fully justified the West India Committee in appealing as they did on August 18th, with the full approval of Mr. Chamberlain, to the British Public for subscriptions in aid of the sufferers. On August 10th there were, according to the *Gleaner*, "many ominous signs that foretold the coming of a storm of great violence. Kingston was struck shortly after midnight, when rain commenced to fall in heavy, fitful gusts. Soon the wind came along, at first whizzing, hissing and screaming. Then it gained in velocity, and in a few moments the whole city and its surroundings were encompassed by a violent hurricane. The wind swept along from the north-east, in frightful volume at the tremendous rate of 120 miles an hour. The hurricane soon became circular, the wind coming from all points. The sky was inky black, and the whole air was filled by the groaning and the roaring of the wind as it swept by, leaving destruction in its wake." At about 5.30 a.m. the violence of the wind abated slightly, only to recommence however half an hour later, though with diminished violence. At 7.30 all was over, but for the downpour of rain. Roofs of houses, broken windows and fallen wires appeared in every thoroughfare. But Kingston escaped better than could be expected, and will not suffer severely from a financial point of view, as far as can be judged. At the Eastern End of the Island all the parishes on the coast seemed to have been badly struck. Reports from St. Thomas, St. Catherine and St. Mary tell of enormous damage, especially to Banana Plantations, the loss sustained on which will amount to many thousands of pounds. The towns which suffered most were Port Morant and Port Antonio, and the only communication with the latter town was by sea. Stores, wharves and shops were destroyed, and the town presented a woeful spectacle.

The spirit in which the Jamaicans are facing their temporary adversity is a gratifying feature of the present situation, and their decision not to appeal to the Lord Mayor for a Mansion House Fund, but to leave to English People, who know the need of the Colony, to subscribe spontaneously, is to be commended. It is a pleasure to work for those who endeavour to help themselves as the Jamaicans are doing, and no effort is being spared to ensure the success of the Jamaica Relief Fund which was inaugurated by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE on August 18th.

In spite of its being the time of year when London is deserted, the response has been prompt and generous, and already the Jamaica Relief Fund amounts to upwards of £5,000, of which £4,000 have been remitted to H. E. Sir Augustus Hemming, the Governor of Jamaica. In another column we publish a full list of subscribers, which will be found to be very representative. In glancing over the names we must not overlook the fact that many of our Members have on the principle of "bis dat qui cito dat" forwarded subscriptions to Jamaica direct, as for example Sir Alfred Jones, who has rendered us much assistance with his counsel and advice. Where all have

worked with a will to enhance the success of the Fund it would be invidious to single out any individual, but we must not omit to mention Mr. H. Maddick, A.D.C. to the Governor of Jamaica, who being in England on leave, has been indefatigable in his efforts on behalf of the people of Jamaica, attending as he has done at the Committee Room every day. The Fund will not be closed for some time, as funds are still urgently needed, Sir Augustus Hemming having cabled to us on August 23rd—“Large sums can be usefully and necessarily applied in assisting peasants, and rebuilding houses.” To the Direct West India Cable Company and the Commercial Cable Company, for their offer to convey messages to Jamaica regarding the Fund, free of charge, we tender our grateful thanks, as also to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and to Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., who are meeting us in a similar spirit of generosity.

Fiscal Policy.

The discussion of the proposed changes in our fiscal policy continues with unabated vigour. Interest in the subject does not seem to slacken in the least and Mr. Chamberlain's first speech on the subject, at Glasgow, early in October is eagerly awaited. That the views in favour of enquiry, expressed at our Special General Meeting on July 1st, were in complete harmony with those of the West Indies generally is fully evinced by the resolutions passed in British Guiana and the Islands which have been recorded from time to time in our columns.

The Sugar Convention Act.

To-morrow, September 1st, the abolition of bounties becomes a *fait accompli*; that is to say, the Brussels Convention comes into force: the sugars of the contracting parties cease from that date to receive bounties and the bounty fed beet root sugars of Denmark, Russia, and the Argentine Republic are excluded from our markets. It ought to be clearly understood that with regard to the penalising of sugar from Denmark it is not likely to last long. Denmark, it seems, has a surtax somewhat in excess of that prescribed by the terms of the Convention, but it does not appear that any Cartel has been formed on the basis of that surtax. It also transpires that the drawback on refined, if there be one, is not quite in correct correlation with the duty on raw, and that consequently if there were any exportations of refined sugar the drawback might amount to a bounty. In point of fact, we believe that if there be any exportation from Denmark, it is only in raw. However these things may be, it is pretty certain that Denmark has no immediate intention to give a bounty, and that, therefore, she will probably proceed at once to put her fiscal arrangements in conformity with the terms of the Convention. As to the Argentine Republic, the fear of over-production has been so great that there has even been talk of destroying the surplus rather than selling it below cost price. It can hardly be possible that, if such a feeling prevails, the Government of that country will be so foolish as to incur the penalty of prohibition from British markets. In the case of Russia things are not so clear, but it is believed that the Russian Government desires, if possible, to avoid the penalty at present impending over her exports. She has, it is true, many outlets in Eastern markets, but she must be aware that as long as her heavy bounty continues, British India will not be one of them.

A great fuss has been made in the House of Commons about the new Sugar Law not prohibiting the importation of bounty-fed “sugared products.” The explanation is very simple, there are none. But if there were, we should most assuredly be bound to penalize them. The words of the Convention are perfectly clear on the point, and, therefore, the outcry was quite uncalled for. The words of Article I. are quite distinct in defining what the Convention means when it uses the word

sugar. "Pour l'application de cette disposition, sont assimilés au sucre les produits sucrés tels que, etc." The Opposition, therefore, got hold of a mare's nest.

In Messrs. Willett and Gray's always interesting *Statistical Sugar Trade Journal* dated August 13, 1903, will be found some remarks bearing on the question of countervailing duties in America. As this is a question of great importance to the West Indies, we take the liberty of reproducing them, together with a letter from the Washington Treasury dated August 8th, 1903, which is also important. Messrs. Willett and Gray say "The Sugar Convention Bill having been passed by the British Parliament, the position of sugar generally is strengthened, as nothing stands in the way, now, of the carrying out of the Brussels Agreement. This means a higher range of quotations for beet sugars f.o.b. Hamburg. The actual cost of production is figured at 9s. without bounty and manufacturers will resist sales at anything less, but this price may be difficult to obtain for awhile, in view of the immense quantity of old crop sugars held in bond, on which bounty has been paid. New beet sugars, produced without bounty, quoted at 8s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for October-December delivery, will evidently be admitted here without the assessment of countervailing duty, the cost to import these being equal to 3.86c. for Centrifugals."

The letter of the Treasury Department, Washington, to Mr. W. H. G. Timken, runs as follows, "Sir: The Department is in receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant inquiring what evidence will be necessary to establish the non-payment of bounty on sugar exported from countries now paying bounty after the first proximo. The Department will continue, after the first proximo, the assessment of additional duty under section 5 of the Act of July 24th, 1897, on any sugar imported into the United States, on which bounty has been paid. If sugar on which bounty was not paid shall be exported after the first proximo from a country previously paying a bounty, an approximate notation should be made on the invoice."

Percentage of Sugar to Total West Indies Exports.

The following return was recently supplied by Mr. Chamberlain to Mr. Lough showing in thousands of pounds, the values of exports of sugar from the West Indies (including sugar products*), in comparison with the total exports of Colonial produce for the year 1901:—

Colony.	Total Exports of Colonial Produce.	Exports of Sugar.	Percentage of Sugar Exports to Total Exports.
Jamaica, for the year ended March 31st, 1902	1824	261	14 per cent.
British Guiana, for the year ended March 31st, 1902	1661	1203	72 "
Trinidad and Tobago, for the year ended March 31st, 1902	1554	512	33 "
Barbados	744	710	95 "
Grenada	301	—	—
St. Lucia	71	—	—
St. Vincent	50	49	69 "
Antigua	107	11	21 "
St. Kitts-Nevis	113	101	94 "
Dominica	65	109	97 "
Montserrat	11	3	4 "
		5	49 "

* i.e., molasses and rum, and in the case of Trinidad, "angostura bitters" also.

Beet Sugar and Betaine.

Drs. Waller and Plimmer have, says the *British Medical Journal* of August 15th, recently presented a short communication to the Royal Society in which it is shown that betaine extracted from raw beet-sugar has a perfectly well marked, although not very powerful, poisonous action. They

noticed that syrup made with ordinary beet-sugar had a cadaveric odour suggestive of the presence of choline and betaine. From the sugar they were able to isolate betaine in the proportion of about 4.4 grams of its hydrochloride per 1000 grams, the salt having a melting point of 238° to 239° C. Tested on rabbits and cats in doses 0.1 to 0.15 gr. per kilogram of bodyweight and given intravenously, fatal doses were found to paralyse the heart, while smaller doses caused a rapid fall of blood pressure. In these respects pure betaine is not so active as commercial betaine, but the latter was found to contain a large proportion of potassium chloride more than sufficient to exercise a distinctly depressing effect on the circulation.

Molasses Cattle Foods.

The writer of the Notes on Agriculture at Home and Abroad in the *Standard* of August 27th, comments as follows on the manufacture of Molascuit:—"Growers of sugar cane in our West Indian and other Possessions are certain to derive much advantage from the exemption from duty, under certain regulations, of molasses to be used for feeding live stock. They will find a good market, not only for their molasses, but also for another by-product of sugar manufacturing. The latter is their megass, as the fibre of the cane is named after the extraction of its sugar. It is ground into meal, the finer portion of which is used as an absorbent of molasses, forming the new feeding-stuff called molascuit, the introduction of which was noticed in this column some months ago. The regulation relating to molasses for stock food under the new Revenue Act is to the effect that it must not contain as much as 50 per cent. of sweetening matter, and it will be easy to keep within that limit in the manufacture of molascuit or any other feeding stuff that may be made, with molasses as an ingredient. In all probability many varieties of cakes and meals containing molasses will be put into the market; but it will not be easy to find any other feeding material as an absorbent of the treacle at once as cheap and as nutritious as megass meal, which analysis represents as containing 75 per cent. of digestible matter. It appears that machinery for the manufacture of molascuit has been ordered in many parts of the world in which sugar cane is grown other than the West Indies. Already it is announced that 4000 tons of the feeding-stuff are coming from Argentina, while Mauritius and Natal are also producing it for export. Favourable reports of its value as a feeding-stuff have been given by many stockowners who have tried it; but at present there are no records of experiments comparing its merits with those of other materials in proportion to cost. Its price should be materially lowered, not only because it may now be imported free of duty, but also because, in order to bring it within the regulations, the percentage of sweetening matter in it must be reduced."

West Indian Cotton.

On August 26th, 150 sacks, representing 6½ tons of Sea Island Cotton shipped from St. Kitts and the neighbouring Islands were sold in Liverpool by Messrs. Hanmer & Co., the price realised being 1/1½ per lb. With cotton actually coming to the market the revived West Indian Cotton Industry may be said to have passed through its experimental stages, and if prices are maintained a steady increase of production may be looked for. But again we must remind our Members that present prices are, through artificial causes, abnormally high, though we have been assured by experts that until a very much larger quantity is grown than has ever yet been done, such cotton as the sample of the Sea Island variety sent us by Mr. George A. Sealy from Barbados, to which we referred in our last *Circular*, is unlikely to fall much below 12d. The extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents which we give on pages 13-14, amply show with what enthusiasm the industry is being revived.

Canada and the West Indies.

Messrs. Pickford and Black have favoured us with a copy of a special West Indian edition of the *Halifax Morning Chronicle* which has been issued with a view to further the idea of trade between Canada and the West Indies. This publication, which can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms, contains bright and chatty articles descriptive of British Guiana and the various Islands, together with all particulars of their imports and exports, from which it is seen that Canada enjoys but a small percentage of their trade. For example, Canada has less than 3 per cent of the trade with Trinidad. In 1901, Canada secured only 8 per cent of goods imported into Barbados, against 38 per cent by the United States. The Canadian Tariff gives the British West India Exporters a preference of 33½ per cent. over Foreign Countries and the extra Tax of 33½ per cent. now levied on German goods by Canada gives still greater advantages to the West Indies. In the year 1902, Canada imported from the British West Indies goods to the value of £314,620 and exported to those Colonies goods to the value of £405,695. Although the consumption of sugar in Canada is little more than half the total output of the British West Indies, Canada, with a rapidly increasing population, will purchase this commodity in greater quantities every year. The possibilities of a tourist traffic are also dealt with, the last three years having seen hundreds of people leave for the beautiful islands of the South, nearly all making the round trip from Halifax to Demerara, and coming home refreshed in mind and body. Canada and the West Indies are thus becoming better acquainted with one another.

Imports into Dominica for the Years 1901 and 1902.

We are indebted to Mr. E. A. Agar, our honorary correspondent, for the following figures showing the Imports and Exports of Dominica for the years 1901 and 1902. These figures indicate the remarkable progress which is being shown by this Island.

Article.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Value in £.	Value in £.		
Foodstuffs	18,157	20,847	2,590	—
Alcoholic Liquors	2,282	2,715	433	—
Rum	140	57	—	83
Sugar	616	366	—	250
Molasses	44	39	—	5
Stock	887	920	33	—
Tobacco	943	992	49	—
Manures	750	458	—	292
Machinery	765	695	—	70
Lumber... ..	3,144	3,384	240	—
Other Articles (manufactured goods) ...	40,577	45,628	5,051	—
	68,305	76,101		
Percentages added in accordance with the Customs Statistical Committee of 1891 ...	11,081	12,636		
	79,385	88,737	9,351	

Imported from:—

	1901.		1902.		
United Kingdom	31,157	} 50 per cent.	35,411	} 53 per cent.	
Canada	2,746				3,643
Other British Possessions	399				599
* West Indies	13,518	} 30 per cent.	13,331	} 31 per cent.	
U.S.A.	18,267				21,199
Other Foreign Countries	2,218				1,918
	68,305		76,101		

* Mostly from Barbados in transit from other ports, British and Foreign.

Exports from Dominica for the Years 1901 and 1902.

Article.	1901.			1902.			Increase	Decrease
	Quantity.	Value.	Total Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Total Value.		
Cacao	1,006,786 lbs.	£	£ 23,597	1,368,283 lbs.	£	£ 29,219	£ 5,622	£ —
Limes—green*	8,585 bls.	3,005		7,988 bls.	2,796		—	(209)
Limes—pickled*	1,148 bls.	416		1,176 bls.	441		(25)	—
Lime Juice—raw*	206,563 gals.	7,746		263,915 gals.	9,877		(2,131)	—
Lime Juice—concentrated*	88,644 gals.	21,053		136,546 gals.	29,016		(7,963)	—
*Reduced to gallons raw Lime juice	1,348,155 gals.			1,850,410 gals.			—	—
Lime Oils		2,866			3,207		(341)	—
Total Value of Lime Products			35,086			45,337	10,251	—
Coffee	5,211 lbs.		195	11,642 lbs.		243	48	—
Oranges	673,920		562	772,200		644	82	—
Sugar	210 tons.	3,213		199 tons.	1,491		—	(1,722)
Syrup	54 gals.	3					—	(3)
Rum	80 gals.	12		25 gals.	3		—	(9)
Total Value of Cane Products			3,228			1,494	—	1,734
Bananas	7,425 buns.		278	7,000 buns.		263	—	15
Sundry Fruits and Vegetables			1,008			1,667	659	—
Other Exports...			2,938			1,927	—	1,011
			66,892			80,794	Increase	13,902.

Exported to:—

	1901.		1902.	
United Kingdom	47,224	} 79 per cent.	55,108	} 75 per cent.
Canada	1,278			
West Indies	3,663			
Other British Possessions	808			
U.S.A.	12,008	} 18 per cent.	17,657	} 22 per cent.
Other Foreign Countries	338			
	65,319		79,363	
Not of Local production	1,573		1,431	
	66,892		80,794	

* "Jamaica as it is, 1903."

Much useful information regarding the "Isle of Springs," is contained in Miss Pullen Burry's book, "Jamaica as it is," and though it is hardly likely to become a classic it will, doubtless, find its way into the hands of the majority of tourists to the Island during the coming season. The picture drawn of the attractions of Jamaica is in no sense exaggerated, and is such as to make the jaded Londoner long to pack up and be off to the land where it "seems always afternoon".

In her allusions to the Official, and we might add, Social life of the Island, the writer becomes a trifle personal, and the criticism of one of the Steamship Companies, like that of her fellow-passenger "Delicia," is possibly unduly scathing, though the name of the offending vessel of the line is veiled under an initial. The captious may complain of such a statement as that Sir Augustus Hemming "succeeded Sir Henry Norman as Governor of Jamaica in 1898" when Sir Henry Blake was really the retiring Governor, but that need not prejudice the work in the eyes of the tourist for whom it is prepared: for "All I propose to do is to enlighten intending visitors to these parts as to the best things to see."

* "Jamaica as it is, 1903," by B. Pullen Burry. London, T. Fisher Unwin, 6s. net.

Some of the negro sayings contained in the 240 pages are decidedly amusing, prominent among them being the letter a coloured man wrote to a clergyman: "Dear Minister,—My mother is dead, and expects to be buried this afternoon at four o'clock. Please come and administer over her remains."

The work contains nine illustrations and a capital map of Jamaica. "Jamaica . . . has been rich but is now poor; still with patience prosperity will revisit her shores. What we can say best to one's country-people is, Come and make her acquaintance: the beauty of the scenery will repay you for your trouble. Her associations with the past will kindle your sympathy and evoke your interest."

* Barbados Cricketers' Annual, 1902=03.

We are indebted to Mr. J. Wynfred Gibbons, the Editor and Compiler, for a copy of the "Barbados Cricketers' Annual" for 1902-03. This carefully compiled pamphlet should commend itself to all lovers of cricket.

Notes.

APPLICATIONS FOR SPACE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS in the *West India Committee Circular* should be addressed to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

TWENTY CANDIDATES will present themselves for election to the West India Committee at the the next meeting of the Executive Committee to be held on the 3rd prox. It is gratifying to find our membership increasing so rapidly.

OUTWARD AND HOMEWARD PASSENGERS are particularly requested to communicate their addresses to the West India Committee Rooms, where a Register is kept. Members may have their letters addressed "care of" the West India Committee.

MR. CHAMBERS, SECRETARY of the British Guiana Mutual Fire Insurance Company, who was recently elected a Member of the West India Committee was a passenger from Demerara by the last mail; he was granted three months leave of absence by the Directors in order to undergo a slight operation.

ESTATES MANAGERS AND PROPRIETORS requiring overseers are informed that arrangements are being made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at the West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

MR. ROYAL DAWSON the Indian Tea Expert sent out to Jamaica by Sir Alfred Jones has stated to a representative of the *Gleaner*, "I consider that there is a very good opening indeed for those persons who are desirous of investing their money in the cultivation of tea in the Island. I attach little or no importance to the difficulty of labour in this connection; and I feel certain that with judicious management the industry can be made to pay well here."

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS are conveniently situated upon the first floor at 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., next to Mark Lane Station upon the Metropolitan and District Railways, and form a useful rendezvous for our friends from the West Indies when they visit their Merchants in the City. Writing materials are provided, and in addition to all Official Gazettes, Parliamentary Papers, etc., all the West Indian Newspapers are, through the courtesy of their Editors, filed.

* Barbados Cricketers' Annual; *Globe Office*, Bridgetown, Barbados. 1/- nett.

IT IS STATED THAT THE ORANGE-GROWERS of Cuba and Porto Rico are about to enter into competition with Jamaica exporters. During the next three years boxes of fruit from orange groves 400 acres in extent will be sent out from these islands. It is estimated that in six years' time 1,000,000 boxes will be available for export, as there will then be 10,000 acres of fruiting trees to deal with. The flavour and general quality of these oranges are excellent. They are firm in flesh when picked, and will thus travel any distance in good condition. It is said that they equal the best Florida fruit.

THE SYMINGTON WEST INDIAN FRUIT SYNDICATE, LIMITED, was registered on the 16th ult., by Mason & Rolfe, 46, Cannon Street, E.C. Capital £5000, in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of importers and exporters of fruit, vegetables, farm produce, meat, live and dead cattle and sheep, potted, tinned, and preserved goods and consumable articles of all kinds in the United Kingdom, West Indies, or elsewhere. Minimum cash subscription, 3400 shares, plus directors' qualification shares. The first directors are: W. W. Symington, W. C. Kenny, and J. Epps. Qualification, 250 shares. Remuneration, £50 each per annum (£100 for the chairman). Registered office, 43-5, Tower Chambers, Moorgate Street, E.C.

Jamaica Cyclone, August 11th, 1903, Relief Fund.

A Sub-Committee of some Members interested in Jamaica, including Mr. H. H. Dobree, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. H. A. Trotter (Messrs. Thomson, Hankey & Co.), Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock (Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.), Mr. Rocks (Direct West India Cable Co.), Mr. Maddick, A.D.C. to the Governor of Jamaica, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, met on August 17th, and the following appeal was, with the full approval of Mr. Chamberlain, subsequently circulated.

SIR,—On behalf of the West India Committee, we venture to ask you to allow them to appeal, through the medium of your columns, for subscriptions in aid of those who have suffered in Jamaica through the recent disastrous cyclone. The Governor has reported that about sixty lives have been lost, that the island, with the exception of the south-western parishes, has suffered most severely; that Port Antonio and other towns to the eastward have been practically destroyed; and that the fruit cultivation has been devastated.

It is from this last cause that the greatest amount of suffering is likely to arise. In proportion to the extent that the fruit industry was contributing to the restoration of the fallen fortunes of Jamaica, was the number of residents in the island who were dependent upon it. The small cultivators are now houseless and beggared, with no resources to restore the cultivation on which they entirely depended, and which the storm has swept away.

On their behalf, as well as on behalf of the families of those who have been killed, the West India Committee make an earnest appeal, hoping that as Jamaica contributed to the relief of the suffering caused by the terrible catastrophe in St. Vincent last year, so in her own time of trouble she may be given ungrudging and immediate help from the Mother Country and the Sister Colonies.

We would add that in making this appeal the committee are acting with Mr. Chamberlain's approval, and that the Jamaica Government have lost no time in taking steps to organise relief.

Subscriptions may be sent to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.; to the Jamaica Relief Fund, Bank of England, E.C.; the Union of London and Smith's Bank, Prescott's Office, Cornhill, and branches; or the Colonial Bank, 13, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

Your obedient servants,

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

Jamaica Relief Fund.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Up to the time of going to press, the following is a complete list of subscriptions received:—

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Some Members of the Stock Exchange	601	2	0	S] Vaughan Morgan, Esq.	25	0	0	H. Maddick, Esq., A.D.C. to H.E. the Governor of Jamaica	10	10	0
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.	315	0	0	Sir H. Poland, K.C.	21	0	0	Previtt & Co.	10	10	0
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Direct West India Cable Co. ...	50	0	0	T. G. Gibbon, Esq.	20	0	0	N. Nathan, Esq., K.C. ...	10	0	0
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THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

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Miss Rogers	1	0	0	Smaller Amounts	0	0	6	Ltd	105	0	0
S. M.	1	0	0	Per Prescott's Bank(Ld.)—				Messrs. E. D. & F. Man	21	0	0
Miss Stewart.....	1	0	0	W. Morrison, Esq.	100	0	0	Messrs. C. M. & C. Wood-			
Miss Augusta Spottiswoode	1	0	0	H. W. Smithers, Esq....	20	0	0	house	21	0	0
Miss Teacher.....	1	0	0	Chas. Freeman, Esq. ...	10	0	0	M. Clarkson & Co.	10	10	0
Miss F. A. Whately.....	1	0	0	Anonymous	5	5	0	Messrs. Rbt. Mole & Sons	10	0	0
Rev. G. S. Whitlock	1	0	6	R. Dickinson, Esq.	5	5	0	Messrs. J. Moreton & Co.	10	0	0
I. F. Breakless, Esq.	0	10	0	" N. W."	5	0	0	Messrs. Manuel F. Pardo			
Miss H. M. Brewster.....	0	10	0	G. R. Bunnett, Esq. ...	3	3	0	& Co.	10	0	0
Martha Mouldsdales	0	5	0	S. Sidney Martin, Esq.,				British & Benington's			
R. C. Mouldsdales, Esq.....	0	5	0	F.R.S.	2	2	0	Tea Trading Assoia-			
W. F. Escott, Esq.....	0	2	6	Judge Baylis, K.C.V.O.	1	1	0	tion, Ltd.....	5	5	0
G. T. Plant, Esq.....	0	2	0	Rev. F. C. G. Pass	1	1	0	Messrs. J. & J. Colman			
Smaller Amounts	4	12	6	C. B. Hunt, Esq.....	1	1	0	(Ltd.)	5	5	0
Per Bank of England—				" America "	1	0	0	John de Pass, Esq.,	5	5	0
X. Y. Z.	50	0	0	Anonymous	1	0	0	C de Pass, Esq.....	5	5	0
Sir Mark W. Collett.....	50	0	0	Per Colonial Bank—				Messrs. Eitzen & Co. ...	5	0	0
J. H. Lucking, Esq.....	20	0	0	Messrs. Sheppards,				Julius Hansen, Esq.,			
Vicar and Churchward-				Pellys, Scott & Co. ...	26	5	0	Hamburg	5	0	0
ens St. Saviour's, West-				John James Cater, Esq.	10	0	0	Messrs. A. & F. Parkes,			
gate-on-Sea	17	17	0	Per Martins Bank (Ltd.)—				Ltd.....	5	0	0
W. H.....	10	10	0	Admiral Sir Hy. Chads,				Victor Alexandre, Esq.,			
R. H. Briscoe, Esq	10	10	0	K.C.B.	5	0	0	Morlaix	4	0	0
A. T. C.....	10	0	0	Per Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor				Arthur E. Carey & Co.	3	3	0
A. E. Thompson, Esq....	10	0	0	G. F. Sutton, Esq.....	10	0	0	Welsh Tinplate & Metal			
E. F. White, Esq.....	10	0	0	Per Lady Lubbock—				Stamping Co.....	3	3	0
D. Donkin, Esq.	5	5	0	Lady Wade	3	3	0	Messrs. J. R. Bousefield			
" B. M. W.".....	5	5	0	Per Messrs. Gillespie Bros.				& Co. (Ltd.)	2	2	0
Mrs. A. Kennedy.....	5	5	0	Messrs. Druces & Altlee	21	0	0	Messrs. H. & J. Jones			
Mr. John Platherwick	5	5	0	Messrs Anderson, Weber				& Co. (Ltd.)	2	2	0
Mr. C. T. Herbert	5	0	0	& Smith	10	0	0	John de Pass (sen.) Esq.	2	2	0
Col. W. M. Leckie	5	0	0	Messrs. Forster Porter &				Horatio de Pass, Esq....	2	2	0
Alfred H. Gobbs, Esq. ...	5	0	0	Co.	10	0	0	Fratelli Levy Succ	2	1	0
Miss G. E. Rhodes	5	0	0	Messrs. Watson, Laid-				Messrs. Halford & Co.	1	1	0
Joseph Coates, Esq.....	3	3	0	law & Co.	10	0	0	George de Pass, Esq. ...	1	1	0
L. W. Portal, Esq.	3	3	0	Messrs. W. H. Bailey, Ltd	5	5	0	Alfred de Pass, Esq.....	1	1	0
Miss Du Bois	3	0	0	Messrs. H. Brack & Co.	5	5	0	R. Fritzsche, Esq.....	1	0	0
J. S. Matthews, Esq. ...	2	2	0	Messrs. R. Hudson & Co.	5	5	0	Per H. Maddick, Esq., A.D.C.			
A. F.	2	0	0	Messrs. Pawson & Leafs,				G. J. Maddick, Esq.....	25	0	0
Capt. Graham	2	0	0	Ltd.....	5	5	0	Directors Illustrated			
Capt. A. Warry, R.N.	2	0	0	J. F. Parkes, Esq.....	5	0	0	London News and			
Mrs. K. Aldrich	1	1	0	Messrs. Bevington &				Sketch Co.....	10	10	0
Mrs. Blakeney	1	1	0	Morris	2	2	0	Directors Lady's Pic-			
Godfrey Boulton, Esq. ...	1	1	0	Messrs. S. W. Dunning				torial and Sporting			
Miss Helen J. Broadmead	1	1	0	& Co.	2	2	0	and Dramatic News... ..	10	10	0
W. T. Burke.....	1	1	0	Messrs. Goad, Rigg & Co.	2	2	0	Mrs. E. H. Kennard.....	5	0	0
D. Lindo Henry, Esq.	1	1	0	Messrs. S. Sadler, Sons				Mrs. Lindsey.....	1	0	0
Mrs. Hext.....	1	1	0	& Co.	2	2	0	Per Messrs. Child & Co.—			
Miss L. Lockhart.....	1	1	0	Windsors & Bridgwater				Capt. R. Moore, R.N....	2	2	0
Rev. H. A. Mais	1	1	0	Union Mills, Ltd.....	2	2	0	Per F. B. Lyons, Esq.—			
Commr. P. Tyrwhitt,				Messrs. Eastwood & Holt	2	0	0	N. Hingley & Sons (Ltd.)	5	5	0
R.N.	1	1	0	Joseph Maze, Esq.	1	0	0	Messrs. Nobles & Hoare	5	0	0

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S., "Tagus," anchored off Plymouth at 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, and the mails from the West Indies generally were delivered in London the next morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, August 19th. From the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received per R.M.S. "Tagus," it will be seen that the weather throughout the West Indies had been on the whole propitious during the early part of the fortnight, but that towards the close considerable anxiety was felt in many of the Islands at the close proximity of cyclonic disturbances. Barbados and St. Kitts appear to have had narrow escapes: Dominica suffered very severely from the tail end of a hurricane on August 8th and 9th, and Jamaica, as we record elsewhere, was also swept by the fury of a cyclone on August 11th.

Antigua.—A. St. G. Spooner, Esq., August 12th. The passing of the Sugar Convention Bill at last left the West Indies free to travel along the path of progress. At last! Every Planter would feel embued with a new feeling of energy and enterprise, instead of the feeling of utter hopelessness that has been his lot for the last few years. There had been a welcome break in the long spell of drought the Island had been suffering from. For the fortnight three inches of rain fell pretty generally over the Island. The weather for the most part had been stormy, with gales from the north-east and east, indicative of cyclonic disturbance to the south. The recent rain had wonderfully freshened up the canes, and planting of provisions, maize and cotton was going on under favourable conditions. On most estates preparation of cane replant land for 1905 crop had begun, the recent rain making the soil turn up in good order and favourable to good after-cultivation.

British Guiana.—J. C. McEwan, Esq., August 12th. A meeting of the Legislature and Combined Court was to be held on the following day. The latter had been specially called to vote certain additional supplies that had arisen since they met in March. There was nothing doing in produce, but the market showed an upward tendency and if there was anything to sell \$1.90 would probably be obtained. The weather had set in dry and good showers were wanted generally.

Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, August 13th. The Island had read with great interest the report of the Conference held by the absentee proprietors with Sir Frederick Hodgson at the West India Committee Rooms on July 15th. Great good would result from it, and it would be beneficial if such meetings could be held oftener. The views of absentee proprietors ought to be communicated to the respective Governors from time to time, whether they happened to be in England or not. The Cotton Factory was in working order, and some cotton would be shipped very shortly. It was hoped that this would fetch a good price. Some 1200 acres had been planted. The writer was sure that if limes were more generally known in England they would largely supersede the use of lemons. In Barbados the scarcity of limes since the hurricane of 1898 had been very great, and the trees were suffering badly from black blight, which was very hard to eradicate, though spraying had been extensively resorted to. But the shipment of any green fruit must necessarily depend upon the facilities offered by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which at present were totally inadequate. The whole cargo of Bananas shipped by the "Orinoco" was spoilt, and this, their agent wrote, not in the least from bad packing, but from bad storage. Probably the bursting of a steam pipe may have had something to do with it. He fully expected that the whole of the fruit shipped by the "Para" would also be lost, as she did not arrive in Plymouth till the Sunday. It was grievous that when they were rapidly building up a new industry their efforts should be so handicapped; and that the "Para" should be retained on the line, when she had broken down voyage after voyage, and been patched up only to break down again. No attention was paid to our remonstrances, and the scandal was allowed to go on unchecked. The whole island had undergone a change since the rains came in early in July, and August, so far, had been equally favourable. Showers fell continuously, and the canes had taken up their manures well. Their growth in the last three weeks had been marvellous, and Barbados stood to make a very good crop, if the weather was propitious. Cotton, and all kinds of catch-crops were equally luxuriant. The Island narrowly escaped a hurricane on the 8th inst., for s.s. "Fluminense" encountered one only 90 miles N.W. of Barbados, which struck Martinique, doing considerable damage. A warning of the disturbance was issued, but the wind, though shifty, was not violent. Total shipments for the Sugar Crop to date amounted to 30,541 Hhds. of Sugar and 27,186 Puns Molasses.

Dominica.—E. A. Agar, Esq., August 12th. A heavy gale struck Dominica on Saturday night and Sunday morning, 8th and 9th, doing some damage to estates and overturning some peasants huts; the damage did not appear to have been general throughout the Island, so far as reports had come in, the S.E. being most affected. The roads had in many

places been temporarily blocked and the telephone wires were partly down. Crops seemed to have suffered rather than fruit-trees and buildings. Cable communication had ceased; they did not as yet know whether the disturbance struck any other island. (The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. report the receipt of advices to the effect that the tail end of a hurricane passed over South End of this Island, wind commencing at N.E. and veering to E. and E.S.E. The barometer scarcely fell at all, the lowest reading being 29.90 at 2 a.m. on 9th inst. Warning was received at or about 1 p.m. on 8th from Washington Weather Bureau, but somehow was not made known till later. Three parts of the Island suffered very badly. Almost the entire Lime crop was thrown down, and the rain washed most of the fruit away. About 1000 trees (Lime) were uprooted.

Grenada.—Hon. D. S. de Freitas. The prevailing weather—alternate days of soaking rains and bright exhilarating sunshine—was just what was required by the planters at that season of the year. Cultivation on all sides was verdant and vigorous, and the minor crops of maize and peas were promising.

Jamaica.—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq. We have received a letter from Mr. Ashenheim, via U.S.A., dated August 12th, the day after the cyclone. The writer had got up from a bed of sickness to assist in coping with the disaster. As an account of the disaster is given in another column we need not quote Mr. Ashenheim at any length. As far as he could estimate, Kingston had not suffered severely from a financial point of view, the heaviest loss falling on the Telephone Company. The news from St. Mary and St. Ann's was awaited with apprehension—that there were good grounds for this has been fully confirmed by subsequent telegrams—if these parishes suffered like St. Catherine's the loss would be grave. Kingston was without electric light and telephones, and the electric cars had ceased running. Referring to other matters the writer reported that in Vere, ditch work on the irrigation system had been practically completed, but that the supply from the Milk River was totally inadequate to meet the requirements of the various estates, and that little or no water was going into the intake at St. Jago. Even the supply from the Raymonds reservoir was insufficient for the needs of two adjoining estates—Hill Side and Morelands. The supply in the reservoir was very low, and the situation is viewed with anxiety. The rainfall since January 1st only showed an average of a little over eleven inches at the various stations, whereas a normal measurement would be about 25 to 30 inches.

Nevis.—Hon. C. A. Shand, August 12th. Though the weather had for the last few days presented every appearance of rain, no general downpour had fallen, though sufficient showers had fallen to enable planters and peasant proprietors to plant their untried venture in Cotton, and it was hoped that the industry would speedily be developed. At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on the 6th inst., a resolution was passed unanimously approving of Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policy. Another resolution was passed nem. con. pledging the Society to promote to the best of their ability the Cotton industry. On Sunday 9th there was a hurricane scare, but luckily it came to nought, though Martinique once more suffered heavily. Nevis badly wanted wireless telegraphy to connect her with the outside world.

St. Kitts.—Hon. Edward G. Todd, August 10th. There had been a lot of thunder and lightning with some rain. Everybody was on the *qui vive* the day before, telephones going all day, and the Weather Bureau giving constant information of a storm which was approaching; they were fortunate enough to escape it, as it probably went to windward or disappeared altogether.

St. Vincent.—D. K. Porter & Co. It was the intention of the Government to remove the dwelling of the eruption sufferers from Arnos Vale as well as Mount Wynne, and to rebuild them in better and more convenient localities beyond the influence of unhealthy agencies.

Trinidad.—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, August 14th. The Commission to enquire into the conduct of the Police on the occasion of the recent Riot was sitting and little public interest was shown in the proceedings. It was hoped that the result would be a thorough re-organisation of the Force. At the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 10th inst., the import duty on Sugar of all grades was reduced to 1/8 per 100 lbs. A proposal of the Government was before the Council to provide a Floating Dock at a cost of about £55,000. There being a considerable difference of opinion manifested, the proposal was referred to a Select Committee. At a meeting of the Agricultural Society, held on the 11th inst., the following resolution was moved by Mr. T. J. St. Hill:—"That with a view of promoting and encouraging Cotton cultivation by small proprietors and contractors it is desirable that the Government be requested to import and erect in some convenient spot near the railway a Cotton Gin and Press to deal with the product, and that special facilities for the carriage of same should be offered by the railway." It was stated that out of 1000 lbs. of seed received by the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens 762 lbs. had been applied for by, and distributed to, 62 persons desirous of testing Cotton growing as an industry, and over 130 acres had been planted. It was decided that, before applying to the Government for assistance, Sir Daniel Morris be communicated with and his advice asked; also that he be asked if they were right in

supposing that the British Cotton Growing Association, Oldham, was assisting Barbados with the installation of the necessary plant for Ginning and Baling the Cotton, and on the assurance of the industry being vigorously pursued, would probably do the same for our Colony. If after the first year's trial it was seen that the industry could be made remunerative, the writer felt sure a small Company or Syndicate would then be formed which would take over the plant at whatever it cost, and add to it if necessary. Abundance of rain was still falling but not quite so heavy as during the previous fortnight. Cultivation of all kinds was looking well.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados.—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) August 18th. "Seasonable weather." August 31st. "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." **British Guiana.**—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co., August 22nd. "Heavy showers are failing at intervals."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hnds.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Barbados—								
Jan. 1 to Aug. 13, 1903	30,541	—	—	—	—	27,176	—	—
" " 13, 1902	46,202	—	—	—	—	42,437	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to Aug. 11 1903	57,853	95,232	—	14,928	4684	3470	52,887	5565
" " 12 1902	60,657	87,773	—	17,960	3200	1215	59,587	6777
						Pimento.	Bananas.	
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Cwts.	Bunches.	Oranges.
Apr. 1 to Aug. 11 1903	6968	11,820	11,153	625,008	7,251,497	6298	5,176,053	3,183,850
" " 12 1902	9601	6131	26,222	967,661	7,172,152	8848	5,171,197	3,922,450
						Molasses.		Asphalt.
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Puns.	Trcs.	Brls.
Jan. 1 to Aug. 14 1903	371,163	25,082,710	36,040	358	7,473,452	3078	178	166
" " 14 1902	440,681	24,431,720	39,680	1254	7,789,425	3029	141	236
								Tons.
								110,343
								100,939

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Tagus," August 26th, 1903.—**Barbados.**—Mr. and Mrs. O'Neal, Miss Sealy, Mr. H. Tiffin, Capt. H. L. Fox, Mr. H. N. Carvalho. **Demerara.**—Capt. W. H. M. Daniell, R.N., Mr. E. Chambers, Mr. J. T. Valladans, Mr. S. Wieting, Mr. B. Saywock. **Jamaica.**—The Hon. F. S. Sanguinetti, Commander H. A. Hatchard, R.N., Rev. W. Stevenson, Mr. A. C. Paton, Mr. C. B. Dignum, Mr. G. C. May, Mrs. and Miss Bailey, Mr. R. M. Partridge. **Trinidad.**—Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. and Mrs. S. Borax, Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Reid, Mrs. and Miss Sorzano, Miss F. Needham, Mr. W. J. S. Tucker, Mr. R. Cipriani. **Grenada.**—Mr. G. and Mrs. S. Garraway, Mr. C. Ferguson, His Honor Mr. Justice Tarring, Mr. C. Comissiong, Mr. L. Steel. **St. Lucia.**—Mrs. Freeborn.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," September 2nd, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. J. Simpson, Mr. A. Hazell, Major W. Hodder, Mr. and Mrs. Bowen and Family, Miss Burton, Mr. E. Jackman, Mr. P. Young. **Demerara.**—Mr. F. Scard, Mr. A. E. Craig, Dr. A. Ozzard, Mrs. Young, Mr. Stewart and Nurse. **Jamaica.**—Mr. Symington, Mr. R. Beauchamp, Mr. and Mrs. L. Mordecai, Mr. J. Tomlinson, Mr. H. Buckley, Mr. E. Hosack, Mr. J. F. Milholland, Mr. M. Taurel. **Trinidad.**—Mr. H. Fenwick, Mr. C. Richardson, Mr. W. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. G. da Silva and Family, Mrs. Desmontils, Mrs. and Master McLeod, Dr. Fonseca, Mr. Dovelace, Mr. F. Ulrich. **Grenada.**—Mr. Geo. St. George, Mr. N. Lockhart, Mr. T. R. Evans. **St. Lucia.**—Capt. and Mrs. Isacke. **St. Thomas.**—Mr. and Mrs. Morell, The Hon. Geo. and Mr. Plummer, Rev. J. Claustre. **St. Vincent.**—Mr. and Mrs. Biddy.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," August 19th 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mrs. E. B. Atherton, Miss Alford, Mr. and Mrs. F. Challen, Prof. Fitzgerald, Miss Fox, Mr. G. N. McGrath, Miss H. Gatey, Miss A. Nixon, Lieut. A. N. Power, Mr. G. Taylor, Mr. R. Thompson, Mr. T. Vaughan, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. E. W. Stanley.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," August 29th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. G. M. Baines, Mr. C. W. Banks, Hon. and Mrs. V. Bell, Mr. V. H. Bell, Rev. H. Clarke, Mr. T. H. Clarke, Mr. A. Clarke, Mr. A. N. Crosswell, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Cunningham, Mr. H. S. Flinn, Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, Mr. D. D. C. Henriques, Miss Howson, Mr. W. H. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Leader, Mr. J. L. Mackenzie, Capt. H. Maddick, A.D.C., Mrs. H. Maddick, Mr. S. Y. Mathers, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Morales, Mr. A. Munro, Miss E. B. Nowell, Hon. S. Olivier, C.M.G., Mr. R. Patterson, Lieut. de Pass, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Peet, Mrs. H. Pile, Mr. and Mrs. R. Price, Rev. Canon R. J. Ripley, Miss Robertson, Hon. P. Stern, Dr. M. L. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Thompson, Mr. A. C. Westmoreland, Mr. Edwin White, Mr. Young, Mr. M. Braithwaite, Miss M. Hooper, Mr. A. Sykes.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet—The abolition of Bounties which comes into operation to-morrow will be welcome to everyone who appreciates honest and fair competition and we at last tread on ground where the old adage of the "survival of the fittest" finds an appropriate home. The Continental Beet Growers will receive a price for their Sugar that will pay for their cultivation, so long as they do not over-produce, as was the case during the Cartel periods. The Cane Sugar industry can flourish quite well side by side with Beet produced at natural prices. The British Refiner will no longer have to maintain a struggle against the extra 10s. per ton Bounty allowed on the export of Continental refined sugar, while the loudly complaining and poor impoverished Jam Maker will have his sugar at its natural cost, and except in years when crops fail, he may take the writer of this *Summary's* assurance that he will not be called upon to pay over the parity of 10s. basis 88 in bond, which is below the average of the last ten years and only 1s. per cwt. above that of the last five years, which included one of the Cartel seasons of excessive production with its 6s. 6½d. average. Thus, therefore, no one can be found honestly to cavil at the passing of this abolition measure, which in the end will hurt no one, not even the consumer who in these cases, for political reasons, is made the idol of the hour. The market keeps firm, and the next crop, which is selling roughly at 9s. basis 88, and 10s. 9d. for white granulated, is still below a profit yielding figure and may possibly further improve as the season advances and surplus old stocks get used up. The Continental accounts speak well of the crops in Germany and Austria, but in France, where the weather has been unfavourable, matters are less promising. It may not be superfluous to reprint once again Lichts' figures of crops from exporting countries.

	Crops—			
	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-1.	Tons.
Germany ...	1,750,000	2,300,000	1,980,000	..
Austria ...	1,070,000	1,300,000	1,090,000	..
France ...	890,000	1,180,000	1,170,000	..
Belgium ...	230,000	330,000	330,000	..
Holland ...	100,000	200,000	170,000	..
	*3,040,000	5,310,000	4,740,000	..

*Estimate.

As the same amount of land is believed to be under cultivation for the coming season as for the one now closing, the extent of the crop is purely a question of weight and richness, a point no one can determine till manufacturing is fully under way six weeks or two months hence, and forecasts are not worth the ink that writes them. In the meantime confidence is fully restored and prices are as follows:—September 8s. 6d.; October/December, 9s. 1½d.; January/March, 9s. 2d.; April/June, 9s. 3½d.; all free on board Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

	1903. 8s. 6d.	1902. 6s.	1901. 8s. 1d.	1900. 12s. 3d.	1899. 10s.
The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America are as follows:—					
	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Europe ...	1,690,000	1,710,000	840,000	680,000	860,000
United States ...	250,000	140,000	190,000	80,000	170,000
Cuba ...	220,000	200,000	80,000	—	30,000
Cargoes afloat ...	100,000	150,000	120,000	130,000	180,000
Total ...	2,260,000	2,200,000	1,230,000	890,000	1,240,000

Crystallised Sugar.—An extended business has been done at a further advance in prices and the range now is from 15s. 6d. to 16s. 6d., with average qualities fully 15s. 9d. Bearing in mind that white Continental sugar, which largely controls the price of yellow crystallised, costs 6d. per cwt. more to import in October next than at the present time, the Trade have operated with confidence and in conjunction with Importers are expecting a further slight advance as the season goes on. To-day's Stocks in London show a deficiency of 18,000 tons as compared with last year. A cargo of dark crystals to Cane Refiners should command fully 9s. 9d. if not 10s. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar—Very scarce, values ranging from 11s. to 14s.

Muscovado.—Further sales of poor quality Barbados at 12s. 3d. to 12s. 6d. and Grocery kinds 13s. 6d. to 14s.

West India figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	Tons.
Imports to date ...	19,000	53,000	41,000	34,000	..
Deliveries ..	28,000	28,000	27,000	26,000	..
Stocks ...	20,000	38,000	23,000	13,000	..

Rum.—The market is quiet and there is little business passing. Small lots of Jamaica are moving off on the basis of 1s. 9d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Demerara is steady with sales at 9d. to 10d., fair rum being nominally worth 9½d. In the last Mails' *Circular* the range of prices was given as from 9½d. to 12d., this was a printer's error and should have read 9½d. to 11d., Cuba and other Foreign kinds remain 8d. to 11d. according to quality and package.

London Figures to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	Puns.
Imports Jamaica ...	6800	9900	9000	6600	..
Demerara ...	8800	14,000	13,100	9200	..
Stocks Jamaica ...	11,200	11,700	11,200	8400	..
Demerara ...	7600	9200	6200	3800	..
Total of all kinds —	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	Deficiency.
Stocks ...	29,335	31,694	...	2359	Puns.

Cocoa.—There is rather more demand for special lots and slightly improved prices have occasionally been obtained for these, but the market remains quiet with large offerings of fermented African at about 56s. delivered on landed terms at the usual United Kingdom ports. This cheap cocoa keeps down the prices of British West India which are as follows: Trinidad, fair collected 58s., Estate Marks 58s. to 62s. and up to 66s.; Grenada, fair 50s., fermented 55s. to 57s.; Native Cocoa from other Islands being worth about 48s., and fermented 51s. to 54s.

Stocks in London:—	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	76,000	81,000	102,000	97,000

Coffee.—There is no improvement in this market, nor is any expected with the enormous South American crops now before us. The value of good ordinary Jamaica remains about 33s., and the quotation for Santos September delivery is 25s. 3d. **Nutmegs** are selling well at stiffer rates. The last sales include 68 to the lb. at 2s., down to 7½d. for 156's, and in shell at 5½d. to 6d. **Mace.**—Firm, fair to good pale 2s. 1d. to 2s. 4d.; ordinary to fair red 1s. 10d., 2s.

Pimento.—Little doing but prices improving, fair having been sold at 3d. **Singcr.**—Quiet, small sales of good ordinary 39s., 40s., mouldy and small lean dark 37s.; 39s., with Rhatoon at 36s. **Cotton.**—Fluctuating, September deliveries of American are about 6½, and October/December about 5½. The approximate value of fair West India is 6½d. **Arrowroot** is in more demand and considerable sales of manufacturing have been made from 1½ to 2d., chiefly at the latter price which is the value of "fair," closing with further sellers at 2d.

Stocks in London to 31st July:—	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	12,679	13,580	8691	9018

Lime Juice is selling at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d. per gallon; Concentrated at £13 10s. per cask of 108 gallons; Distilled Oil at 1s. 6d. per lb., and Hand Pressed 2s. 9d., to 3s. per lb.

Algernon E. Aspinall. Secretary.

397

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

Ent. Stationers Hall.]

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th, 1903.

No. 108. 17

The Abolition of Bounties.

The Sugar Bounties are abolished, and the effects of the Brussels Sugar Convention, which came into force on September 1st, are already manifesting themselves on the Continent. In France the retail price for sugar has been reduced from francs 98.50 to 62.50, or fully 1½d. per lb., while to German consumers the price is reduced from 29s. 6d. to 20s. 9d. The consumption of sugar in these countries will thus be stimulated considerably. Fears have been expressed that the reduction of the écart or difference between the Customs and Excise duties on the Continent will not be sufficient to prevent Cartels, but recent events have proved that their continuance will be no easy matter. According to the *Cologne Gazette*, 80,000 double hundred-weights of sugar have been brought into the German market by a Belgian company during the last few days. This is due to the fact that the German sugar refineries in their efforts to keep up the price of sugar have overstepped the limits of the protection afforded to them by the surtax of 4 marks 80 pfennigs on imported sugar. The German sugar industry has only this surtax to protect it against foreign competition. The importation of sugar on a large scale would render abortive the attempts of German sugar refineries to maintain prices in the home market by means of a cartel, beyond the amount of the surtax.

As regards this country, a slight increase in the price of sugar is to be recorded, and of this the Glasgow confectioners have lost no time in taking advantage. The rise represents an increased price of 3d. per cwt. on confectionery, and to recoup this the confectioners have raised the price by 2/-. We can recall no corresponding announcement when sugar fell, as it did last year, to the record price of 6s. The rise in the price of jam is being most unfairly attributed to the Sugar Convention by our opponents, although it is in reality due to the almost total failure of the fruit crop in this country. But we can afford to snap our fingers at such arguments now that the victory is ours and Bounties are abolished.

The Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.

We have received from Mr. Edgar Tripp the following report, dated August 29th, of the meetings of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, which he attended with Mr. J. O. Wright of Barbados, as a representative of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

“Mr. J. O. Wright and I duly attended on your behalf, the Meetings of the Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at Montreal, commencing on the 17th and concluding on the 21st August. Since then, we have been touring with the delegates through Ontario, and have had no opportunity of drawing up a united report. Mr. Wright started to-day with the Western party and will proceed as far as Vancouver, but I am unable to spare time for more than a shorter tour to the Maritime Provinces. Unfortunately, a copy of the official programme of business, on which I had made notes as the sitting went on, was removed from my place in the hall on the last day and I have been unable to trace it, but the public Press will already have acquainted you with the results of the principal items discussed, and the official report will doubtless soon be in your hands.

“The pre-eminent importance of the question of commercial relations between the Mother Country and the Colonies, to a great amount overshadowed the interest in other subjects. The debate

occupied nearly two days. Twelve resolutions bearing upon this matter were down upon the agenda. It was manifestly impossible to consider them all. A Committee of the Movers, however, under the able chairmanship of Mr. E. S. Gillespie, whose judgment and tact were much appreciated, agreed upon one resolution to represent all. Mr. W. F. Cockshutt, of Toronto, moved this resolution in a singularly able speech. The leading opponent was Sir William Holland, Manchester Chamber of Commerce who proposed the addition of certain words. This nearly led to a deadlock, but, thanks to the intervention of Lord Strathcona, a compromise was ultimately effected and the resolution in terms telegraphed to Europe, was unanimously carried amidst great enthusiasm.* There were many present who would have preferred to place the direct issue of preferential trade before the Congress, in which case, no doubt, a very large majority would have been found in favour. The principle that 'Each component part of the Empire should receive a substantial advantage in trade as a result of the national relationship,' was acknowledged. That, I venture to think, is a step much farther than many of the delegates would have consented to go a few years since. It was a matter of much regret to the representatives of the West Indies that none of them were given the opportunity to say a word on this important question before the time expired when the debate had to be closed. The required formality of sending in a card had been duly observed, and delegates from all parts of the Empire were heard. It was no doubt an oversight on the part of the Secretary of the London Chamber, in whose hands the selection of speakers lay, but it was an unfortunate one. Apart from other considerations, it would seem to have been desirable to secure something more than a silent vote from those who represented practically the opinion of the whole of the British West Indies. It is true that a large number of other gentlemen were also precluded from addressing the Congress, but they one and all came from places which had already been fully represented by other speakers. I mention this matter because general surprise has been expressed to my colleagues and myself regarding our silence on a question which is of so much interest to those we represented.

"It will be a source of satisfaction to your committee to know that a resolution affirming the principle that the self-governing Colonies should participate in the defence of the Empire in such manner as may be determined later, was also carried unanimously. Amongst other resolutions of interest to the West Indies there were carried the following: That His Majesty's Government should resolutely maintain and extend our Commercial Treaty rights; That the Consular Service should be reorganised and strengthened; That Light Dues should be abolished; That the principle of cheap postage on newspapers and periodicals within the Empire should be adopted; That fast Mail services on the several routes between the Mother Country and her Possessions should be secured and maintained; That it is advisable to adopt the metric system of weights and measures.

"It is impossible to speak too highly of the excellence of the arrangements made for the reception of the delegates and the holding of the Congress by the Canadian Committee of Arrangements. All of them were unremitting in the performance of their onerous honorary duties. Most especially to be thanked were Mr. A. J. Hodgson, Chairman, Mr. George Hadrill, Secretary, and Mr. Herbert B. Ames. The courtesy, tact and kindness of the last named, who assumed with complete success the

* The following is the text of the resolution as it was ultimately adopted:—"It is resolved that, in the opinion of this Congress, the bonds of the British Empire would be materially strengthened and the union of the various parts of his Majesty's Dominions greatly consolidated by the adoption of a commercial policy based upon the principle of mutual benefit, whereby each component part of the Empire would receive substantial advantage in trade as the result of national relationship, due consideration being given to the fiscal and industrial needs of the component parts of the Empire; that this Congress urges upon his Majesty's Government the appointment by them of a special commission, composed of representatives of Great Britain and her Colonies and India, to consider the possibilities of thus increasing and strengthening the trade relations between the different parts of the Empire and trading facilities within the Empire and with foreign countries." (Ed.)

management of all detail connected with the tours, &c., will always be remembered by those who throughout the day sought his advice and assistance in the Committee Room.

"I must not omit to mention all that the Colonial and other delegates owe to the Grand Trunk Railway for the accomodation furnished on the special train which carried them during the delightful tour through Ontario, just concluded. Several officials of the Company accompanied the party and vied with each other in courtesy and attention to their guests. Nothing could have exceeded their thoughtful kindness in every way, and I should wish specially to thank on behalf of our party, Mr. W. E. Davis, Passenger Traffic Manager, Mr. G. T. Bell, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, and Mr. H. G. Elliott, Assistant General Manager.

"The series of entertainments to the delegates commenced with a magnificent banquet, at which there attended Lord Minto, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Lord Strathcona, and many other distinguished persons. This has been followed by hospitality of the most generous description, extended by public bodies and private individuals at Ottawa, Hamilton, Kingston, Windsor, and Toronto. The tours of the delegates will not all be completed until October 3rd. Up to the time of writing, they have been completely successful, and a most enjoyable time amidst the beautiful highlands and cities of Ontario has been passed. Beyond the unbounded hospitality which provides this costly entertainment extending over several weeks to 250 people, the most noticeable facts are the warmth of welcome everywhere and the extraordinary evidences of loyalty and of a desire to cement still further the ties binding the Dominion to the Mother-land. On all sides are the evidences of the wonderful progress the country is making, and to those who have not previously visited His Majesty's Dominions beyond the Seas an object lesson will have been taught that was perhaps not dreamt of previously.

"These hurried notes have been written against time, but I cannot conclude them without referring to the debt due by every one attending the Congress to Lord Brassey, who presided in the most able, impartial, and tactful manner."

Sir Frederic Hodgson and Barbados Proprietors.

His Excellency Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., Governor of Barbados, who returns to the Island by the R.M.S. "Atrato" on the 30th instant, again attended a meeting of Barbados Proprietors on the 10th instant at the West India Committee Rooms. Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., occupied the chair, and those present included His Honour W. H. Greaves, the Chief Justice of Barbados, Mr. J. Baeza, Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. A. Bovell, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. C. J. P. Cave, Mr. R. A. Daniell, Mr. W. P. Eversley, Rev. Robert Hart, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. Elliot G. Louis, Dr. G. B. Mason, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. Besant Tasker, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary. Letters of regret at their inability to attend were received from Sir James S. Hay, Mr. Allan Belfield, Rev. H. A. Daniel, Mr. T. C. Garth, Mr. A. J. Pitman, and Mr. F. Bonham Smith.

THE CHAIRMAN, having introduced Sir Frederic Hodgson, stated that in any discussion as to the Grant in Aid of £250,000 to the West Indies the circumstances under which the Grant originated ought to be borne in mind. At the Brussels Conference the Continental Governments asked for a delay until the 1st of September of this year in order to carry out the necessary measures for the abolition of their bounties. Upon being consulted as to this postponement he, Sir Nevile Lubbock, strongly protested against the delay, as he considered that the West Indies were then almost on their last legs and their sugar industry would be annihilated by having to undergo the continuance of the adverse pressure of the bounties and cartels. Thereupon the British Delegates communicated with their Government and it was decided to go on with the Convention and accept the delay, but in order

to help the West Indies, that a Grant in Aid to their sugar industry to enable them to tide over the period until the bounties were abolished should be obtained from Parliament. Thus in its inception this Grant was an emergency fund and the £80,000 apportioned to Barbados was with this object as was that apportioned to Demerara and Trinidad. It was based on a pro rata distribution of so much per ton of sugar produced during the period for which the Continent had required delay. That Barbadian plantations had not received any such distribution was to him, Sir Nevile Lubbock, a just cause of complaint. As regards what could or ought to be done now, he could not say, but the meeting would probably urge their views on the attention of the Governor.

Sir Nevile Lubbock being obliged to leave he asked Mr. Shepheard to take the Chair. MR. SHEPHEARD said that it was clear beyond all mention that this Grant had originated in the necessity of helping the sugar plantations of the West Indies to continue their cultivation during the period for which the abolition of the bounties had been suspended. It was, as their Chairman had stated, an emergency fund. As such it ought to have been applied for cultivation expenses, but in Barbados their complaint was that the application of the fund had been inconsistent with the object for which the Government had obtained the Grant from Parliament. He had so fully dealt with this point at the previous meeting with His Excellency that he had nothing to add. He hoped, however, that no one would think that the Proprietors wanted the money for themselves. This was not the case, as the only application they desired was to have the cash paid over to the current cultivation accounts of the plantations, thus ensuring its distribution as wages among the labourers on the estates. The capital and resources of the absentee proprietors had been taxed to the utmost to carry on the work of cultivation and prevent the plantations being abandoned. They had borne the whole weight of the pressure of the Continental bounty-aided competition. It was only just and sound in policy that the Grant in Aid should be distributed so as to strengthen the cultivation funds of their estates and their formal resolution to that effect on the 11th of June last still held good and he trusted His Excellency on his return to Barbados would give it his support. MR. RUTHERFORD called attention to the statement which had been submitted by resident planters, merchants, and others in July last to the Executive Committee, and the Secretary read the statement to the meeting. Mr. Rutherford said that many of the estates had been cultivated in 1902 in full reliance upon receiving a distributive share of the Grant. MR. CARRINGTON, MR. WILKINSON, and MR. EVERSLEY also supported the view that the fund was voted by the Imperial Parliament as an emergency fund for 1902 and as such ought still to be treated.

SIR FREDERIC HODGSON said that he recognized that the views of the owners of estates who are resident in England had been placed once more before him in a very clear and definite manner. Those views, coming as they did from an influential body of men who had considerable interests in Barbados, were entitled to and would receive most careful consideration at his hands, and he doubted not at the hands of the Legislature of the Colony. The grant of £80,000 was still available. His instructions were that after using the money for the purpose of meeting the emergency by which the Government was confronted where the merchants found that they could no longer finance a large number of estates, it was to be devoted to securing the permanent interests of the sugar industry. His hands had not been tied as to the methods to be employed in doing so. The former matter had been met by the Legislature passing the Plantations-in-Aid Act. The latter had still to be decided upon. In dealing with it the Government could not altogether eliminate the labourers who had suffered very severely during the period of depression. It had been stated, and it appeared to be the general opinion of those present, that the labourer would benefit by a pro rata distribution equally with the owner. That opinion would not be overlooked when the question of disposal was under consideration. Referring to the statement that in British Guiana and Trinidad there had been a pro

401

rata distribution among owners, Sir Frederic said that he did not consider that the sugar industry of Barbados was on the same footing as in those Colonies. An arrangement which was right and proper in them was not necessarily so in Barbados. He was not as yet satisfied that Barbados had finally emerged from the difficulties which had been met by the passing of the Plantations-in-Aid Act, and in his judgment it would not have been wise for the Barbados Government to adopt the course followed by those Colonies. That appeared also to be the opinion in Barbados, judging from the action of the Executive Committee when dealing with the Resolution on the subject recently placed before it. Sir Frederic, in conclusion, said that he was very glad to have met those present and he would take care that their views were not overlooked when the time came for a final disposal of the Grant.

The proceedings closed with an unanimous and cordial vote of thanks to the Governor for his kindness and courtesy in attending the meeting.

The Jamaica Cyclone.

On the 5th inst. we received from Mr. Chamberlain the following extract from a despatch from Sir Augustus Hemming, G.C.M.G., Governor of Jamaica, dated August 20th, 1903, which gives the official account of the cyclone of August 11th, last :—

“ You will have already learnt from my telegrams of the 12th and 14th inst., as well as from reports in the London newspapers, of the occurrence of a cyclone of great force which struck this island in the early morning of the 11th inst.

“ Warning had been given by the United States Weather Office at Washington, as far back as the 8th inst., that there was an atmospheric disturbance to the east of Barbados, and that it was moving north-west. There was every reason, from the location of the disturbance and its apparent direction, to hope that it would pass north of Jamaica, as similar storms have so frequently done during the past 20 years. Contrary to expectation, however, it kept well to the southward, and on the afternoon of Monday, the 10th inst., there were unmistakable signs here of unusual weather. Angry gusts of wind, accompanied with rain, came in from the north-east, and during the night the wind veered to the north and began to blow with great strength. It was not, however, until the early hours of Tuesday, the 11th, that the wind attained hurricane force, and from 3.30 a.m. to 5 o'clock it blew with great fury from the north. Veering then rapidly to the west, the south, and finally to the south-east, it set in with even greater violence from the latter quarter, and continued for nearly two hours. The fall of rain was not great—only about 3 ins., 75 parts having fallen in Kingston between Monday afternoon and noon on Tuesday, the 11th, but it was sufficient, owing to the driving force of the wind, to add considerably to the damage.

“ From the reports which have been obtained, it appears that the storm affected the entire island with the exception of the lower parts of Clarendon, and the parishes of Manchester, St. Elizabeth, and the greater part of Westmoreland and Hanover ; indeed, it may be stated that the south-western part of the island and the extreme west practically escaped. The mischief wrought in the eastern and northern districts has, however, been enormous. The storm broke with extraordinary force on the town of Port Antonio, a rising place much frequented by American tourists, and the most important of our fruit ports. At this place great damage was done to public buildings and private dwellings, and many of the inhabitants barely escaped with their lives from their falling houses. The same may be said in a somewhat less degree of several of the other towns on the eastern and northern coasts, and some of the interior towns, situated at considerable elevations, were equally unfortunate.

“ But the heaviest losses are those which occurred in the agricultural districts. The principal banana parishes are those of St. Thomas, Portland, and St. Mary, and it is not too much to say that

in the whole of these parishes there are not ten acres of bananas left standing. The plantations have been practically swept bare, and those magnificent areas of cultivation, which on the 10th inst. were covered with fruit-bearing plants, now appear, I am informed, as though a fire had passed over them. Parts of St. Catherine and St. Ann have suffered to the same extent. Nor has the loss been confined to bananas. Cocoanuts, coffee, cocoa, and pimento have all suffered, although the loss in these cases is not so complete as in the case of the banana fields. In one respect the destruction of these products is more serious. They can only be replaced after years of growth, while the banana will spring again from the young shoots, and there will be a crop in about ten months' time. The loss of pimento is perhaps more of a permanent injury than that of any other produce, as the tree is a slow grower. It is found principally on the grazing lands of St. Ann, but in order to let it grow, the cattle must be kept off to prevent them from destroying the young plants. Thus the planter loses the use of his land until the pimento is well grown.

"I enclose reports from the inspectors of police of the several parishes, which give in each case an account of the effects of the storm, including the number of houses damaged or destroyed, and the number of lives reported to have been lost.

"You will easily gather from these reports that much suffering and distress have been caused to a large number of the people of the island. Many who were in circumstances of comparative affluence a few days ago are now ruined, a great number have lost their all, while others have lost for years to come the sources of their incomes. Large numbers of the peasantry are homeless, while not a few of the houses of the wealthier classes have been destroyed.

"The question of the measures which should be taken in these trying circumstances has caused me and my advisers the gravest anxiety. It was first necessary to provide for the immediate relief of the destitute, and at the earliest possible moment I addressed a circular to the custos and chairman of the Parochial Board of each of the parishes affected, a copy of which I enclose. I also caused the sum of £300 to be placed at the disposal of the local authorities in each of these parishes for the relief of urgent cases, and a strong central committee has been formed in Kingston, with the Chief Justice as chairman, to collect subscriptions and furnish money to the local committees as may be required and as they may be able. Further, I have sent the Acting Director of Public Works into the distressed districts with a view to determine what road work can be undertaken to provide employment for the labouring classes. I am glad to say the opinion is unanimous that there is no immediate danger of starvation, owing to the large quantity of fallen fruit which is available for food, but when this is finished there may be want, and against this I trust the subscriptions will be raised, and the work which will be given to the able-bodied will be sufficient to provide. I may add, while on this subject, that I am endeavouring to ensure that gifts of money shall not be made except in cases where a more desirable form of aid may not be practicable. It will be better to provide with foodstuffs any who are in actual need of food, and in cases where it may be proposed to assist in the re-erection of dwellings to give lumber and other materials rather than money."

The Jamaica Relief Fund.

During the past fortnight several meetings of the Jamaica Sub-Committee have been held and considerable progress has been made with the Jamaica Relief Fund which now amounts to upwards of £6,300. The response of the British Public has been remarkable, when one considers how often they have been appealed to of late years on behalf of the West Indian Colonies, and it is rather surprising to find that so far as one can judge from letters and papers to hand by the Mail, it has met with so little acknowledgement in Jamaica.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield has intimated his willingness to receive subscriptions on behalf of the Fund and his offer has thankfully been accepted. On the 7th inst. we received a telegram from Sir Augustus Hemming to the effect that there was still abundant scope for charity in the way of helping peasants and restoring dwellings though the amount so far subscribed was probably sufficient for food and clothing, until crops of rapid growth matured, but would not go far towards re-erection of dwellings or for the assistance of the small settlers. The following is a list of subscriptions received up to Saturday, since we last went to press :—

Table with 3 columns: Name, Amount (£ s. d.), and Name, Amount (£ s. d.). Includes entries like 'The Guardian Assurance Co., Ltd.', 'Messrs. S. Beebee & Sons', 'Per Lady Hemming', etc.

Errata in last list, for C. P. Lucas, Esq., C.B. £5 0 0 read £3 0 0

Allowance for Tests on Demerara Sugar.

The question of the conditions upon which sugar is sold in British Guiana has recently been under the consideration of the Executive Committee. Hitherto inconvenience and, not seldom, misunderstanding between Colonial buyers and their foreign correspondents has been caused by the difference in the systems in vogue in Demerara, the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. At the fortnightly meeting, held on September 3rd, the feeling of those present was that it would be desirable to assimilate the conditions of sale in regard to polarisation and allowances in that Colony with the conditions existing in New York. This is in accord with the views expressed by the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool, and a communication on the subject will be addressed to the British Guiana Planters Association.

The West Indian Cotton Acreage.

We are now in a position to give more precise information regarding the acreage of the cotton industry in the West Indies. According to advices received by the mail from our hon. correspondents, it would seem that Barbados leads with 1250 acres, while Montserrat comes next with 700 acres, the figures at present available being :—

Antigua ...	500 acres.	Nevis ...	500 acres.
Barbados ...	1250 „	St. Vincent	500 „
Montserrat ...	700 „	Virgin Islands	120 „

Experiments are also being conducted in British Guiana, Dominica, (where a certain amount of cotton has always been cultivated in small peasant plots,) Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Trinidad. In Carriacou, cotton has long been the staple and as will be seen from the extract from Mr. De Freitas' letter on page 30, cultivation there is being extended.

The Fruit Industry. "Better Cultivation is Needed."

At the monthly meeting of the Board of Management of that flourishing association the Jamaica Agricultural Society, on July 30th, a letter was read from Mr. Sydney Olivier written on board the S.S. "Ionian" in accordance with a promise he made to give attention during his passage through Canada to the question of cultivating the demand for Jamaica produce in Toronto, Ottawa, and elsewhere. In the course of this letter the following passage, which is worthy of the very serious consideration of all fruit growers in the West Indies, appears: "I was impressed whilst in the United States of America by the advantage which Costa Rican fruit is getting over Jamaican on account of its superior quality. It enjoys a marked preference among fruiterers and gets a higher price. This is owing to the general deterioration in the average grade of Jamaica fruit during a recent period. The effect of this tendency is likely to injure permanently the reputation of the Jamaica fruit, and it should be checked. It is the old story, to be repeated incessantly—better cultivation is needed, and the determination to produce a more moderate quantity of a higher priced article. Most of the small fruit is owing to neglect of cultivation and to too close ratooning. If this reputation of Limon fruit as compared with Jamaica fruit continues to advance as it is advancing at present, fruiterers will get into the habit of demanding it as the prime staple of trade, and the value of Jamaica plantations will be seriously depreciated. This danger should be averted while there is time."

In the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* for August, opinion is editorially expressed that the grade of Bananas can easily be improved on lands now under cultivation if growers look a little ahead and are not content with what the present gives. If they have interest in the present credit and future poor fertility of the island they will study means of improving their grades. A large portion of

the poor fruit comes from small settlers whose lands are sometimes good enough to produce 6's and 7's without any attention, and they are content to take what they can get, without even an effort to clear the creepers around the stems of their bananas. Very often in other parts with not really suitable soils they put in bananas and get 6's and 7's when they would make more growing food stuffs.

Brazilian Cocoa Crop.

In his annual report (*Foreign Office Annual Series, 3,061*), H. M. Consul at Bahia (Brazil) states that the 1902 crop of Cocoa was the largest known. Heavy rains either destroyed a considerable portion of the new fruit or prevented it from ripening, otherwise even still larger quantities would have reached market. The new plantations in the districts of Ilheos, Una and neighbouring districts are coming into bearing and supplied 50 per cent. of the total crop. From April, 1902, to March, 1903, 300,000 bags were shipped to Europe and the United States. The 1901-02 crop only furnished 232,000 bags, so that the season's increase consisted of 68,000 bags (29 per cent.). The quality was certainly below the average, having deteriorated owing to the rains, and claims arose in Europe respecting many of the parcels shipped, nearly all of them being settled in favour of the buyer. Exporters are very dissatisfied at these decisions. Their contention is that as sales are usually made in Brazil as being on "the average of the season's crop," they are free from liability, once it is proved that the average of the year's crop is of inferior quality.

Prices opened at from £2 12s. to £2 16s. per cwt. (cost and freight), but later on fell to £2 9s. per cwt., large crops in Brazil and other countries and the poor quality of the cocoa being accountable for the drop in prices. It is presumed that the 1903-04 crop will amount to some 300,000 bags, but no improvement is noticeable in the method of gathering or the preparation of the bean. If planters could only be persuaded that it is in their own interest to give more care and attention to these important operations the quality would certainly improve. At present, in proportion to the increase in the area of production, there is a falling-off in the care shown to the bean, and the same primitive methods continue to be employed when the crop is gathered.

Commercial Rubber.

We learn from Mr. J. H. Hart, of the Botanical Department in Trinidad, who is now in England on short leave of absence, that a series of experiments are being carried out at the Experiment Station in that Island, with a view of testing in the most thorough manner, the suitability of the various kinds of Rubber producing plants for cultivation under the conditions prevailing in the different West Indian Islands. HEVEA or Para Rubber, CASTILLOA or Central American Rubber, FUNTUMIA or West African Rubber, are having special attention. With regard to the first, Mr. Hart considers it to be proved fully suitable for general cultivation, and rubber of excellent quality has been produced from trees at the Trinidad station. The experiments with CASTILLOA go to show that the rubber from young trees contains too large a quantity of resinous matter, making it necessary for the planter to wait for eight or ten years before marketable produce is obtainable. FUNTUMIA ELASTICA which affords the Iré or silk rubber of the West Coast of Africa has been found to give a marketable product at the early age of 4½ years, and the latex has been found specially easy to coagulate as it responds quickly to simple evaporation of the water contained in the latex, and gives a very high percentage of fine elastic material. The chemical examination of the LATICES of these Rubbers, is in the hands of the officers of the Analytical Department of the Imperial Institute, and it is expected that interesting details will shortly be forthcoming from that Institution. We learn that the merits of the last mentioned Rubber has already excited considerable interest, and that on several estates extensive preparations

are being made for its cultivation. Mr. Hart informs us that the trees at the Government Experiment Station are now bearing fine crops of seed annually, which can be obtained in season (April to July) at reasonable rates on application at the offices of the Botanical Department. The seeds of this Rubber possess, it is said, far greater vitality than those of either Hevea or Castilloa, and can be sent long distances by post with safety.

New Members of the West India Committee.

The next election of Members will be held on Thursday next, the 17th inst. Candidate forms can be obtained from the Secretary. At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on the 3rd inst., Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding, the following new Members were elected:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
Messrs. AUGUST FABER & Co.	Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co.	Messrs. Wilson Smithett & Co.
STANLEY ROBINSON, Esq. (Barbados)	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
J. RUSSELL MURRAY, Esq. (Canada)	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.	H. K. Davson, Esq.
C. ARNOLD MALABRE, Esq. (Jamaica)	William Gillespie, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
FRANK PINK, Esq.	H. K. Davson, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
HERBERT MADDICK, Esq. A.D.C. (Jamaica)	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	H. K. Davson, Esq.
F. I. SCARD, Esq. (British Guiana)	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	H. K. Davson, Esq.
The STIRLING BOILER Co., Ltd.	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Llewellyn Jones, Esq.
JAMES WILSON, Esq. (Trinidad)	Edgar Tripp, Esq.	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.
WILLIAM HOLLER, Esq. (Trinidad)	William Gillespie, Esq.	L. Bert de Lamarre, Esq.
Messrs. A. & P. W. McONIE (Engineers)	R. Rutherford, Esq.	Llewellyn Jones, Esq.
ARTHUR JOHNSON, Esq.	William Gillespie, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
E. A. H. HAGGART, Esq. (Jamaica)	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	H. K. Davson, Esq.
LEON CIPRIANI, Esq. (Trinidad)	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
J. F. LEBLANC, Esq. (Trinidad)	L. Bert de Lamarre, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
HON. LEON AGOSTINI (Trinidad)	" "	" "
C. W. HAYNES, Esq. (Barbados)	" "	" "
L. G. AGOSTINI, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
WILLIAM BOWRING, Esq. (Barbados)	" "	" "
ALLAN BELFIELD, Esq. (Barbados)	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.	Col. A. H. Nourse
Messrs. ALFRED LAMB & SON	Edward Anderson, Esq.	Edward Kynaston, Esq.

"My Colonial Service."

The purpose of Sir William Des Voeux in publishing his Memoirs has been to illustrate in detail, with reference to Crown Colonies, the operation of the principles of Colonial Government, his belief being that this can only be done by giving a personal record of Colonial service and administration. Sir William's Colonial service extended from 1863 to 1890, when he was compelled through the ill-health which dogged his footsteps throughout—his illnesses included yellow fever, sunstroke, and two serious accidents which caused concussion of the brain and spine—to resign the Government of Hong Kong. Sir William Des Voeux has accomplished his purpose admirably, and his book in consequence is of great interest to the general reader. He graphically depicts life in the interior and enlivens his pages by many anecdotes. Here is an adventure with a Cooni Cusbi snake:—

* "My Colonial Service," by Sir William Des Voeux, G.C.M.G. 2 vols., 24/- net. Murray, London.

"I was suddenly startled by a frightful shriek from the Indian and I saw that he was jumping away from the coils of a great 'bush-master' snake. . . . Before I could stop myself I was close up to the brute, whose head with laterally waving tongue was raised for striking within a yard of my thigh. In an instant I covered him with my gun and pulled the trigger; but the rain had damped the cap and it missed fire. My sensation at the moment may be imagined, but it was fortunately as short lived as the snake; for the other barrel fired instantly took the brute's head off and I was safe. When brought to camp the headless trunk was found to measure over six feet in length, while its thickness in the middle was about that of my forearm."

Here is a pleasing description of a view from a mountain of 2000 feet :—

"Except a glimpse of water here and there, probably bends in rivers, the whole area beneath was covered with a dense mass of foliage. The top of the trees had almost the effect of a huge undulating grass-plot with a bush rising out of it here and there, indicating the position of some specially huge giant."

It is with a feeling akin to regret that we come to the writer's disagreements with the planters, which are recalled in Chapter IX. But they are *choses jugées*, and it will be remembered that Mr. Des Voeux's charges of neglect, ill-usage, and mismanagement of the coolies, and his indictment of the Planters and medical officers for truckling to the Planters were not sustained by the Commission which, subsequent to his despatch from St. Lucia, after the coolie disturbance at Pln. Leonara, sat at Georgetown in 1870. Besides, Sir William admits that in the light afforded by long official experience he is inclined to regard the matter less harshly than he did, that perhaps he appreciated too slightly the very great difficulties of the manager's position, and that he criticised perhaps with undue severity his occasional loss of temper.

In St. Lucia Mr. Des Voeux set to with a will to cleanse the official Augean stables. A Special Commission into the administration of Justice was appointed and charges of corruption, drunkenness, and indebtedness to the practitioners of the Court were proved against the Chief Justice, who had previously been allowed to quit the Island on leave of absence "in consequence of an extraordinary medical certificate to the effect that unless he did so he would possibly commit suicide." A magistrate was dismissed for misappropriating money entrusted to him for the payment of paupers. The chief medical officer and revenue officer and a member of the Executive and Legislative Council followed. Mr. Des Voeux improved the roads, secured cable communication, codified the laws—a task of magnitude—established a Government Savings Bank, and took effective measures against the *fev de lance* snake, the deaths from whose bites reached sometimes thirty a year in a population of 35,000. A payment was made for every head brought in and the mongoose was imported with great success. In 1876, a year after his marriage, Mr. Des Voeux accepted the acting Government of Trinidad, where he was frigidly received but ingratiated himself to such an extent that his send off at the close of his administration gave rise to a demonstration of feeling—"the ordeal of handshaking being pleasing as it was physically severe." Mr. Des Voeux accepted another acting appointment in Fiji in 1878, and was subsequently confirmed in that appointment. In 1886 he became Governor of Newfoundland but exchanged to Hong Kong in the following year his retirement being rendered necessary by ill-health in 1890.

*** Industrial Trinidad.**

The above is the title of a pamphlet issued by the Victoria Institute of Trinidad and Tobago. It contains a series of papers which have been read from time to time at the Institute regarding the industries of the Colony, including Gold and Coal, by Mr. R. J. Lechmere Guppy; Petroleum, by Mr. Rust; The Forest Resources, by Mr. C. S. Rogers; The Orange and Vanilla, by Mr. H. Caracciolo, F.E.S. The Orange, by Mr. Joseph Brown; The Savana Grande Produce Co., by Mr. George C. Wyatt Tobacco, by Mr. John Phillips; Rice and Coconut Oil by Mr. D. Greig; Meat, Milk, and Butter

* *Industrial Trinidad*: The Victoria Institute of Trinidad and Tobago.

Supply, by Mr. C. L. Meaden; and Trade with Venezuela, by Mr. R. H. McCarthy, Collector of Customs. In a concluding chapter Professor P. Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S., late President of the Institute gives a valuable treatise regarding the various industries, which should be widely circulated, giving as it does a resumé of the possibilities of this resourceful Island.

"About Dominica."

Mr. Harold A. Alford Nicholls has contributed to the September number of the *Empire Review* an interesting article "About Dominica." Mr. Nicholls is the son of Hon. H. A. Nicholls, M.D., C.M.G., and having resided all his life in the island is therefore well qualified to describe as he does so ably, the history, the climate, and the prospects of the Colony, for the more than incipient prosperity of which his father is so largely responsible. Mr. Nicholls strongly favours the separation of Dominica from the Leeward Islands Federation, believing as he does that her progress has been retarded to no small degree by the supervision of officials residing in another island where the conditions—commercial, industrial, agricultural, and in many other respects—of which are diametrically different to those of Dominica. Since the Island was made a Crown Colony in 1898, and the advent of Mr. Hesketh Bell as administrator, matters have improved. A new road has been made connecting the Windward with the Leeward Coasts with a view to open up the fertile lands in the interior and to bring to light their many latent resources, and thus to attract capitalists to the island; and last year a coastal steamer was put on and subsidised by the Government, thus affording greater facility to the planters for the conveyance of their produce to Roseau, the capital and port of shipment. A telephonic system over the island is also in course of establishment, and ninety-six miles of wire have already been laid down. Dominica has shaken herself free from the bonds of depression, and Mr. Nicholls' article cannot fail to attract an increasing number of colonists to the "Gem of the Antilles."

Notes.

THE KING HAS BEEN PLEASED to approve the appointment of Sir Henry Arthur Blake, G.C.M.G. (Governor of Hong-Kong), to be Governor of Ceylon, in the room of the Right Honourable Sir Joseph West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., whose term of office in that Colony will shortly expire.

BY THE DEATH OF MAJOR RAFFERTY, general agent of the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company in Trinidad, which took place at the Queen's Park Hotel, of Blackwater Fever on August 16th, Trinidad has lost one of her most popular inhabitants. Major Rafferty, who was only 39 years of age, was well known to a large number of visitors to the pitch lake and his loss will be felt by a wide circle of friends. He leaves a widow and a young son for whom much sympathy is felt.

MR. SYDNEY OLIVIER, C.M.G., HAS RETURNED to Jamaica where he will continue to act as Colonial Secretary for another year. Doubtless his return is in a large measure due to the exceptional circumstances of the Cyclone, but it is worth recording that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, on June 11th, endorsed an influentially signed memorial addressed to Mr. Chamberlain, praying that Mr. Olivier's services might be retained for Jamaica. The document was brought home by Mr. Charles E. de Mercado, who subsequently visited the Colonial Office, with the Secretary, and laid it before Sir Montague Ommaney, K.C.B.

THE MONOCANE SUGAR COMPANY has been awarded a Gold Medal for their exhibit of Barbados and Demerara sugar and other West Indian products at the International Food and Grocery Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, which was opened on August 29th. We trust that this may be some encouragement to those who have so long devoted their attention at considerable cost in personal trouble and expense to the development of this important trade movement which our Committee have for some time taken in hand. Now that the bounty question is settled, we trust that the cane sugar movement may receive the attention and support it deserves from all West Indian interests.

"PLUM WARNER" WAS THE SUBJECT of a cartoon by "Spy" in *Vanity Fair* of September 3rd. The likeness—we will not call it a caricature—is a striking one. Mr. Pelham F. Warner is described by Jehu Junior as "the youngest son of that West Indian Statesman who steered Trinidad through the trying times that followed the abolition of slavery; of whom Froude said it was worth a voyage round the globe to have met such a man." "Plum" "likes criticism; he can play a losing game very well; he is probably the keenest cricketer living." Jehu might have added that he is brother of the Hon. R. A. S. Warner, who captained the first West Indian Cricket team to visit these shores.

The Homeward Mail.

The news from the West Indies by the homeward mail is again of a satisfactory nature, and even the cultivation of Jamaica was responding to the climatic conditions, which were all that could be desired. We fear that some of the remarks contained in our Correspondent's letters regarding the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., which we give below, will not be altogether pleasing to the Board of that Company. But the Mail Contract is rapidly running out, and there is yet time to put the house in order, so we quote the many criticisms received from our Hon. Correspondents believing that they voice the general sentiment of the Colonies, and in the hope that they will prompt the Company to accelerate the reforms already inaugurated. The prospects of holding an Agricultural Conference were under consideration. This year, it will be remembered, that owing to the small-pox epidemic no Conference could be held at Barbados, and the change of route of the ocean steamers, and the consequent later arrival of the Jamaica and Trinidad Mails at Barbados would make it impossible for delegates from these Colonies to attend at Barbados next year, and therefore Trinidad would appear to be the only suitable Island for the Meetings, but in view of the small-pox epidemic at present prevailing there, it was doubtful whether a Conference would be held at all in 1904. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S., "Atrato," anchored off Plymouth at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9th, and the mails were delivered in London the next morning. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Maria," arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, September 2nd. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Atrato."

Antigua.—A. St. G. Spooner, Esq. August 26th. The heavy freight charges on onions imposed by the Royal Mail Company and the other steamship companies who followed suit in this direction was a great drawback to the inter-colonial onion industry. For instance, the charge for a crate of onions weighing about 60 lbs. gross to Trinidad would be 24 cents, to St. Lucia and even to the next island, St. Kitts, 20 cents a crate, whilst the rate to Canada was but 20 cents, and to New York 24 cents. The Hon. Francis Watts had returned to the Island. They had enjoyed good growing weather generally all over the Island, a little too much wind perhaps, but still good showers when they did fall, and amounting to about 2 inches in most places for the fortnight. This welcome weather had enabled a considerable amount of maize, provisions, guinea corn, and cotton planting to be done, and as the onion seed imported by the Imperial Department of Agriculture arrived about the same time as Mr. Watts and the rain, they should be certain of a good early crop of onions next year provided the good weather continued.

Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, August 27th. The inconvenience caused by the late arrival of the "Para" had been very great, and all bananas shipped by her from the Island were spoiled. The writer was informed that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company proposed to fit her with a "fan," which looked as if they intended to send her out again, which ought not to be the case. The "Orinoco" on her outward voyage, did not arrive at Barbados till mid-day on Monday by which time the mail carts for the country had left Bridgetown, so that country letters were not delivered till Tuesday afternoon. Heavy rains, accompanied by thunder and lightning, had been falling all through the fortnight, and 9.95 ins. was marked at Porters for the month up to date. One chimney was struck, but he had not heard of any other serious damage. Though heavy, he did not think there had been any wash of consequence, as each Fall had not been of long duration. The canes had naturally improved immensely, and they stood to make a very good crop. All the fields he had seen promised well. Many thousands of banana trees had been planted, and there had been a great demand for onion seed which had at last arrived. This, however, would not diminish the cane cultivation. As money had to be borrowed to meet the Island's own deficit, it was felt that the Legislature could not vote a sum for the relief of the sufferers in Jamaica, much as they all sympathised with them in their distress. The Legislative Council, on his motion, passed a Resolution to this effect last week. A Public Meeting was called by the Acting Governor yesterday, and no doubt a certain amount would be collected privately. It appeared that Sir Patrick Manson, Medical Adviser to the Colonial Office, and the Crown Agents of the Colonies had declared the existing epidemic in Trinidad to be small-pox. "Why then does not the Colonial Office put an end to this farce, and officially declare it to be so, and reprimand those who have been endeavouring for months to hide it under every other name? Not a word has been said commending Barbados for its honesty, which resulted in the most enormous loss to the Island, while these other places have profited by playing a shuffling game."

British Guiana.—J. C. McEwan, Esq., August 26th. The Court of Policy and Combined Court met on August 13th. The acreage tax was raised to \$2.00, and at a later meeting of the Court of Policy, after the Governor had consulted

the Executive Council, the indenture fee was raised to \$60.00. Mr. Laing made a strong appeal for it to be left at \$55.00. (A report of proceedings is contained in the *Demerara Daily Chronicle* and the *Argosy* to hand by the Mail.) The Cable between Demerara and Trinidad was again interrupted on the 25th. Good showers had fallen in Demerara and Essequibo during the fortnight. In Berbice only light showers had been experienced, and moderate rains were wanted. Nothing was doing at the moment in the Sugar Market, but \$1.97 might be taken as the figure of the day.

Dominica.—E. A. Agar, Esq., August 27th. The late arrival of the R.M.S. "Para," on August 2nd, caused a good deal of inconvenience, the time remaining before the return boat being—especially as it included Bank Holiday—insufficient to allow all business to be transacted. The irregularity of these boats, both in coming and going, was most inconvenient. There were no signs of cotton cultivation being taken up to any extent in the Island. It had always been cultivated in small peasant lots and very good samples were turned out for local use. Some few acres were, however, being put in experimentally at the instance of the Department of Agriculture.

Grenada.—Hon. D. S. De Freitas, August 26th. It would be difficult for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to re-establish in the minds of West Indians any confidence in them. Endless complaints have been made to no effect; in fact they were received with insouciance. Cotton was being more extensively planted in Grenada, especially in the neighbouring island of Carriacou, which was under the Grenada Government. A peasant proprietary was being established in that small island by the Government. A large estate was bought for £2000, and it was being subdivided into small lots, which were being readily taken up; in many cases the lots were paid for by the peasants on entering into possession of them. The Administrator, Mr. E. R. Drayton, C.M.G., visited Carriacou last week for the purpose of completing the final details of the scheme. No reasonable doubt would be entertained as to the wisdom of establishing a peasant proprietary in Carriacou, where the population was of a thrifty, hardworking and steadily-purposed nature. The conditions peculiar to Carriacou made it necessary that so important a project should be taken in hand by the Government. Nearly the whole of the island of Carriacou was owned by absentee proprietors who did not work their estates, preferring to rent them, and as there were not many who could offer the required security the estates were leased to but a few persons. Neither would the owners sell the land in small lots. The tenure of land was transitory, possessing no reasonable security for the labourers and small tenants who in large numbers departed from Carriacou to work elsewhere. In the presence of such conditions the island was deteriorating visibly. The new scheme was, however, drawing back many Carriacouans to their home, and was hailed by all as one possessing possibilities of great success. It was safe to predict that all the small lots thus bought would be cultivated with cotton. There was a scarcity of good cotton seed in Grenada, but the Grenada Agricultural Society, which had already done good work in this direction, had made arrangements to supply cotton seed to peasants throughout Grenada during the next planting season. Copious showers had fallen during the month; on the 17th 4.50 inches of rain fell in 1½ hours. In July 15.90 inches of rain fell; a total which would be exceeded this month. Dysentery of a virulent type had again made its appearance in the island. The cocoa fields were looking well; flowers and fruit were showing up abundantly.

Jamaica.—Jamaica was still preoccupied with the hurricane when the mail left, and opinions varied greatly as to the amounts which would be required to put her house in order. According to our correspondent, Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, sad havoc had been done to the cocoanut trees, and the loss of the United Fruit Company had been very great. Since the hurricane, however, splendid rains had fallen generally, and the spring in all cultivation was wonderful. The loss in pimento on the north side had been severe—trees stripped and torn out by the roots. By some the estimate of the coming crop had been reduced to 50,000 bags, but he estimated it North side, 15,000; South side, 25,000; total, 40,000 bags.

Montserrat.—C. Watson, Esq. August 26th. There had been some good showers of rain during the past fortnight and the Island was looking green. Cotton planting had almost ceased, showing a cultivation of about 700 acres. Owing to the principal estates abandoning the cane cultivation, and also to the long drought, the output of sugar in 1904 would be exceedingly small.

St. Vincent.—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., August 28th. Heavy rains and repeated thunderstorms had prevailed during the fortnight, doing considerable damage to canals, &c., though they were beneficial to the growing crops.

St. Lucia.—Hon. E. Du Boulay, August 28th. Good rains had fallen generally.

Trinidad.—Our Correspondent, Mr. G. Townsend Fenwick, was about to leave for Caracas, and as Mr. Edgar Tripp had not returned from his mission to Canada we extract the following items of news regarding the Island from the *Port of Spain Gazette* and the *Mirror*, which are through the courtesy of the Editor, filed at the West India Committee Rooms. At the instance of Mr. H. McLelland a Committee had been appointed by the Chamber of Commerce to look into the advisability of providing a Floating Dock for Trinidad. The Plans for rebuilding the Red House were being considered, and the work would soon be in hand. The sittings of the Police Commission were continuing but no new facts of

441

importance had been brought to light. Deliveries of Cocoa from the Country were very small. Prices locally were \$12.25 to \$12.35 for good ordinary and \$13.25 to \$13.50 for estates marks. Sugar Canes were forward and healthy. In some districts there had been too much rain, while in others there had been no more than is sufficient. There was more sunshine during the fortnight than in the previous one, and generally the outlook was satisfactory.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana.—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co., September 2nd. "Weather dry with local showers." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) September 8th. "A little rain has fallen generally since last message."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
British Guiana—								
Jan. 1 to Aug. 25 1903	62,451	99,212	—	15,005	4984	3470	55,875	5731
" " 26 1902	60,686	95,933	—	18,120	3200	1215	62,769	8684
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
Apr. 1 to Aug. 1 1903	7321	13,678	13,810	756,173	2,489,847	12,104	6,274,425	5,064,650
" " 2 1902	10,532	7190	28,165	1,221,911	8,256,326	18,052	6,090,113	3,986,294
Trinidad—	Bags & Bels	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Tres.	Brls.
Jan. 1 to Aug. 27 1903	375,613	25,604,440	41,160	758	8,136,152	3078	178	166
" " 27 1902	441,452	24,987,790	39,680	1254	7,996,025	3084	141	236
								Asphalt.
								Tons.
								121,702
								113,741

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," Sept. 10th, 1903:— **Barbados.**—Master J. L. L. Taylor, Mr. G. S. Evelyn. **Demerara**—Master Bovell, Mr. K. O. De Vere, Miss Garnett, Master Garnett, Mrs. Hill, Master Hill, Mr. J. L. Hill, Mrs. A. Weber, Mrs. J. C. Murray. **Jamaica**—Rev. and Mrs. A. Brown, Mrs. G. C. H. Lewis, Miss Lewis, Miss N. Lewis, Miss H. Motta, Mr. F. Girdlestone. **Trinidad.**—Mr. W. B. Crocker, Mr. C. Laurant, Mr. S. R. Hogg, Miss J. Tomlinson, Mr. T. T. Tomlinson, Hon. A. P. Marryatt, Miss D. Kiddell, Miss I. D. Rice, Mr. W. Marsh, Mrs. M. Marsh, Mr. R. Main, Miss L. Main, Miss A. Main, Rev. Father Goldrick, Mr. C. Freeman, Mr. A. Warner, Rev. Father Corbett, Capt. Moody, Mr. H. A. Van Overzee, Mr. W. S. Robertson. **St. Lucia.**—Rev. J. M. Bourget, Lieut. Larmour, Hon. F. C. Wells Durrent, Master B. Durrant, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Cruikshank.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," September 16th, 1903:— **Barbados.**—Mr. G. F. Vanner, Mrs. and Miss Arthur, Mrs. Stoker, Mrs. Seymour, Mr. A. H. Spooner. **Demerara**—Mr. C. C. Baker, Mr. W. J. Phillips, Mr. J. Moir, Mr. Pitcairn, Mr. F. G. Rouse, Mr. J. Sharkey, Mrs. and Miss Sumner, Mr. and Mrs. Shields, Mr. Shepherd, Mr. T. H. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. T. Bourke, Rev. P. C. Quick, Mr. P. M. Marshall, Mr. W. Dudley. **Jamaica.**—Mr. W. J. Kempson, Mrs. De Mercado, Mr. H. R. Killick, Mr. and Mrs. Sherlock, Mr. F. Owen, Hon. P. Stern, Mr. A. Rorborough, Mr. and Mrs. Morell, Mr. E. Lanyon, Mr. F. Murray. **Trinidad.**—Mr. A. Flanagan, Mr. G. White, Mrs. and Miss Sorzano, Mr. and Mrs. Mackintosh, Mr. J. H. Hart. **Antigua.**—Hon. and Mrs. Warneford, Dr. Neil, Mr. W. Evans.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Maria," Sept. 2nd, 1903:— **Jamaica**—Mrs. and Miss Cass, Mrs. W. T. Eden, Mr. F. Gunther, Mrs. and two Misses Donald Hill, Baron Paul von Merling, Mr. A. Norch, Miss Irene Skipton, Lieut. H. W. Thelwell, Miss Fryer.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Maria," Sept. 12th, 1903:— **Jamaica.**—Mrs. R. H. Coke, Mr. W. Couran, Mrs. Eden, Mr. C. E. Fraser, Mr. T. Gerversham, Master and Miss G. Gould, Miss M. Greaves, Mr. and Mrs. A. Greenhalgh, Mrs. C. T. Hughes, Mr. G. A. Hurcomb, Mr. E. A. Poole, Mrs. Rackham, Major and Mrs. Skey, Mr. W. V. Tozer, Miss A. Whittaker, Mr. E. Hendier, Mr. A. Hendier, Mr. H. C. Fuller, Mr. D. Stewart.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—The weather on the Continent during the first half of September appears to have been favourable for the growth of the coming Beetroot Crops which everywhere but in France are believed to be doing well. If these conditions continue to prevail during the next few weeks, the crops may reach 6,000,000 Tons, an amount of Sugar more than sufficient for the world's requirements taking into consideration the undigested stocks left over, the outcome of the last two seasons' Cartels. Of course it is still possible the future weather may be less favourable and that this figure may not be reached, but looking at the anticipated increase in Cane, notably in Cuba, where the next crop may possibly supply 1½ million tons, no one can say there is not enough Sugar to go round and the full benefits of the Abolition of Bounties, as has been often pointed out, will not be realised for at least six to twelve months from the present time. It may be, however, that the Continent may consume during the coming season 300,000 to 400,000 tons more Sugar, which will materially help matters, but this is a question of much uncertainty, the reduced internal taxes being scarcely sufficient to greatly increase the Consumption. Still the Bounties are gone and Sugar is at least at a workable price that somewhere about pays cost of production. If next season the Continental people will only be moderate in their production, there should be no difficulty in obtaining a price of 10s. basis 88% free on board a figure that would be quite reasonable, and one, so far as we can learn, not more than sufficient to pay a just profit and provide a necessary sum by way of sinking fund. When this price is obtained the full benefits of the Abolition of Bounties will become operative and not till then, although as things go now we are undoubtedly in quite a different position to what has obtained during the last 25 years and for this we may as well be thankful. The Market is pausing, partly waiting to see the future course of the weather, and partly through Refiners and the Trade being liberally supplied by their large purchases during the month of August, the Imports into the United Kingdom in that month having been 225,000 tons against 103,000 tons and 93,000 tons respectively in August 1902 and 1901. This Sugar must be consumed before the Market can take a fresh start, unless crop news warrants an earlier movement. Prices of 88% are about on a par with those ruling a fortnight ago and are now September 8s. 6d.; October/December, 9s. 0½d.; January/March, 9s. 1½d.; and April/June, 9s. 3½d.; all free on board Hamburg.

Comparative prices for 5 years:—

	1903. 8/6	1902. 6s.	1901. 7s. 9½d.	1900. 11s. 6½d.	1899. 10s. 2d.
The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America are as follows:—					
	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Europe	1,640,000	1,640,000	780,000	600,000	800,000 Tons
United States	220,000	160,000	180,000	60,000	170,000 ..
Cuba	190,000	170,000	30,000	—	20,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	130,000	220,000	170,000	200,000	250,000 ..
Total	2,180,000	2,190,000	1,160,000	860,000	1,240,000

Crystallised Sugar.—The market remains steady with a price of fully 15s. 9d. for average qualities and a general range of 15s. 6d. to 16s. 6d. The Trade having recently bought heavily are looking on for the moment and the fortnight's business is of no great extent. Stocks keep declining as will be seen from the subjoined statement and are 19,000 tons below those at the corresponding period last year. A cargo of dark crystals to Cane Refiners should command 10s. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Scarce and some high prices, such as 13s. for good brown and 14s., 15s. for low to good yellow are being realised freely.

Muscovado.—The Stock of Grocery Barbados is practically sold out.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date	20,000	54,000	42,000	34,000 Tons.
Deliveries ..	30,000	29,000	28,000	28,000 ..
Stocks	18,000	37,000	22,000	12,000 ..

Rum.—The market is dull with scarcely any business passing. The value of fair Demerara is nominally 9½d., of Standard Home Trade Marks of Jamaica 1s. 9d., and of Cuba and other Foreign kinds 8d. to 11d. according to package and quality.

London Figures to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports Jamaica	7,500	10,200	9,600	8,400 Puns.
Demerara	9,100	14,800	14,000	9,700 ..
Stocks Jamaica	11,700	11,600	11,500	9,900 ..
Demerara	7,600	9,500	6,500	4,000 ..
Total of all kinds:—	29,791	31,846	205	205 Puns.
Board of Trade Returns for 8 months	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	4,127,000	6,268,000	5,261,000	5,261,000 Gallons.
Home Consumption	2,299,000	2,538,000	2,588,000	2,588,000 ..
Stocks 31st August	10,160,000	9,613,000	8,153,000	8,153,000 ..

Cocoa.—The market has improved for West India cocoa, supplies of this class being, as usual, restricted at this time of the year. Also the Government has been buying and has created an extra competition. The closing prices are as follows: Trinidad, fair collected 60s., Estate Marks 60s., 64s., and 68s.; Grenada, fair 53s., fermented 57s., 60s.; with Native Cocoa from other Islands about 51s., and fermented 54s., 58s. In Foreign kinds the improvement is less marked. The landed quotation for fermented African is now about 58s.

Stocks in London:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	76,000	82,000	110,000	98,000 Bags.
Board of Trade Returns for 8 months	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	17,429	19,085	18,402	18,402 Tons.
Home Consumption	12,620	14,626	13,241	13,241 ..
Stocks 31st Aug.	5859	5863	9252	9252 ..

Coffee.—Owing to manipulations the price of Santos for this month's delivery has been worked up to 26s. 3d. The general tone of the market remains quiet, and the value of good ordinary is still about 33s. **Nutmegs** firm. Good sales of West India 70 to the lb. 1s. 8d. down to 9d. for 120's. **Albacc.**—Steady, with business in fair pale at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. and broken at 1s. 11d. **Pimento.**—Dearer again, fair realising 3½d. **Ginger.**—Quiet, good bright sold at 45s., dark and clean, 37s. to 38s. **Cotton.**—Is coming to more reasonable prices, the American "Corner" having broken up. September delivery is quoted about 5½d. and October and December about 5½d. The approximate value of fair West India is 5½d. **Arrowroot** dull, after the late free purchases, and only small lots have been sold during the fortnight. The quotation of 2d. for fair manufacturing is quite nominal. Deliveries continue very unsatisfactory, as will be seen by the following table:

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	10,361	15,563	15,777	20,852 Brils.
Deliveries	8517	9532	13,181	15,104 ..
Stocks 31st August	14,035	13,750	10,796	8189 ..

Lime Juice is quoted at 1s. to 1s. 3d. per gallon; Concentrated has been sold at £13 per cask of 103 gallons; Distilled oil is 1s. 6d. per lb and hand pressed about 3s. to 3s. 3d.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . .
West India Committee Circular

Ent. Stationers Hall.] MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th, 1903. No. 106.

Mr. Chamberlain's Resignation.

The past fortnight has indeed been an eventful one for the Empire. Much has happened with regard to the Fiscal Question now before the country. The announcement of Mr. Chamberlain's retirement from the Cabinet on the 18th instant, came as a profound surprise, and though his resignation has brought his fiscal proposals a step nearer consummation, the genuine regret which will be felt throughout the West Indies at the loss of our greatest Colonial Secretary will be none the less poignant. The explanation of Mr. Chamberlain's action will be found in the letters between him and Mr. Balfour which we give on pages 39-40, and after a perusal of this correspondence no one can fail to recognize the patriotic motives of the Colonial Secretary. The resignations of Mr. Ritchie and Lord George Hamilton which were announced on the same day, as well as those of Lord Balfour of Burleigh and Mr. Arthur Elliot which followed, are understood to be due to their opposition to any departure from the old policy of free imports. The result of the Rochester election, which was made known on the 23rd instant, must be very encouraging to Mr. Chamberlain, the election having been fought entirely on Fiscal Policy lines and the majority in favour of Mr. Tuff being the largest ever recorded in that constituency.

British Guiana and the West Indies have special cause to be grateful to Mr. Chamberlain, and the following resolution which was proposed by Sir Nevile Lubbock, seconded by Mr. A. Morier Lee, and adopted unanimously at a General Meeting of the West India Committee, convened to meet His Excellency Sir Gerald Strickland, the Governor of the Leeward Islands, this afternoon, will be cordially endorsed, even if it has not already been anticipated by our West Indian Colonies:--

Resolved:

"That the West India Committee deeply regrets the resignation of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and wishes to record its sense of the great services Mr. Chamberlain has rendered to the Empire, and its high appreciation of the patriotic reasons which have induced him to resign his position as Colonial Minister."

The interest in the Fiscal Question, which has since Mr. Chamberlain's resignation become intense, was quickened on the 15th instant by the publication by Longmans of Mr. Arthur J. Balfour's pamphlet entitled "Economic Notes on Insular Free Trade," (1s.) in which the Prime Minister declares that it is absolutely necessary for this country to recover the liberty to do to foreign nations what they always do to each other, and to use fiscal inducements which they understand. On the following day the promised Blue Book on Trade and Industry (cd 1761) was issued by the Board of Trade. This consists of a volume of over 500 pages of letterpress, statistical tables and charts, a summary of which has appeared in the press.

As a part of the organisation of the Tariff Reform League, which has been inaugurated for the development and defence of the industrial interests of the British Empire, a committee of Colonial gentlemen, resident in this country, has been formed to secure a full expression of opinion on behalf of Colonists at home and in the Colonies, in support of the fiscal proposals of Mr. Chamberlain. The Offices of the League are 7, Victoria Street, and the Secretary of the Colonial Committee is Mr. F. H. Congdon, to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

Jamaica Relief Fund.

Reports as to the extent of the distress in Jamaica caused by the Cyclone of August 11th last are still of a conflicting character, and it appearing that the total amount of the Relief Funds was upwards of £10,000, it was, on the 16th instant, decided to announce the closing of the West India Committee Fund at the end of the month. On the 17th instant we received a telegram from the Colonial Secretary of Jamaica to the effect that the Jamaica Relief Committee reported that in five parishes from which details were received, 8863 houses were wholly and 3618 partially destroyed, and that the supply of fallen fruit was exhausted, and that the earliest crops would not mature for five months. We accordingly addressed a letter to the *Times* expressing the hope that further subscriptions might be forthcoming before the list was finally closed. On the 23rd instant we received the following very gratifying letter from Mr. Chamberlain:—

Downing Street, Sept. 22nd, 1903.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 17th and 18th of September with regard to the closing of the Jamaica Relief Fund, and I am to inform you that Mr. Chamberlain considers that the West India Committee have exercised a wise discretion in fixing a date for closing the Fund, though he hopes that it may be further augmented before the end of the month.

2. I am to request that you will convey to the Members of the Committee an expression of Mr. Chamberlain's warm appreciation of their efforts, which have been attended with so much success. Mr. Chamberlain is confident that the Jamaica Government equally appreciates the services which the Committee have rendered to the Colony at a critical time.

I am, etc.,

The Secretary to the West India Committee.

C. P. LUCAS.

As we go to press the total of the Jamaica Relief Fund is £6500. The donations received during the week, include a second instalment of £50 from the fund raised by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of Bristol and £26 5s. from the Leathersellers Company. The final list of subscriptions will be published in our next issue.

West Indian Cotton.

At present everything augurs well for the future of the West Indian Cotton Industry, as will be seen from the extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents in the West Indies which we give on pages 45-46. The only jarring note is the appearance of caterpillars in Nevis. The erection of the Central Cotton Factories has been commenced at St. John's Antigua, and St. Vincent. The Factory at Barbados is completed and it is now proposed to erect a fourth by private enterprise in Nevis. It is estimated that about 30,000 lbs. of cotton seed have been distributed throughout the West Indies, either free or at a nominal cost, during the present season, thanks to the active co-operation of the British Cotton Growing Association and the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, accompanied by Mr. J. R. Bovell, Superintendent of the Barbados Botanic Station, left Barbados by the steamship "Tennyson" on Monday, September 14th, for New York. They are proceeding to the southern States to study the cultivation and treatment of Sea Island cotton, this being the variety which appears to be best suited for cultivation in the West Indies. On September 16th a Conference was held at the Colonial Office, to consider the question of the development of cotton growing in the West Indies. The Duke of Marlborough, Under Secretary for the Colonies, presided, and the following Colonial officials were present:—Sir Frederic Hodgson, Barbados; Sir Gerald Strickland, Leeward Islands; Sir

Courtenay Knowles, Trinidad; Sir Robert Llewelyn, Windward Islands, and Mr. Ashmore, British Guiana; together with Mr. Lucas and Mr. Pearson, of the Colonial Office; Mr. Dobree, Chairman of the Colonial Bank; and Sir Alfred Jones, President, and Mr. J. C. Atkins, Secretary, of the British Cotton Growing Association. The Chairman stated that the movement in the West Indies and in other parts of the Empire met with the most cordial approval, and would receive every possible support from the Government, whilst the Colonial Secretary took a very great personal interest in the matter. The Duke of Marlborough promised Sir Alfred Jones that he would attend the next meeting of the Association in Manchester, early in October.

The Barbados Grant-in-Aid, 1902.

The following resolution was adopted at a meeting of Barbados proprietors on the 23rd inst. and confirmed by the Executive Committee this afternoon:—It appearing that the sum voted by the Imperial Parliament on July 31st 1902, to the West Indies was as a Free Grant for the express purpose of enabling the sugar plantations to tide over the emergency period during which the abolition of bounties was suspended by the Brussels Convention, and that the sum of £80,000 was appropriated to Barbados for this purpose:—

Resolved.—“ That the Government of Barbados be appealed to in favour of the passing of an Act, distributing the grant of £80,000 between the plantations under cultivation for the sugar crops of 1902, and that it is suggested as a fair rate of distribution, that the average of the crops for 1900, 1901 and 1902, the basis adopted in British Guiana and other Colonies be taken, and further that the distributive share to which each plantation is entitled, should be shown by certificates issued in such form as to be negotiable.”

The Rum Surtax.

The Sub-Committee appointed on July 30th last to consider Mr. Steele's report on the Excise Restrictions in the West Indies and British Guiana in connection with the proposal of the Government to sanction the payment of an export allowance, calculated on the same principle as the similar allowance made to British distillers, have now completed their labours, and their recommendations will be laid before the next meeting of the Executive Committee. It will be remembered that Mr. Steele's instructions were—

(a) To conduct an examination into the Excise Regulations under which the manufacture of Rum is carried on in these British Colonies.

(b) Keeping in view the allowance granted on spirits exported from this country, as an equivalent for the additional cost to distillers, of Excise restrictions imposed in the interests of the revenue, and the surtax on the ordinary customs duty, calculated in the same manner as the export allowance levied on spirits imported into the United Kingdom, to study the restrictions in force in each Colony, to consider whether any of these are unnecessary, or, if in the interests of the revenue, they should be made more stringent, and to report which of these may properly be taken into account in fixing an allowance on export, and at what amount that allowance should be fixed.

(c) To advise the Government of each Colony generally on the subject of its Excise system, with a view of remedying defects and establishing a nearer approach to uniformity, so far as is consistent with the differences of local conditions.

He accordingly left London on March 1st, 1902, and after visiting all the Colonies with the exception of Tobago, Nevis, and the Virgin Islands, returned on September 3rd of the same year. Mr. Steele's reply to those who urged that the whole Surtax of 4d. imposed by the British Government against British Colonial spirits should be removed so far as the West Indies are concerned, and the produce of these Colonies (forming, as they do, an integral part of the Empire) admitted to the home market on the same terms as the distiller at home, was—

1st.—That the distillers in this country were placed in a position to incur loss simply to convenience the revenue, and that it would be unjust to handicap them by admitting into the home markets without surtax the produce of Colonial distillers who were not called on to make a similar sacrifice

2nd.—That as the consumption of rum in this country was practically stationary, and had been so for between 40 and 50 years, notwithstanding a large increase in population, and a serious fall of the article in value, say, from 30 to 50 per cent., it could scarcely be expected that, where the causes referred to failed to operate so as to send up the consumption, the removal of 4d. a gallon would produce any tangible increase in consumption. And if after the removal of the surtax the consumption remained stationary, the benefit of that reduction would not reach the producers, but would go into the pockets of the rum importers in this country.

He estimated the average cost of Excise Restrictions at under $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon.

Jamaica	++	++	.76	farthing.	St. Vincent	...	...	1 3	farthing.
British Guiana	...	...	.45	..	Barbados	...	...	31	..
Trinidad	++	++	.245	..	St. Lucia	...	...	1.12	..
Grenada	...	...	1.9	..					

Having given the salient features of Mr. Steele's report we refrain from criticism, pending the publication of the sub-committee's recommendation, but the feeling with which it is viewed by the trade, is shown by the following leading article which appeared in the *Wine Trade Review*, of the 15th inst :

"We have before us a Parliamentary report in blue-book form from Mr. J. Steele, C.B., to the Colonial Secretary, on Excise restrictions in force in the West Indies and British Guiana. Mr. Steele, who is an ex-official of Somerset House, was selected for the mission of inquiry doubtless because of his long Excise experience and knowledge of distilleries in this country. His instructions from Mr. Chamberlain were to examine into the Excise regulations under which rum is manufactured in the British Colonies, keeping in view the question of allowance and surtax in consideration of Revenue restrictions imposed on spirit manufacture in the United Kingdom. The subject is not new to the columns of the *Wine Trade Review*, and we must confess that after a fairly careful perusal of all Mr. Steele has to say in his report we do not think we can add much to the information given to our readers when the same subject was discussed on reports from resident officials some two or three years back. We notice that Mr. Steele strongly disagrees with the chief local expert Officers—the Collector of Customs and the Government Analyst of Trinidad—on the main question of allowances in that island. On comparing their respective reports, however, we are inclined to accept the views of the local Officers, who are men of necessarily special merit and able to give an opinion, rather than that of one who is but a flying visitor, and who, if we may judge by the whole tone of his report, appears to have had preconceived ideas on many of the points at issue. Mr. Steele maintains that the West Indian Colonies can make out no case whatever for complaint against the operation of the differential duty of 5d. per gallon imposed on colonial rum when imported to this country, inasmuch as there is no ground for the contention of the West India Committee and others interested in the Colonies that Excise restrictions similar to those at home exist in the Colonies. In language which may not sound strange to official ears, but which to commercial sense seems dogmatic and intemperate, Mr. Steele somewhat discourteously brushes aside every opinion which at all runs counter to his own, and even goes so far as to impugn the official competency to give opinion of such men as the Collector of Customs and the Government Analyst of Trinidad on the grounds that the one had 'probably never been inside a distillery,' and that the other was 'an Assistant of Excise for a short time, and left the service before he had been more than initiated into the rudiments of practical work.' We are surprised that such strictures should find their way into a Parliamentary report, and we are pleased to see that a superior taste prevented the gentle men impugned from retaliating by a suggestion to the Colonial Secretary that a superannuated Officer with ideas necessarily antiquated was hardly

the best selection for a reforming mission to the colonies. In view of what appears to us a somewhat intemperate treatment of his subject, we are constrained to pass over much of what Mr. Steele has dogmatised upon, but we may permit ourselves to point out that he is hardly logical when, on the one hand, he says that the laxity of supervision is so great as to justify compensation for Excise restrictions, and, on the other hand, to advocate immediate and stringent reform of the laws by fixing up restrictions to secure the rum revenue from leakage and fraud on lines similar to those obtaining at home. If the latter suggestion is carried out, then his recommendations as to allowances are useless, and we find no estimate of what such allowances should be if the necessary reform in supervision were instituted. We also think that the report unduly labours the incidence of existing rates of import duties on British spirits as against internal duties on rum, in so far as it affects the question of the differential duty on imports to this country. Barbados is quoted, but as evidence that some other reasons than those of protection to rum exist for the higher rates of duty on imported spirit, we would point out that different rates prevail as against different imports. Whisky there, for instance, is charged at 10s., whilst gin—also a British spirit—is charged at 5s., showing, we suggest, that a question of taste may be a deciding element in fixing rates. Mr. Steele makes several statements throughout his report which we scarcely think can be deemed sound fiscally or commercially. He says, for instance, that the removal of the 5d. surtax on rum on importation would not tangibly increase consumption, and would benefit importers but not producers. Considering what the first cost of rum in the Colonies is, it is hardly conceivable that the removal of the 5d. would not be attended with benefits all round. We accord Mr. Steele every credit for the marvellous knowledge which so short a sojourn in the 'Sunny West' appears to have given him, but we venture to think that a longer acquaintance with colonial conditions might have affected his conclusions."

New Members of the West India Committee.

Inasmuch as the subscriptions of New Members elected on and after Thursday next will not, by virtue of Rule IV., be renewable until January 1st, 1905, we may look for a considerable accretion to our membership during the last three months of the current year. At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Committee on the 17th inst., the following new Members were elected:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
ERNEST A. HINKSON, Esq. (Barbados)	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.	Gay C. Edghill, Esq.
His Honour W. HERBERT GREAVES, } K.C. (Barbados)	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.	George Carrington, Esq.
Messrs. ISAAC DIXON & Co.	H. K. Davson, Esq.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
THE MANAGER, Bristol Corporation Docks	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.	Col. A. H. Nourse
His Grace the ARCHBISHOP OF THE } WEST INDIES (Jamaica)	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	H. K. Davson, Esq.

The next election of Candidates will take place on Thursday next, October 1st, by which date it is requested that the names of Candidates with their Proposers and Seconders may be sent to the Secretary.

The West Indian Club.

The fortnightly dinners of the West Indian Club were resumed on the 16th instant, when the following Members and their guests attended. His Excellency Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., Sir A. Jones, K.C.M.G., Judge Lindsey Smith, Ven. Archdeacon Downer, Captain F. H. Voules, Messrs. J. C. Atkins, J. A. Bains, F. Berger, H. Berger, J. Braham, J. Bell-Smythe, E. Vicker Caarten,

W. Crommelin, E. B. Ellis, W. P. Eversley, W. A. M. Goode, G. H. N. Haly, A. Hutchinson, Lawrence Jones, A. N. Lubbock, L. de Mercado, A. E. Messer, J. E. Mitchell, T. A. McCreat, A. Mc D. Nathan, A. Nightingale, A. E. O'Neill, T. H. Preston, O. Phillips, H. Powell Rees, J. Rippon, A. R. Saunders, R. Schult, F. W. Scott, W. P. B. Sheppard, E. Sturridge, C. Wilson, and T. B. Younger.

In the after-dinner speeches reference was made to the condition of the West Indies, and a hopeful view was taken of the future owing to the abolition of the sugar bounties, and the successful organising and carrying out of subsidiary industries, that of cotton being considered very important. After dinner a Committee Meeting was held, and twenty new members, bringing the total to 375, were elected.

The arrangements for the next Club dinner, which will be held on Wednesday, 30th instant, have been undertaken by Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. T. E. Mitchell, and Mr. R. Schult. Upon this occasion His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies will be the guest of the Club.

An Appeal for the Jamaica Church.

His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, who is at present in this country, has issued an appeal for help for the Jamaica Church which has suffered severely through the Cyclone. Many of the buildings of the Church have suffered much in the general destruction, and it is now urgently necessary to seek help in Great Britain for the re-erection or repair of those buildings, as the Church cannot benefit by the Charitable Funds already opened in England, but must make special provision for its own requirements. The following is a brief summary of the injury to Church Buildings:—Five Churches wrecked; Thirty-three Mission and School Chapels wrecked; Forty-four Mission and School Chapels seriously damaged; Twelve Parsonages wrecked or seriously damaged. The estimated cost of re-building and repairs is £15,000, and we are asked to state that contributions (marked "For the Jamaica Church Hurricane Relief Fund") may be sent to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 19, Delahay Street, Westminster, London, S.W.; or to the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 9, Sergeants Inn, Fleet Street, London, E.C.; or to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59, Strand, London, W.C.; or to the Treasurer of the Jamaica Church Aid Association, 24, Belsize Park, London, N.W.

The Forthcoming Tourist Season.

Preparation is being made for what is likely to prove an exceptionally busy tourist season in the West Indies. Last year we had occasion to express a hope that visitors might not be deterred from visiting the Islands of the Caribbean through apprehension regarding the Soufriere and Mont Pelé, and now we are anxious that the recent cyclone in Jamaica should not cause an alteration in the plans of intending tourists. The hurricane season is already practically over, and the Constant Spring and Myrtle Bank Hotels are rapidly filling. The ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY have made arrangements for a series of tours during November, December, January, and February, with special facilities both as to cost and comfort. The first tour starts with the R.M.S. "La Plata" on November 11th. Competent surgeons are carried on the vessels, and the stewardesses are trained nurses. Each ship has a first class orchestra, while an additional attraction is provided for photographers in the shape of facilities for developing the result of their labours. A large number of tourists will, doubtless, avail themselves of the opportunity of 65 days of health and pleasure for £65, but for those who cannot afford the time shorter tours of seven weeks for £55 have been arranged. MESSRS. ELDER, DEMPSTER & Co. are leaving no stone unturned to bring before the British Public the attractions of Jamaica, the

"New Riviera," and the passenger lists of the IMPERIAL DIRECT WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE augur well for a busy season in the Isle of Springs. A large influx of Americans to Jamaica, by the steamers of the UNITED FRUIT COMPANY may be looked for, and an increasing number of Canadians will avail themselves of the opportunity of a cruise down to the Islands in the well equipped steamers of Messrs. PICKFORD & BLACK.

Dr. HENRY S. LUNN announces a sixty days' cruise in the "Argonaut" for forty guineas. The "Argonaut" will leave Marseilles on December 1st, and reach Barbados, via Tangier and Teneriffe, on December 20th, visiting subsequently Trinidad, December 20th; Jamaica, December 28th; St. Kitts, January 5th; Guadeloupe, January 7th; Dominica, January 8th; St. Pierre, January 10th; St. Lucia, January 11th, according to present arrangements. Kittifonians, Dominicans, and St. Lucians will do well to bear in mind these dates and get their mules into condition accordingly. The account of last year's cruise is contained in a pamphlet, "The Westward Cruise of the Argonaut," taken from a volume prepared by the passengers, illustrated by some very telling photographs.

Mr. Chamberlain's Letter to Mr. Balfour.

The following is the text of the correspondence between Mr. Chamberlain and the Prime Minister, to which reference is made in our first paragraph:—

Highbury, Birmingham, Sept 9th, 1903.

My Dear Balfour,

In anticipation of the important Cabinet which is to meet on Monday I have most carefully considered the present situation as it affects the Government and also the great question of fiscal reform.

When you, in replying to the deputation on the Corn Tax, and I, in addressing my constituents at Birmingham, called attention to the changes that had taken place in our commercial position during the last fifty years and suggested an inquiry into the subject, I do not think that either of us intended to provoke purely party controversy. We raised, not for the first time, a question of the greatest national and imperial importance in the hope that it would be discussed with a certain impartiality by both friends and opponents, and that the inquiry thus initiated might lead to conclusions accepted by a majority of the people of this country and represented accordingly in the results of the next general election. Whether our view was reasonable or not it was certainly not shared by the leaders of the Liberal Party. From the first they scouted the idea that a system which was generally accepted in 1846 could possibly require any modification in 1903, and the whole resources of the party organisation were brought into play against any attempt to alter or even to inquire into the foundations of our existing fiscal policy.

Meanwhile the advocates of reconsideration were at a great disadvantage. Owing to admitted differences of opinion in the Unionist Party, the political organisations of the party were paralysed, and our opponents have had full possession of the field. They have placed in the forefront of their arguments their objections to the taxation of food, and even to any readjustment of the existing taxation, with a view of securing the mutual advantage of ourselves and our Colonies and the closer union of the different parts of the Empire.

A somewhat unscrupulous use has been made of the old cry of the dear loaf, and in the absence of any full public discussion of the question, I recognise that serious prejudice has been created and that, while the people generally are alive to the danger of unrestricted competition on the part of those foreign countries that close their markets to us, while finding in our market an outlet for their surplus production, they have not yet appreciated the importance to our trade of Colonial markets nor the danger of losing them if we do not meet in some way their natural and patriotic desire for preferential trade. The result is that, for the present at any rate, a preferential agreement with our Colonies involving any new duty, however small, on articles of food hitherto untaxed, is, even if accompanied by a reduction of taxation on other articles of food of equally universal consumption, unacceptable to the majority in the constituencies. However much we may regret their decision, and however mistaken we may think it to be, no Government in a democratic country can ignore it.

I feel, therefore, that as an immediate and practical policy the question of preference to the Colonies cannot be pressed with any hope of success at the present time, although there is a very strong feeling in favour of the other branch of fiscal reform which would give a fuller discretion to the Government in negotiating with foreign countries for freer exchange of commodities, and would enable our representatives to retaliate if no concession were made to our just claims for greater reciprocity. If, as I believe, you share these views, it seems to me that you will be absolutely justified in adopting them as the policy of your Government, although it will necessarily involve some changes in its constitution.

As Secretary of State for the Colonies during the last eight years, I have been in a special sense the representative of the policy of closer union, which, I firmly believe, is equally necessary in the interests of the Colonies and of ourselves, and I believe that it is possible to-day—and may be impossible to-morrow—to make arrangements for such a union. I have had unexampled opportunities of watching the trend of events and of appreciating the feelings of our kinsmen beyond the seas. I stand, therefore, in a different position to that of any of my colleagues, and I think I should be justly blamed if I remained in office and thus formally accepted the exclusion from my political programme of so important a part of it.

I think that with absolute loyalty to your Government and its general policy, and with no fear of embarrassing it in any way, I can best promote the cause I have at heart from outside, and I cannot but hope that in a perfectly independent position my arguments may be received with less prejudice than would attach to those of a party leader. Accordingly I suggest that you should limit the present policy of the Government to the assertion of our freedom in the case of all commercial relations with foreign countries, and that you should agree to my tendering my resignation of my present office to His Majesty, and devoting myself to the work of explaining and popularising those principles of imperial union which my experience has convinced me are essential to our future welfare and prosperity.

Yours very sincerely,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Mr. Balfour's Reply.

10, Downing Street, S.W., Sept. 16th, 1903.

My Dear Chamberlain,

I did not answer your letter of the 9th which I received shortly before my departure from Scotland for the Cabinet meeting, as I knew that we should within a few hours have an opportunity of talking over the important issues with which it deals. The reply, therefore, which I am now writing rather embodies the results of our conversations than adds to them anything which is new.

Agreeing, as I do, with you that the time has come when a change should be made in the fiscal canons by which we have bound ourselves in our commercial dealings with other Governments, it seems paradoxical indeed that you should leave the Cabinet at the same time that others of my colleagues are leaving it, who disagree on the very point with us both. Yet I cannot but admit, however reluctantly, that there is some force in the arguments with which you support that course, based as they are upon your special and personal relation to that portion of the controversy which deals with Colonial preference. You have done more than any man, living or dead, to bring home to the citizens of the Empire the consciousness of imperial obligation and the inter-dependence between the various fragments into which the Empire is geographically divided. I believe you to be right in holding that this inter-dependence should find expression in our commercial relations as well as in our political and military relations. I believe with you that closer fiscal union between the Mother-country and her Colonies would be good for the trade of both, and that if such closer union could be established on fitting terms its advantages to both parties would increase as the years went on and as the Colonies grew in wealth and population.

If there ever has been any difference between us in connection with this matter, it has only been with regard to the practicability of a proposal which would seem to require on the part of the Colonies a limitation in the all-round development of a protective policy, and on the part of this country the establishment of a preference in favour of important Colonial products. On the first of these requirements I say nothing, but if the second involves, as it most certainly does, taxation, however light, upon food-stuffs, I am convinced with you that public opinion is not yet ripe for such an arrangement. The reasons may easily be found in past political misrepresentations. If, then, this branch of fiscal reform is not at present within the limits of practical politics, you are surely right in your advice not to treat it as indissolubly connected with that other branch of fiscal reform to which we both attach importance, and which we believe the country is prepared to consider without prejudice.

I feel, however, deeply concerned that you should regard this conclusion, however well founded, as one which makes it difficult for you in your very special circumstances to remain a member of the Government. Yet I do not venture, in a matter so strictly personal, to raise any objection. If you think you can best serve the interests of Imperial unity, for which you have done so much, by pressing your views on Colonial preference with the freedom which is possible in an independent position but is hardly compatible with office, how can I criticise your determination? The loss to the Government is great, indeed; but the gain to the cause you have at heart may be greater still. If so, what can I do but acquiesce?

Yours very sincerely,

ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.

P.S.—May I say with what gratification, both on personal and on public grounds, I learn that Mr. Austen Chamberlain is ready to remain a member of the Government. There could be no more conclusive evidence that in your judgment, as in mine, the exclusion of taxation on food from the party programme is, in existing circumstances, the course best fitted practically to further the cause of fiscal reform.



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THE RIGHT HON. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.

Secretary of State for the Colonies, June 28th, 1895—September 18th, 1903.

The Rice and Dhol Circular.

The West India Committee have received from the Committee of Commerce, Barbados, a resolution protesting against the terms of the "Rice and Dhol Circular" issued by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Messrs. Frederick Leyland & Co. (1900), Ltd., Prentice, Service & Henderson, Wm. Smith & Co., Scrutton, Sons, & Co., and Thomas and James Harrison. The Circular announces that from September 1st, 1903, the following new clause will appear on all Bills of Lading issued by these Companies in Calcutta or the United Kingdom, and that all Rice and Dhol shipped by their steamers after that date will be carried and delivered at the ports named, subject to these conditions.

CLAUSE.—"Not accountable for loss of contents from Bags of Rice or Dhol becoming slack, torn or holed while in custody of ship or otherwise howsoever, except for loss exceeding 10 lbs. on any one Bag. In any claim, each Bag shall be treated separately, and in case of a loss in excess of 10 lbs. in respect of an ullaged Bag, a deduction of 10 lbs. to be made from the claim upon that Bag. Where a Bag is noted on Bill of Lading as "Slack," the above clause does not apply, and the ship is to be under no responsibility whatever for the contents of such Bag."

The resolution urges that the terms of the Circular are not only unjust and unfair but that they will tend to cause less care to be taken with the class referred to, thereby causing loss to the importers, and that this is a shirking of the responsibility which as common carriers the Companies are reasonably expected to assume. This protest was considered at a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on the 17th instant, and it was decided that it would be premature to take action in the matter at the present moment and that the best course to adopt would be to watch the working of the new arrangement, and if it were found to be very prejudicial, then to make representations to the Companies, who would, it is understood, be prepared to give attention to them.

* Dominica.

Mr. Bell's Notes on Dominica have now been published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in pamphlet form. They are concise and comprehensive, answering as they do every question likely to be asked by an intending settler. Routes, outfit, hotels, clubs and amusements, places of worship, schools, sport, servants, etc., are all dealt with in a succession of bright paragraphs, in which neither too much nor too little is said.

The staple industries of Dominica are as Mr. H. A. A. Nicholls pointed out in the article in the *Empire Review* to which we referred in our last Circular, cacao and lime juice, sugar being now reduced to the position of a minor industry in this Island, as is shown by the following figures—

Products.	1892.	1902.
Cacao	£9700	£29,000
Lime Juice	11,000	30,000
Sugar Cane	17,000	1500

The Dominica planters are very wisely not putting all their "eggs into one basket," and most of the estates have a varied cultivation. Messrs. Rowntree & Co., the great chocolate manufacturers of York, possess several large cacao estates at the north end of the island, and are rapidly increasing their output. Dominica has always been by far the greatest producer of lime juice, the value of the exports of lime juice and its by-products exceed considerably those of Montserrat. A large trade in fresh limes is also being rapidly developed with the American markets, and there seems to be no reason why an equally good demand for this fruit should not be created in the home markets. Considerable planta-

* Dominica: Hints to Settlers, by the Administrator of Dominica. Pamphlet 24, Imperial Department of Agriculture, obtainable from West India Committee. 3d.

tions of oranges have been established, and there is every reason to believe that the export of pineapples will prove a very profitable enterprise. It has, in fact, been stated by eminent authorities on tropical agriculture, that owing to its remarkable varieties of soil, aspect, and altitude, there is hardly a sub-tropical product that cannot be successfully raised there.

Particulars as to Crown lands are given—they comprise about 120,000 acres, and are being sold at 10/- per acre. The payment of the purchase money for blocks exceeding 100 acres is spread over three or four years. The survey fees are extra, and average 2s. 6d. an acre for small blocks. The Crown lands for the most part consist of ridges and valleys; the slopes are admirably suited to tropical agriculture, and in the centre of each valley a stream of excellent water is always found. Analyses of Dominica soils show them to be particularly rich in humus, and in the case of virgin soils, chemical manures are quite unnecessary.

The climate varies according to the altitude. On the high grounds and hills it cannot be surpassed; lower down it is moist and warm, but still not unhealthy, except in a few localities.

For further information respecting the advantages offered by Dominica from the planter's point of view, the intending settler is advised to buy from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode a pamphlet entitled "The Agricultural Capabilities of Dominica," by C. O. Natfel, late Inspector of Estates in Ceylon, price 7½d. The pamphlet entitled "Dominica," by F. Sterns-Fadelle, on sale at the Imperial Institute, is also recommended.

The Sugar Cane in Egypt.

Sugar Planters will do well to expend 5/- in the purchase of Mr. Walter Tiemann's work, "The Sugar Cane in Egypt." In the group of Egyptian agricultural industries, the sugar cane takes the lead, and the writer, who for five years has been employed in superintending the work of an experimental station in Upper Egypt, gives a description of the cane culture and the treatment of the soil. The future of intensive culture has received special attention in a chapter on the subject of manuring the cane and in pages which deal with comparative field experiments, the latter being illustrated by a series of very successful and characteristic photographs.

Molascuit.

We are informed by Mr. George Hughes that the Molascuit Company are disappointed with their Argentine supplies of this cattle food. In consequence of the great local demand, the Argentine shippers will only fulfil existing contracts. One Estate is selling 170 tons a week, the price obtainable in the Argentine showing a better return than the current price in this country. It appears that the Argentine Government are using this commodity for their cavalry with successful results. The company regret that with an increasing demand in this country they have not at the present moment a single ton available in London, a position which is prejudicial to the future progress of this industry. Contracts for forward delivery are being made however on the basis of 45 per cent. sweetening matter, the Molascuit to be packed in uniform weight in bags.

France and Jamaica.

There has now been issued as a Parliamentary paper a copy of the convention signed on the 8th August between the United Kingdom and France respecting commercial relations between France and Jamaica. The articles of the treaty are as follows:—

(1) The following colonial products: coffee, cocoa, pepper, pimento, amomums and cardamoms, cinnamon, cassia lignea, nutmegs, mace, cloves, vanilla and tea, produce of Jamaica, shall enjoy on

* The Sugar Cane in Egypt, by Walter Tiemann. 5/- net. Altrincham: Office of the *International Sugar Journal*.

importation into France, Algeria, French colonies and possessions, and the Protectorates of Indo-China and Tunis, the lowest Customs duties applicable to similar products of any other foreign origin.

(2) Reciprocally, the natural and manufactured products of France, Algeria, French colonies and possessions, and the Protectorates of Indo-China and Tunis, shall enjoy without restriction or reserve, on importation into Jamaica, the lowest Customs duties applicable to similar products of other foreign origin.

(3) The certificates of origin which may be required for the admission of goods to the preferential conditions stipulated in the present treaty shall be visés by French Consuls and by British Consuls without levying Consular fees.

(4) The present convention shall come into effect immediately after the exchange of ratifications, and shall remain in force until the expiration of one year from the day on which one of the contracting parties shall have announced its intention of terminating it.

The ratification of the treaty took place on the 12th August.

Colonial Report—Turks and Caicos Islands, 1902.

The report of Mr. Douglas Young, Commissioner, in the Blue Book of Turks and Caicos Islands for 1902 has just been published (Colonial Reports' Annual, No. 394). The following is a comparative table of the Revenue and Expenditure of this Colony, for the past five years :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
1898	£7232	8061	£ 829 Deficit.
1899	8032	7644	388 Surplus.
1900	9190	8052	1138 "
1901	9030	7989	1041 "
1902	8693	8006	687 "

The four principal articles of export are Salt, Sisal Grass (fibre), Sponge and Turtle Shell, the quantities exported compared with 1901, are as follows :—

	1902.	1901.
Salt	£22,196	£22,782
Sisal Grass	7100	6551
Sponge	1961	9277
Turtle Shell	547	937

The President and the Assistant Secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, visited the Island during the year, but their report fore-shadowed no likely increase of trade with Canada. The United States have always been the principal market for Turks Island Salt. For a summary of other Colonial Reports we would refer members to the following *West India Committee Circulars*: British Honduras (390) No. 103; Barbados (368) No. 87; Jamaica (373) No. 87; Leeward Islands (374) No. 87; Grenada (376) No. 88; British Guiana (378) No. 88; Trinidad and Tobago (382) No. 93; St. Vincent (385) No. 98.

Notes.

THE BANQUET TO OUR CHAIRMAN, SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G., will be held at the Whitehall Rooms on Wednesday, November 25th next.

APPLICATION FOR SPACES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS in the *West India Committee Circular*, should be addressed to the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., from whom full particulars regarding them are obtainable.

WE HAVE TO CONGRATULATE DR. G. B. MASON upon his appointment as a Medical Officer of the Leeward Islands. Prior to his departure to Antigua Dr. Mason will be entertained at dinner by the West Indian Club, of which he is the founder.

CABLE INTERRUPTIONS. Telegraphic communication between Demerara and Trinidad which was interrupted on August 26th, was restored on the 14th inst. The Demerara-Trinidad No. 2 Cable has broken down on four successive occasions in the current year. The Antigua-Guadeloupe Cable which was interrupted on August 9th last, was restored on the 24th inst., thus renewing communication with Dominica.

AT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE on the 17th inst., a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Edgar Tripp and Mr. J. O. Wright for their services as representatives of the West India Committee at the recent meetings of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at Montreal (August 17-21).

THE NEW POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE Leeward Islands to hand by mail, are somewhat disappointing. For Dominica the design is a view of Roseau from the sea for all denominations up to five shillings, which has a design including the King's Head. Antigua has a diminutive view, surmounted by the Royal Arms. St. Kitts, Nevis have an obscure figure which we imagine to be Christopher Columbus in an uncomfortable position, gazing at the land.

AS A MEMORIAL OF THE LATE MR. QUINTIN HOGG, a former Deputy-Chairman of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, the Polytechnic proposes to lay out some suitable grounds for use of the various clubs of that excellent institution. The enclosure will be fitted up to suit the requirements of all branches of sport. With this object in view, Mr. J. E. K. Studd, of 67, Harley Street, W., has written to the *Times* inviting donations.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY'S report for the year ending June 30th last, adopted on the 24th inst., shows a nett profit of £1430, as compared with £1789. This serious reduction in the Company's income for the year is chiefly due to the interference with traffic beyond Jamaica as the result of the recent decision in favour of the Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company in their suit with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. A fourth successive dividend of 6 per cent. has however been declared, the amount to the credit of revenue account being £30,612 as against £30,981.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT of Mr. Consul-General St. John on Peru, the crisis experienced in the sugar industry in 1902 was of so acute a character that at one time it was thought its effect would be disastrous. In July last a commission was appointed to report on the sugar industry and to suggest measures of relief. The commission recommended that scientific measures should be adopted and that improved machinery should be substituted for all obsolete installations. This would, no doubt, be a step in the right direction and, if taken eventually, will be a matter of interest to British manufacturers of sugar machinery.

"THE LOUISIANA PLANTER" has paid us the compliment of reproducing in its pages the half-tone of the British Delegates at the Brussels Sugar Conference, which we issued as a supplement to our Circular, No. 102. The *Planter* says "That Conference was one of vast importance to us in Louisiana, as well as to the beet sugar producers of the country, and it is well for us to become familiar with the faces of the British Delegates who brought about this somewhat revolutionary movement in British politico-economic legislation. A finer looking body of men can hardly be found together, and we are quite sure that we in Louisiana will appreciate the excellent work that these gentlemen have performed, and appreciate it as thoroughly as our British West Indian cousins will."

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco" anchored off Plymouth, at 2 a.m. on Thursday, September 24th, and the mails were delivered in London at 2 p.m. the same day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Morant," arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, September 16th.

The Homeward Mail by the R.M.S. "Orinoco" has brought us many congratulatory messages, regarding the enlargement of the *West India Committee Circular*, which we acknowledge with thanks. The announcement that the Quarantine Commission would probably meet in January, was cause for satisfaction, especially in Barbados. The weather on the whole continued favourable. We have received copies of the following publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The *Agricultural News*, Vol. II., No. 37, price 1d., a useful number, with a leading article on "Hurricanes and Agriculture." "Reports on the Botanic Station, and Experimental Plots, Montserrat, 1902-03," price 6d. "Reports on the Botanic Stations, Cacao Experimental Plots, and Agricultural Education, Grenada, 1902-03," price 3d; and the Dominica pamphlet, price 2d., to which we refer elsewhere. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua.—A. St. G. Spooner, Esq. September 8th. Cotton seemed to be coming on everywhere, and there had not been so far much complaint of caterpillar attack. The erection of the central Cotton Factory in St. John's had been commenced: the machinery would consist of a steam driven gin and baling presses, and would be able to deal with all the seed cotton likely to be produced in the Island within the near future. Without a factory of this kind, it was improbable that cotton production would extend to the small grower class, but with it there should be no reason why much land now worthless and abandoned to bush should not be profitably cultivated by this class. The Government had offered suitable land for this purpose in blocks not exceeding 20 acres, free of rent for two years to persons desirous of trying cotton growing. Antigua had had a fairly favourable fortnight, some nice showers falling, but unfortunately these favours were by no means equally distributed; of course it was the hottest season of the year here, and a time when it could be said "more rain, more cane." The outlook for next crop depended very greatly on the rainfall during the next three months; the canes generally all over the Island were decidedly backward for the time of year, but good rains during the next three months would bring a good crop notwithstanding. The young onion plants were coming up nicely, and the number of planters giving this industry a trial was on the increase.

Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, September 10th. The voluntary subscription list started for the relief of Jamaica amounted to £400 16s. 5d., a satisfactory figure considering the impoverished state of the Island. After the hurricane of 1898 Jamaica contributed £416 to the relief of Barbados. The weather continued all that could be desired. August furnished Barbados with copious rains up to the last day, and September had opened well. The last few days had given bright suns which were very welcome, and under their influence the canes were growing with marvellous rapidity. On Saturday, September 5th, a sort of whirlwind prevailed for about half-an-hour, which had the effect of blowing down the canes in spots, especially the more forward ones. In the Scotland districts a few fields were blown down flat, but as a general rule it was hoped that they would recover and that little damage had been done. There was no doubt that at the present moment they stood extremely well for next year's crop, and he trusted that nothing might occur to mar it. The Cotton crop was also most promising, and the Onions were beginning to sprout well. The shipment of Bananas by the "Trent" did well, but hardly made up for the losses by the "Orinoco" and the "Para." The Legislative Council was specially summoned for the next day to consider the despatch which had at length been received from Mr. Chamberlain relative to the Quarantine Commission which he wished to meet at Barbados in January. The severe lightning had struck St. Mark's church, the mill of Bayley's in St. Phillip's, cottage in St. George's, and several estate chimneys. The barometer had however remained steady.

British Guiana.—J. C. McCowan, Esq., September 10th. A public meeting had been held to urge the Government to contribute towards the relief of sufferers in Jamaica, but the Governor had not altered his decision not to do so. Mr. R. G. Duncan's leave being up as a member of the Court of Policy for Eastern Demerara, his seat was declared vacant. The Association had him nominated again on the 7th inst., when he was opposed by Mr. Gonsalves, solicitor, and the 11th had been fixed for the receiving of votes at the different polling stations. The "Khone," the third and last return coolie ship of the season, left on the 7th inst. with 650 adults, 316 of these were from Surinam. One sale of about

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," Sept. 24th, 1903:—**Barbados**.—Mr. L. G. Munro, Mr. J. C. R. King, Mr. A. H. Easty, Mr. F. E. Harrison, Master A. Cameron, Mr. J. A. Brown, Mr. F. W. Greaves, Mr. C. W. Armstrong. **Demerara**.—Miss R. Gill, Mr. A. B. Gall, Mrs. P. Dargan, Master Dargan, Mr. A. Belgrave, Miss Mendonca, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Dyett, Dr. F. A. Neall, Mrs. Pitt, Mrs. W. J. Gill. **Jamaica**.—Mrs. Townshend, Mr. J. W. Pitcairn, Master T. B. Oughton, Mr. C. S. Wonham, Commodore D. M. Riddell, R.N., Mrs. D. M. Riddell, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hussey. **Trinidad**.—Master C. Lambie, Mrs. G. Goodwillie, Mr. and Mrs. Maingot, Miss M. Maingot, Master H. Maingot, Mrs. D. Arnott, Mrs. B. B. Rice, Lieut. G. Ferrero, Miss J. M. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Naden, Mr. W. Inniss. **Antigua**.—Mrs. W. Essex, Mrs. Swaby. **St. Lucia**.—Mr. H. W. Hunter, Miss H. Harvey, Miss N. Low, Mr. and Mrs. H. Devaux, Lieut. Rashleigh, Mr. and Mrs. G. Gane. **St. Vincent**.—Mr. G. Thompson, Mr. B. Wright.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," September 30th, 1903:—**Barbados**.—Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Miss E. Alleyne, His Excellency Sir F. M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G., Lady and Miss Hodgson, Rev. P. A. Farrer, Lieut. J. Devonport, Miss Layne, Mrs. E. H. Beckles, Capt. Sandys, Mr. A. B. Glen, Miss M. de la Mothe, Mr. G. S. Evelyn. **Demerara**.—Mr. and Mrs. Dare, Mr. E. Carpenter, Miss N. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Fleming, Miss M. Van Nooton, Mr. J. I. Chapman, Mrs. and Miss Fowler, Hon. Mrs. Duncan, Miss E. Scheidler, Mrs. H. Gibson, Mr. W. Eassie, the two Misses Psaila, Mrs. and Miss Mackay, Mr. T. Garnett. **Jamaica**.—Mr. G. A. Carpenter, Miss Brett, Mr. and Mrs. McFarlane, Miss G. Cruchy, Mr. and Mrs. F. Steel, Mrs. Verley, Miss A. Schloss, the two Misses Brandlay, His Hon. Judge C. H. Beard, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Caulfield, Mr. P. H. Hoffer, Miss S. Gallwey, Lieut. and Qtr.-Master G. F. Colley, W. I. R. and Mrs. Colley, Mr. F. E. Lyons, Mr. J. Cordova, Mr. H. Levy, Mr. J. De Cordova, Mr. and Mrs. Douet. **Trinidad**.—Mr. and Mrs. Maingot, Mr. J. Stevens, Mr. J. Miller, Mrs. M. Gransault, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. L. A. Salmon, Mr. and Mrs. Caracciolo, Mrs. A. de Lapeyrouse, Mr. L. de Lapeyrouse, Mr. E. Robinson, Mrs. and Miss Maillard, Miss A. Maillard, Dr. L. G. Camps, Mr. M. Alonzo, the two Misses Alonzo, Deputy Insp.-Gen. G. D. Swain and Mrs. Swain, Dr. J. Macfarlane, Mr. and Mrs. Sellier, the four Misses Sellier, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Mrs. and Miss De Lemos, Cpl. A. Paxton, the two Misses Devenish, Mr. R. Mason, Mr. J. de la Sauvagere, Mrs. L. H. Whitehead, Mrs. Mason, Mr. Grant. **Antigua**.—His Excellency Sir Gerald Strickland, the Lady Edeline Strickland, Mrs. and the two Misses Temple. **Dominica**.—Miss Vance, Miss Bryant, Mr. S. Buller. **St. Kitts**.—Miss M. Marshall, Miss Fuller, Mrs. Shelford. **Nevis**.—Mr. E. J. Ellis. **St. Lucia**.—Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, Mr. Peter, Mr. P. C. Larmour, Rev. W. M. Floissac, Mr. J. C. M. Queen. **St. Vincent**.—Miss S. Smith. **Grenada**.—Mrs. and Miss Tarring.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," Sept. 16th, 1903:—**Jamaica**.—Capt. and Mrs. Benson, Mr. C. Reid Campbell, the two Masters Campbell, the two Misses Campbell, Mr. Dillon, Miss Fenwick, Master and the two Misses Gideon, the two Misses Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Porter, Master Roxburgh, Mr. Stephenson, the two Misses Vickers, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wyke, Rev. P. L. Clarke, Mrs. Grout.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," Sept. 26th, 1903:—**Jamaica**.—Mr. P. J. Browne, Mrs. Burke, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hood-Daniel, Mr. Foy, Capt. and Mrs. R. S. Hamilton, Lieut. H. S. Harrison, R.N., Mr. J. T. Musson, Mr. C. B. M. Pringle, Mr. W. O. U. Purnell, Mr. W. I. Roberts, Mr. A. Sewell, Mr. Geo. Taylor, Miss Walters, Lieut. L. F. Wynne-Willson, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Holloway, Mrs. A. McGibbon, Mr. Starkey, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, Mr. D. Strathearn.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet—The season of 1902-3, the last of the Bounties, and let us hope of the Cartels also, is now fortunately closed, and it has been a memorable one from the above fact and also from the result of the European crops having proved of an unfavourable character, which has caused a deficiency in the yield on the known sowings of some 500,000 to 600,000 tons of Sugar. But for this, the average price of 88% which works out 8s. 1d., could easily have been below 6s. 6½d., which was the average of the preceding crop of 1901-2, a price spelling "blue ruin" to all Sugar Colonies, both British and Foreign, throughout the world and which if it had continued would have ultimately thrown the whole world's production into the hands of the Continental Sugar growers, enabling them to fix any prices they liked, and where then would have strayed the cheap Sugar clamoured for by a certain section of manufacturers in this Country! We have only just escaped a disaster and even now the over-production of previous seasons leaves us with a heavy accumulation which will take a lot of dissipating before we reach a level of Stocks necessary for a better range of values. Figures bearing on this point will be found in the course of these remarks. In the meantime it may be interesting to place on record the average prices of 88% beet obtained during the past ten seasons.

Seasons	1902/3	1901/2	1900/1	1899/1900	1898/9
	8s. 1d.	6s. 6½d.	9s. 2d.	10s. 3d.	10s. 2½d.
		Average of 5 Seasons, 8s. 10d.			
Seasons	1897/8	1896/7	1895/6	1894/5	1893/4
	9s. 2½d.	8s. 11d.	10s. 9½d.	9s. 6d.	12s. 4½d.
		Average of 5 Seasons, 10s. 2d.			

Lights Continental Stocks, 1st September. Bounty and Cartel Fed:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Germany	376,000	530,000	143,000
Austria	55,000	170,000	100,000
France	545,000	342,000	139,000
Holland	23,000	55,000	9,000
Belgium	104,000	93,000	10,000
	1,103,000	1,190,000	401,000 Tons

The Produce Markets Summary—continued.

This is not a nice position to start a new crop with, but it has to be faced. If such a combination could be hoped for as another bad crop coupled with an increase in consumption of 500,000 Tons, which is quite possible, it would materially help to put matters straight. Failing this, we must rely on Continental growers, whose cost cannot be covered taken collectively by 9/- per cwt., nursing their crops of the coming season and reducing their sowings for crops 1904/5. This is essential, notwithstanding some other writers continually asserting to the contrary.

M. Licht gives the visible supplies at "even" dates as follows on 1st September:—

Visible Supply, 1st September	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
	1,725,000	1,817,000	904,000	487,000	832,000 Tons

With this visible and 6,000,000 Tons of Beet, if reached, and 4,000,000 Tons Cane, to set against a possible consumption of 10,000,000 Tons, it is not a very difficult problem to solve how we shall stand on the 1st September, 1904. The solution is "reduced sowings" for crop 1904/5, when matters will soon right themselves. In the meantime the 88% markets in Europe are pausing, waiting for reliable crop news, which is not yet obtainable, and prices are fractionally easier, viz. Sept., 8s. 5½d., Oct./Dec. 8s. 11d., Jan./Mar. 9s. 0¾d. and April/June 9s. 2d., with August, 9s. 4d.; all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America are as follows:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Europe	1,440,000	1,400,000	560,000	410,000	370,000 Tons.
United States	170,000	160,000	170,000	30,000	170,000 "
Cuba	170,000	140,000	70,000	—	10,000 "
Cargoes afloat	100,000	180,000	140,000	160,000	170,000 "
Total	1,880,000	1,880,000	940,000	600,000	920,000

Comparative prices of 88% for 5 years:—

	1903	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
	8s. 5½d.	6s. 4d.	7s. 6d.	11s. 1d.	9s. 4½d.

Crystallised Sugar.—There is a steady demand from the Trade and prices are insensibly hardening, the value of average qualities being now 16s., with business in inferior grades at 15s. 6d., 15s. 9d., and fine pale, 16s. 3d. 16s. 6d. "Yellows" are much wanted and should sell well if any reach this country from Demerara this season. The stocks in London now show a deficiency of 20,000 tons as compared with last year, and are reduced about as low as they ought to be. A cargo of dark crystals is nominally worth 10s. to Cane Refiners on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—The stock is exhausted and further supplies are much needed and would command exceptionally favorable prices, say 14s., 15s., for anything at all grocery and possibly over.

Muscovado.—Nothing here and prices uncertain, but some shipments would sell readily.

West India figures since 1st. Jan.	1903	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date	20,000	55,000	30,000	34,000 Tons.
Deliveries	31,000	31,000	30,000	30,000 "
Stocks	17,000	37,000	20,000	10,000 "

Rum.—A very quiet tone continues to prevail in this market with only small sales of Demerara on the basis of 9d. for fair Rum, and of Jamaica at 1s. 9d. for approved Standard Home Trade Marks. Cuba and other Foreign kinds are worth about 7d. to 10d. according to package and quality.

London Figures to date:—	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports Jamaica	7800	11,100	9700	8600 Puns
Demerara	9100	14,900	14,000	9900 "
Stocks Jamaica	11,800	12,000	11,100	9700 "
Demerara	7500	9300	5600	3900 "
Total of all kinds:—	1903	1902.	1901.	Deficiency.
Stocks	29,489	...	32,501	3012 Puns.

Cocoa.—A Government contract for chocolate has stimulated the demand for certain classes of West India, notably so for Trinidad, which may be quoted 3s. to 5s. dearer since the last Mail. Other kinds have participated more or less in the improvement, but at the close the tone of the market is decidedly quieter and prices are somewhat irregular, viz.: Trinidad, fair collected about 64s., Estate Marks, 64s., 70s.; Grenada, fair 56s., fermented 67s., 64s.; fair Native Cocoa from other Islands being worth about 54s., and fermented 57s., 62s. The landed quotation of fermented African is about 60s. There has been some speculation on the part of Foreign Houses for a quick turnover.

Stocks in London:—	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	71,000	80,000	107,000	99,000 Bags.

Coffee.—A further improvement has taken place temporarily in the price of Santos, this month's delivery being quoted 27s. 3d. Jamaica remains about 33s. for good ordinary. **Butmegs** dearer. Sales of West India from 2s. 7d. for 62 to the lb. down to 9d. for 150's, and in shell at 6d. **Mace.**—In good demand Fair to good pale sold at 2s. 5d., 2s. 8d.; reddish 2s. 1d., 2s. 4d.; and broken 2s., 2s. 1d. **Pimento.**—Firmer, fair being quoted 3½d. **Ginger.**—Quiet, prices unchanged. **Cotton.**—About steady. September delivery American, 5½d., and October/December 5½d. The approximate value of fair West India is 5½d. **Arrowroot.**—There is more business again, but at easier prices. A fair quantity has been sold from 1¼d. to 1½d., chiefly the latter price, with a few better quality at 2d. The value of fair manufacturing is 1¼d., at which price there are still sellers.

Stocks in London, 31st August —	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	14,035	13,750	10,796	8189 Brls.

Lime Juice steady at 1s. to 1s. 3d. per gallon, and Concentrate I at £13 per cask of 108 gallons. Distilled Oil is now 1s. 5d. per lb., and Hand Pressed 3s. to 3s. 3d. per lb.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . .
West India Committee Circular

Ent. Stationers Hall.]

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1903.

No. 107.

The Political Situation.

No apology is needed for taking up so much of our space with the political situation, the interest in which is, and is likely to continue for some time to come, unabated. The appointment of Mr. Alfred Lyttelton as to the Colonial Office augurs well for the maintenance of the high state of efficiency to which to Mr. Chamberlain brought that department. It is true that Mr. Lyttelton has had no great experience of the Colonies, but neither had his predecessor when he became Colonial Secretary, and his appointment has met with very general approval, as also has that of Mr. Austen Chamberlain to the Treasury. Regarding the Fiscal proposals enunciated by Mr. Chamberlain at Glasgow on the 6th inst., a precis of which we give on page 53, we trust that every Member will endeavour to attend our Special General Meeting convened for their consideration on Thursday next, October 15th, at 3 p.m. The feeling of the Islands on this subject, and the regret experienced throughout the West Indies at Mr. Chamberlain's resignation is shown by the extracts from the West Indian press and the letters of our Hon. Correspondents which we give on page 62. On Saturday the 10th inst. we received and communicated to Highbury the following cablegram from B. Guiana:—

"Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Planters' Association unanimously record votes of thanks to Mr. Chamberlain for services rendered to the Colonies, express sincere regret at his retirement, and strongly endorse his present fiscal policy."

Similar messages from the other West Indian Colonies may be expected shortly, as when the Mail left meetings were about to be held in several of the Islands.

A Letter from Mr. Chamberlain

On the 30th ult. we received the following autograph letter from Mr. Chamberlain:—

September 29th, 1903.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst. conveying to me the resolution of the West India Committee, of the kind terms of which I am deeply sensible. I am glad to hear that the Committee proposes to convene a meeting for the consideration of the proposals which I shall shortly submit for the reform of our fiscal system.

I am, Sir, yours obediently, J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Sheffield Meeting.

MR. BALFOUR on October 1st addressed an immense mass-meeting in the Drill Hall, Sheffield, in connexion with the Conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations, a report of which appears in the *Times* of October 2nd. Lord Derby presided. MR. BALFOUR said he would confine his remarks to the one subject of tariff reform. It was not a new subject, but its present exceptional prominence was due not merely to Mr. Chamberlain's speech of last May, but to the fact that there had been a growing uneasiness among men of all parties as to the condition of British trade in its relation to the trade of the world. He was not going to say a word against the tariff reforms of 60 years ago. They were necessary when they were made, but circumstances had changed, and all the prophecies of Mr. Cobden and others as to the spread of free trade had been falsified. Instead of international co-operation in trade we had the sentiment of nationalism greatly strengthened, and with it protection intensified, and the nations commercially separated more than ever from each other. He regretted the fact, but it could not be ignored. After an allusion to the negotiation by Mr. Cobden of the commercial treaty with France in 1860, Mr. Balfour proceeded to say that, if he had

rightly described the dangers and evils from which we were suffering, they had a right to ask him whether he knew of no cure, but he did know of a palliative, which he was there to recommend. Was it common sense that we, in a treaty-governed world, should try to arrange treaties when we had nothing to offer? While he asked them to adopt the conclusion that a tax on food was not within the limits of practical politics, he did desire to reverse the fiscal tradition of the last two generations. This country ought to resume a power of which it should never have deprived itself—that of negotiating. The remedy might not be perfect, but it would be valuable, and he confidently recommended it for adoption. Mr. Balfour afterwards spoke at an overflow meeting in Albert Hall, and said he would have been quite content to leave the fiscal question as an open one, but neither his colleagues in the Government nor the House of Commons, nor the country, would tolerate that view, and that evening he had endeavoured to give an unmistakeable lead.

Mr Chamberlain's Proposals.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN opened his campaign in Glasgow, on October 6th, when he addressed a densely-crowded and enthusiastic meeting in St. Andrew's Hall, over which Sir M. Arthur presided. A full report is to be found in the *Times* of October 7th, from which we extract the following summary: After declaring that he was not afraid to come to Glasgow and combat free imports in the place where free trade had its birth, repudiating any intention of raising party issues, and expressing warmly his continued confidence in and admiration for Mr. Balfour, Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to dwell on the vast changes that had taken place during recent years in the conditions governing the commerce and industry of this country and of the Empire. He asserted that the trade of the United Kingdom had been practically stagnant for the last thirty years. Our export trade had increased in that time by 20 millions per annum, against 110 millions in the case of the United States and 56 millions in that of Germany. The character of British trade had also changed; we were exporting less and less of manufactured goods, and importing more and more. Our exports to foreign countries had decreased by 46 millions, but those to our Colonies had increased by 40 millions. Our Imperial trade would decline unless we took the necessary steps to preserve it while there was yet time. There was still a great deal of trade with the Colonies which we could maintain and increase, and we should ask the Colonies to let us supply them with the products of industries that had not yet been created there. The Colonies were prepared to meet us; for a moderate preference they would give us substantial advantages, and he calculated that we should capture 26 millions of foreign trade to our Colonies. Such a preference would give employment to three-quarters of a million workmen, and that would mean subsistence for nearly four millions of our population. Dwelling on the proofs recently given by the Colonies of their loyalty and devotion to the mother country, he asked if such a glorious inheritance was not worth preserving. We must either draw closer to the Colonies or drift apart. He emphatically stated that he did not propose any tax on raw material, but if we desired to gain the Colonies and prevent separation we must put a tax on food. The rough plan of his proposal was a two-shilling duty on foreign corn, and no duty on corn from British possessions; no duty on maize; a corresponding tax on foreign flour; a 5 per cent. duty on foreign meat and dairy produce, with the exception of bacon; a substantial preference to colonial wine and fruit, and the remission of three-quarters of the duty on tea and half that on sugar, with a corresponding reduction on coffee and cocoa. The new duties would cost the agricultural labourer 16½ farthings a week, and the artizan 19½ farthings, but the duties taken off would amount to 17 farthings in the case of the artizan. He estimated that the loss to the Exchequer under his scheme would be £2,800,000 per annum, but he proposed to get back that and more by what was sometimes called retaliation and sometimes reciprocity. A 10 per cent. tax on foreign manufactures would yield nine millions a year, which might be used for further reduction of the taxes on food, and also of other taxes which pressed hardy on the community. In

conclusion Mr. Chamberlain declared that he was fighting for the Empire, and he implored the country to do nothing towards its disintegration.

On October 8th MR. CHAMBERLAIN addressed a great meeting at Greenock, and, after referring to the immense importance for the whole nation of the question at issue, proceeded to deal with that side of it known as retaliation or reciprocity. He confessed that thirty years ago he was a free-trader; but since that time there had been a total change of conditions, and that entirely justified his change of view. He described the persistently protective policy of other nations, which, he maintained, had been successful in excluding British goods from their markets; and he, for his part, never liked being hit without striking back. After examining the working of our present fiscal system, by which, he said, we were losing on both sides, he asked why the foreign nations which had adopted protection had prospered more than this country. That policy had a great deal behind it; its principle was to fortify home industries, and then to invade other countries, especially our own, which we left unguarded to all assaults. Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to discuss the policy of the American Steel Trust and the effect of free imports on labour. He did not believe in a war of tariffs, but he knew that if one came we would not come off second best.

The Committee and Sir Gerald Strickland.

A General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at 3 p.m. on Monday, September 28th, to meet His Excellency Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Leeward Islands, who returned to the seat of his Government on Wednesday, September 30th. Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presided, and those present included Mr. Henry K. Davson, Deputy Chairman, Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., Mr. E. Anderson, Mr. W. E. Atkinson, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Mr. T. Du Buisson, Mr. Stephen Ewen, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. L. Gray, Mr. Juan Grinan, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. E. Kynaston, Mr. A. M. Lee, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. A. Boyd Neilson, Mr. Owen C. Philipps, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Messrs. Smith Bros. & Co., Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, after introducing Sir Gerald Strickland to the Meeting, said that he would like, before calling upon those gentlemen interested in the Leeward Islands to speak, to move a resolution regarding the resignation of Mr. Chamberlain. All would, he said, agree that Mr. Chamberlain had as Secretary of State for the Colonies done a very great work for the Empire. West Indians had special cause to be grateful to him, for it was not too much to say that he had saved our West Indian Colonies, saved them indeed by the scruff of the neck, for had not Mr. Chamberlain interposed, another year or two would have seen the end. He therefore begged to move:—

“That the West India Committee deeply regrets the resignation of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain Secretary of State for the Colonies, and wishes to record its sense of the great services Mr. Chamberlain has rendered to the Empire, and its high appreciation of the patriotic reasons which have induced him to resign his position as Colonial Minister.”

MR. A. MORIER LEE rising to second the resolution said that it should appeal to all West Indians. No one was better qualified to speak as to the truth of it than Sir Nevile Lubbock. Every Member of the Committee owed Mr. Chamberlain his deepest gratitude for the patient and thorough manner in which he had mastered the somewhat intricate problems of the West Indian Colonies, and had, as the Chairman said, saved these drowning communities by the scruff of the neck. But, to pursue the metaphor, Mr. Chamberlain had done better than that, the temporary Grants-in-Aid and some assistance towards Central Factories might restore the drowning man's suspended animation, but to give him back permanent health much more was needed. That healthy atmosphere

was secured by the Brussels Convention the happy result of Mr. Chamberlain's enlightened policy. The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried with enthusiasm.

MR. LEE then rose and tendered to His Excellency the warmest thanks of the Leeward Island Members for his sterling work since he had assumed the reins of office. At least two modern and model factories were secured for Antigua, both aided from Imperial sources. There was much *vis inertia* to overcome to reach this result, and the final success was due chiefly to the Governor's efforts. The speaker had personally benefitted, and he felt, so to speak, the cheerful glow of an orator after a hearty meal. Dominica, with her lime and cacao industries, was already prospering, and this might prove the beginning of fat and prosperous things for all of all colours interested in the Leeward Islands. MR. T. DU BUISSON endorsed all that Mr. Lee had said, and added his thanks for what Sir Gerald Strickland had done.

MR. E. LUXMOORE MARSHALL said that their first duty was to congratulate His Excellency and themselves on the inauguration of Central Factories in Antigua, so it was only right that his friends Mr. Lee and Mr. Du Buisson should have the first call in responding to the Chairman's invitation, and he was sure he was speaking for all interested in the Leeward Islands in cordially wishing success to their factories which, it is to be hoped, might be the pioneers of others soon to follow both in Antigua and St. Kitts. While His Excellency had done so much for Sugar they had also to thank him for the great development which had taken place in the cultivation of Cotton. There was, of course, no question of Cotton replacing Sugar, but it would be a very important addition to their limited products, especially in the smaller islands. Nevis for instance, where a good start had been made, was from all accounts admirably suited for this product, and he was very glad to hear there was a prospect of the Government providing facilities for Ginning, &c., on the spot as the necessity of transport to St. Kitts for preparation would be a serious drawback. He wished to say one word about the Canadian steamer service. Leeward Island shippers of course fully realised the advantage of having a regular and well equipped line of steamers to what was now the popular market for their produce, but they naturally complained when time after time their shipments were shut out because the steamers had filled up at southern ports. No doubt the Leeward Islands suffered to some extent from being the last ports of call, but presumably they were entitled under the contract to equal facilities with other places, so there seemed to be good ground for complaint.

SIR GERALD STRICKLAND thanked Sir Neville Lubbock for the opportunity given him to meet so many gentlemen who controlled the commercial interests of the Leeward Islands, and expressed his gratitude to Mr. Luxmore Marshall, Mr. Lee, Mr. Czarnikow, and others, who had made him aware of the needs of the Colony before his assumption of the Government. Although Mr. Chamberlain had inculcated that members of the Colonial Service should keep aloof from politics, he was not precluded from associating himself with Sir Neville Lubbock in paying the highest tribute in his power to the splendid example which the Secretary of State had set to all Colonial officials in the concentration of energy and single-mindedness in promoting the interests of each section of the Empire. He had succeeded in obtaining from the Colonial Office the prompt payment of the second instalment of the Colony's share of the Parliamentary grant of £250,000 in aid of the Sugar Industry, together with an offer of £18,500 for Central Factories, provided that a safe scheme could be put forward. He had divided this £18,500 into a first prize of £15,000 and a second prize of £3,500 offered to the groups of estate owners who could present the most promising combination. Mr. A. Morier Lee, though first in the field, had only got the second prize; but the first prize had, at last, also been awarded to a Syndicate; and the Sugar Industry in Antigua might therefore be considered re-established on a sound basis and with up-to-date machinery. Dominica had done so well on its own merits that external assistance was not required in its race for pre-eminence. The other Leeward Islands called for the immediate development of the Cotton Industry, and he was already in communication with the



THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS.
I. THE COMMITTEE ROOM.

437

British Cotton Growing Association to obtain advances of £2 an acre to aid enterprising persons in bringing abandoned sugar estates into cotton cultivation. He paid a compliment to the importance and usefulness of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in the West Indies, and in reply to Mr. Luxmore Marshall said that any defects of the Canadian, or of any other Mail contracts, should be urged at once, in view of their expiration in 1905, and that steps should be taken to invite, in good time, fresh tenders on the conditions most advantageous to the future of the Colonies. He was of opinion that Canada was the natural market for West Indian sugar and fruit, that it would one day absorb all that could be offered, and that Steam communication with Canada should be encouraged at all costs, and as a joint Imperial enterprise. He considered that West Indian estates at present prices were an excellent investment, and that Sea Island Cotton now sold above 1/- a pound would not fall below 8d. or 9d. for many years to come, and that nowhere could it be better grown than in the Leeward Islands. Sir Gerald Strickland in concluding, expressed his high appreciation of the opportunity which the West India Committee offered to a Crown Colony Governor to obtain advice and friendly criticism from the most progressive and wealthy representatives of West Indian interests by meetings such as this organized by Sir Nevile Lubbock.

SIR FRANCIS FLEMING said it was very agreeable for one who during more than thirty years of Colonial life passed several of them in our West Indian Possessions to find himself among those interested in those Colonies. He endorsed all Sir Gerald's remarks regarding the Leeward Islands. Regarding the change in the constitution of that Colony during the speaker's Governorship he would like to see some representative of Crown Colonies to whom representations could be made on matters affecting such colonies, either from the Colony direct or from those interested in it who might be resident in the Mother Country. He was glad to find that the constitutional changes brought about in his time had proved on the whole for the good of the Leeward Islands. He always thought that the existence of a Legislative Assembly where there was an equal number of votes on the official and unofficial side was unsatisfactory. Power and responsibility should go hand in hand together, and it was far better for a Governor to have an understood majority than to make use of a casting vote to carry any important measure. He would, on the other hand, advocate the admission into the Executive Council of gentlemen possessing local knowledge and experience. These could be of great use in offering their opinions and their advice on matters affecting the country to which they belonged. He could not too strongly support Sir Gerald's observations regarding a Defence Force; it was absolutely necessary that there should be some such force in addition to the Police. The abolition of Sugar Bounties had naturally improved the position of the West Indies. Few strove harder to do away with this unfair system of trade than did the West India Committee, backed up as it was by the Anti-Bounty League and many others, not least among them one without whose co-operation the task might never have been accomplished, and whose absence from the head of the Colonial Department all interested in our Colonies must regret. The speaker had never ceased to urge the establishment of Central Factories and the introduction of modern machinery, and he was glad to learn that this was about to be accomplished. With the abolition of Bounties competition would increase, and this would probably sooner or later effect the market price of sugar. It was therefore quite possible that within the next decade, and perhaps sooner, sugar might not fetch so high a price as it did that day, he therefore heard with great pleasure the progress made with cotton growing. Regarding the question of Fiscal Policy he said that they might to-day turn a deaf ear to Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, but the time would come when they would be accepted. Mr. Chamberlain's policy was the only one which would serve to unite together the different parts of our mighty Empire, of which our West Indian Colonies were not the least important.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Edward Kynaston, brought proceedings to a close.

The Jamaica Relief Fund.

The Jamaica Relief Fund is now closed, and the balance of £261 19s. 7d., making a total of £6261 19s. 7d., has been remitted to the Governor of Jamaica, who will in due course furnish the Committee with particulars as to its disposal. While appending the final list of subscriptions and a statement of accounts, we desire to convey our most cordial thanks not only to the donors, but to the following firms who have given us their assistance: The Direct West India Cable Co., and the Commercial Cable Co. who have transmitted messages regarding the Fund gratuitously, and Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., who have been kind enough to audit the accounts of the Fund.

The Final List of Subscribers.

			The Final List of Subscribers.								
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Per Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor			Mrs. E. Phillips	1	1	0	Per Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co.—				
of Bristol	250	0	0	Miss Grey	1	0	0	Messrs. Jas. Pascall, Ltd.	5	3	0
The Leathersellers' Com-			" E. G."	1	0	0	Miss Minnie de Pass	2	2	0	
pany	26	5	0	Mons. M. Capdefer	1	0	0	Messrs. Schwab & Kohl-			
Messrs. T. H. Saunders			" Anonymous "	1	0	0	mann	1	0	0	
& Co.	25	0	0	" A Friend "	1	0	0	J. M. Segrestaa, Esq.	1	0	0
The Salters' Company	21	0	0	C. K. Gibbons, Esq.	1	0	0	Messrs. Labadie et Cie	1	0	0
W. H. Foster, Esq.	10	10	0	Sale of Slippers (Anon)	0	10	0	Per Colonial Bank—			
Major-General A. G. Raper	10	0	0	And smaller amounts	2	16	0	Miss Agnes A. Harvey	5	0	0
" R. B. J."	10	0	0	Per Bank of England—				Major-General Brown-			
Mrs. Whittall	10	0	0	" Small Token "	10	0	0	low	3	0	0
Messrs. Price's Patent				Duke of Abercorn, K.G.	5	5	0	" E. B."	2	2	0
Candle Co., Ltd.	6	6	0	John Hill, Esq.	5	0	0	Mrs. Amy Wolfen	2	0	0
Messrs. Joseph Rodgers &				— Bullock, Esq.	5	0	0	Per Messrs. William Alfred			
Sons, Ltd.	5	5	0	" Something "	5	0	0	Jones & Co.—			
Miss Elizabeth Dawson-				Mrs. Henry Cazenor	3	3	0	Messrs. Howards & Sons	10	10	0
Lambton	5	0	0	T. E. Yorke, Esq.	2	0	0	Messrs. Allen & Han-			
Miss A. A. Dawson-Lamb-				A. Pappenheimer, Esq.	1	1	0	burys, Ltd.	5	5	0
ton	5	0	0	Admiral Ward	1	0	0	Messrs. Brand & Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
H. B. Browning, Esq.	5	0	0	Per Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor				Thomas Keating, Esq.	1	1	0
Countess Brownlow	5	0	0	of Sheffield—				Per Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of			
Messrs. Wallace, Wilkie				J. Boyd Miller, Esq.	5	5	0	London—			
& Co.	5	0	0	Sir F. J. Mappin, Bart., M.P.	5	5	0	Miss E. J. Everard	5	0	0
Major D. C. Courtney	5	0	0	" M. H. G."	5	0	0	Per Messrs. Alex. Young & Co.—			
Capt. Taylor	5	0	0	" A Friend "	3	0	0	Messrs. Edward Elwell,			
Henry Boase, Esq.	5	0	0	" J. W."	2	2	0	Ltd.	10	0	0
Miss Felix Smith	3	0	0	Isaac Milner, Esq., J.P.	2	0	0	A. M. Muirhead, Esq.	2	0	0
Captain Colville, R.N.	3	0	0	Thomas Firth, Esq.	1	1	0	Per W. I. Section Liverpool Chamber			
" Anonymous "	3	0	0	Ald. Jos. Gamble	0	10	6	of Commerce—			
James Purdy, Esq.	2	2	0	Per Union of London and Smith's				Messrs. C. H. Rugg & Co.	5	5	0
Messrs. Lade & Co.	2	2	0	Bank, Ltd.—				Messrs. Lewis & Mounsey	5	5	0
A. E. Gibbs, Esq.	2	2	0	E. M. Cooke, Esq.	10	0	0	Ellis Edwards, Esq.	5	0	0
R. G. Marsden, Esq.	2	2	0	Chas. Coates, Esq.	3	3	0	Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne			
Major Edward F. Gosset	2	0	0	W. H. N. Daniell, Esq.	2	2	0	& Co.	5	0	0
Geo. Chapman, Esq.	1	1	0	L. C. K.	1	0	0	Per F. B. Lyons, Esq.—			
Mrs. Arthur Pease	1	1	0	F. J. W. Nicholls, Esq.	0	10	0	The Pearson & Knowles			
Col. H. Blundell	1	1	0	Per Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co.—				Coal & Iron Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
G. V. Morgan, Esq.	1	1	0	Messrs. R. Martindale				Per Elliot G. Louis, Esq.—			
" S. A. B."	1	1	0	& Co., Ltd.	10	10	0	Miss K. G. Clarke	1	0	0

Errata in preceding lists: For C. P. Lucas, Esq., C.B., £3 0 0 read £3 3 0. For Mr. Lewis read Mrs. Lewis, £10 0 0

The Thanks of the Government and People of Jamaica.

We have received the following letter from the Governor of Jamaica, conveying the thanks of the Government and People of Jamaica to the West India Committee and the subscribers to the Relief Fund.

Sir,

17th September, 1903.

I am desired by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters of the 19th, 21st and 28th ultimo, relative to the funds which are being raised by the West India Committee for the relief of sufferers in Jamaica from the cyclone of the 17th ultimo.

I am to ask you to be so good as to express to the Committee His Excellency's thanks on behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica for the interest taken by the Committee in collecting contributions for the above purpose, and to ask the Committee to be so good as to convey to the donors in whatever way may appear to them most suitable, the grateful appreciation of this Government and people for their generous gifts. I am to add that the request of the Committee with regard to the appropriation of these contributions, as expressed in their appeal through the Press, will be brought to the notice of the Committee entrusted with the distribution of the funds raised by subscription for the relief of sufferers, and His Excellency has no doubt that the wishes of the West India Committee in the matter will be studiously observed.

A Sub-Committee of the Jamaica Relief Committee has prepared a statement of the funds it is estimated may be needed for the relief of the poorer class of sufferers. A copy of this statement is appended; and a telegram giving the main details was sent you on the 17th instant.*

I have, etc.,

(Signed) T. LAWRENCE ROXBURGH,
Asst. Colonial Secretary.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Esq., Sec.,
West India Committee.

* Not printed in the present Circular.

Statement of Receipts and Payments.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Subscriptions received	6,597 16 6	Amounts cabled to Governor of Jamaica:—	
		20th August, 1903	£1000 0 0
		22nd „	1000 0 0
		24th „	1000 0 0
		26th „	1000 0 0
		1st September	1000 0 0
		18th „	1000 0 0
		8th October	261 19 7
			<u>6261 19 7</u>
		G. Street & Co., advertising in Newspapers and Circulars	320 16 8
		Printing, Postage and Receipt Stamps, &c.	15 0 3
			<u>£6,597 16 6</u>
	<u>£6,597 16 6</u>		

We have audited the above Account and certify it to be correct.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO., Hon. Auditors.

3, Frederick's Place, E.C.
October, 1903.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

The Rum Surtax.—Mr. Steele's Report.

The following report of the Sub-Committee appointed on August 6th last to consider Mr. Steele's report on the Excise restrictions in British Guiana and the West Indies (cd 1681) was laid before a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 1st inst.

1.—After carefully considering the report of Mr. J. Steele on the Excise restrictions in force in the West Indies we beg to offer the following remarks on this report for consideration.

2.—The question of the surtax may be divided into two parts:—

(a) The amount of Excise restrictions in the Colonies.

(b) The amount allowed to British distillers to countervail the Excise restrictions.

(a) Mr. Steele's report seems to be rather a defence of the attitude taken up by the Lords Commissioners in their correspondence with the West India Committee than an unbiassed report on the Excise restrictions in the West Indies. He admits that the restrictions in Great Britain are much more complete than are required in the West Indies, and the alterations he proposes are of such a nature to prove that there is not much cause for objection in the present system. Mr. Steele goes into the question of the disabilities of the British distiller in exporting spirits to the West Indies, but he omits any mention of the many disabilities under which West Indian and British Guiana planters are placed, for instance: British spirit for methylating purposes pays no duty, a surtax of 4d. per gallon (over 50 per cent. of the value) is levied on imported spirit from our own Colonies, when used for methylation, and spirit already methylated is taxed with 11s. 4d. per proof gallon. Some West Indian Colonies suffer in comparison to British distillers by the import duty on staves, hoops, and puncheon rivets, their machinery, chemicals and insurance, all cost more to them than to the home producer—none of which things are taken notice of by Mr. Steele—and when, after paying homeward freight, an additional charge in the form of a countervailing duty of 4d. per gallon is imposed, it makes it impossible for Colonial to compete with British made spirit.

(b) Mr. Steele's reasons why the surtax should not be removed are chiefly on the argument that the "distillers of this country were placed in a position to incur loss simply to convenience the revenue and that it would be unjust to handicap them by admitting into the home markets without surtax the produce of Colonial distillers who were not called upon to make a similar sacrifice." Even if this argument is admitted, it remains for Mr. Steele to show that the loss to the British distiller is represented by 4d. per gallon. We beg to submit that this amount is not justified, and for the following reasons. The following reasons are given as showing that the amount should be 2d. per gallon:—

(1) The principle on which the surtax is based permits the British distiller an allowance on exportation, and this allowance is fixed at 2d. per gallon.

(2) The table of allowances fixed in 1860 was as follows:—

1st. Compensation for increased duty on foreign grain, $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

2nd. Prohibition against brewing and distilling at same time, 1d.

3rd. Against distillers mixing wort in separate vessels while in process of fermentation, $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

4th. Loss of duty on rectification and flavouring spirits in separate premises, 1d.

5th. Colouring matter in foreign spirits, 2d.

ITEM No. 1. should have been dropped when the duty on foreign grain was removed in 1870. ITEM No. 5 should have been dropped when the Government introduced obscuration test. Thus the 5d. surtax should be $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon instead of 4d. which it has been since 1881.

NOTE.—Mr. Steele shows that the allowance for loss of duty on rectification and flavouring in different premises was raised in 1866 from 1d. to $2\frac{1}{4}$ d., but this was not recognised by Parliament, as there was no change in the surtax of 5d. per gallon between 1860 and 1881 when the 5d. was reduced to 4d.

It would, therefore, seem that Customs officials consider that the loss to the British distiller is 4d. when considering what surtax should be imposed on Foreign or Colonial spirits and 2d. when con-

441

sidering the allowance on export, whereas we would respectfully submit that an allowance of 2d. fully meets the loss to British distillers owing to the restrictions imposed. It is interesting to note that in his evidence before the Royal Commission, Mr. G. H. Murray, C.B., Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, stated "that by way of putting the British distiller right when he competes in a Foreign market we give the home distiller 4d. a gallon when he exports his spirits." This statement is incorrect, as the amount given was 2d. not 4d.

Attention should be given to Mr. Pittar's, C.B., Commissioner of Customs, remarks on the changes in the duty in 1881. He states: "The duty on Foreign spirits was reduced from 10s. 5d. to 10s. 4d., and at the same time that on Rum was raised from 10s. 2d. to 10s. 4d., thus putting an end to the preferential fiscal treatment which it had enjoyed for a century and a half. The reason for the change appeared to be that it was considered that it would be convenient to be able to reckon the duties on all Foreign and Colonial spirits at a single rate."

It is much to be regretted that Mr. Steele has not confined his report to the subjects which he was asked to enquire into, and that he has gone out of his way to make many uncalled for and absolutely untrue assertions about the planters in the West Indies. He appears to think that the planting body are responsible for (1) The rate of the import duties in the Colonies: (2) The Commissaries and officers of the Colonial Government: (3) The Excise Laws of the Colonies. We may instance his statement that "in British Guiana the planter is his own officer and supervisor, and that this is the product of a combination of planters and of a certain body of men called in to take the initiative in promoting money bills." We do not know what evidence Mr. Steele can produce for such an untrue and unfair assertion.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the West India Committee would be pleased if the Revenues of the Colonies permitted of a lower import duty, that it is in every way desirable that the Commissaries in the Colonies should have expert knowledge and that the Excise laws should be sufficiently stringent to protect the Revenue. We cannot, however, agree with Mr. Steele's strictures as to the general laxity of excise restrictions in the West Indies. It may strike a stranger on his first arrival that the regulations are not so stringent as in the United Kingdom, but, it is found in practice that there is not the same necessity for their being so. We may instance the fact that when Mr. Turner was sent out to British Guiana in order to put its Excise Laws on the same footing as the home ones, although he at first expressed the same views as Mr. Steele, he subsequently found it necessary to modify these, and the present laws were drawn up as being all that were required by one who had an intimate knowledge of the laws at home. The West India Committee and planters generally gave every facility to the adoption of these regulations, and they have never opposed any measure which could in any way tend to the protection of the Government and the increase of revenue.

While it is possible Mr. Steele may have found in individual cases among the Commissaries some tendency to perform their duties in a mechanical manner, the experience is that Commissaries on the whole (by paying surprise visits and by careful and thorough checks taken, &c., evidence of which we can submit) are fully alive to their responsibilities, and are not deserving of the slurs cast upon them by Mr. Steele. Unless a special officer was told off for each estate during grinding months the checking system could not well be improved. This would be an enormous expense, and we may instance the case of Trinidad in 1900, when this was tried but given up after a few months as being a futile innovation.

In conclusion we wish to express the hope that the Secretary of State for the Colonies will re-open this question with the Treasury, and that if the reforms in the Laws of the Colonies recommended by Mr. Steele are carried out it will only be on the distinct understanding that West Indian spirit receives equality of treatment in Great Britain.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and Banana Shipments.

We have received from Mr. Alfred S. Williams, the Manager of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the following letter regarding Banana shipments by the Company's steamers :—

Dear Sir,

24th September, 1903.

Reference has been made in a recent issue of your Committee Circular to the conditions in which bananas have been delivered by this Company's Mail Steamers at Plymouth, and some reflection was cast upon the vessels carrying the fruit from the fact that while the greater proportion of the bananas had been delivered in good condition, some of the bunches were rotten.

This Company has already been in communication with Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G., the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, and I enclose an extract from a letter which we addressed to him on the 15th inst. upon the subject of banana shipments, the conditions of their transport, and the method of packing them. This latter, to my mind, together with the state in which the bananas were cut, accounts for the unsatisfactory condition in which some of the bunches were delivered, and this view is supported by the fact that Mr. G. S. Evelyn, who was commissioned by Sir Daniel Morris to come over in our S.S. "Atrato" in charge of the bananas shipped by that vessel, reports that in a few double crates they found "one bunch perfectly green and sound and the other rotten. This shows that the fault lies in the bad bunch being picked over-ripe."

An addition is being made to the fruit storage capacity of the "Atrato," "Trent," and "Tagus," but it is just as well that the shipments should be on a modest scale until the shippers have thoroughly studied the condition in which their fruit should be cut and packed, and the method of packing.

This Company is fully alive to the desirability of doing everything possible to encourage the fruit industry of the West Indies, and will do its best to provide adequate transport for this industry, but the cultivators of bananas will on their part doubtless use every care in the selection of their fruit and its packing, so as to ensure satisfactory delivery.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) ALFRED S. WILLIAMS, Manager.

The following is the extract from the letter to Sir Daniel Morris referred to :—

"The matter (the condition of bananas delivered from the steamers of the Company) has already formed the subject of correspondence and interviews with the consignees of the fruit, Messrs. William Pink & Sons, of Portsmouth, and I ventured to express to them our opinion that the method of packing was in fault. The practice with the fruit steamers carrying bananas from Central America to Manchester, in particular, is to carry them unprotected in refrigerated holds where the temperature is kept low. On our Mail Steamers we are at present only able to offer limited refrigerated storage for the fruit. What has been done in the "Trent" and "Tagus" is to cool the air by brine pipes, and to exhaust it by means of fans, while in the "Atrato," which is not furnished with refrigerating machinery, fans for the circulation of air have been fitted, but this circulation of air has been neutralised in our judgment, as far as the fruit is concerned, by the method of packing. As you are aware, the bananas are first wrapped in cotton wool, then enveloped in paper and finally packed with leaves in crates, this packing effectually arresting any circulation of air around the fruit itself, and the opinion I have expressed to Messrs. Pink is that the bananas would be delivered very much better if they were unprotected or in any case only protected against bruising, either by the method of suspension in the hold or in crates. In their letter to this Company, of the 8th inst., Messrs. Pink sent a sample of "scrim" or loosely woven gunny, and in doing so they say :—

"We think that a piece of cotton wool placed round the centre of the bunch would keep it from being bruised by knocking against the crates and would not give any trouble. As we have already

succeeded in getting over some hundreds of bunches in good condition, although packed in wool, paper, and trash, we do not think it likely that we shall have any failures when the lighter packing is used.

"I understand that Messrs. Pink are communicating with you direct upon the matter, and offering suggestions with regard to the packing, based upon our recommendations. At the same time I would suggest for your consideration whether the heavy rainfall and consequent humidity of the atmosphere which I understand prevailed about the time of packing of the fruit which arrived in bad condition, may not account for the bad delivery, but in any case I am of opinion that the packing accentuated the tendency to rot set up by the humidity.

"I beg to assure you that this Company is fully alive to the necessity of doing everything possible to foster the fruit industry of the West Indies, and will continue to make every effort in its power with that object."

Cassava Cultivation.

Cassava Cultivation was the subject of a letter in the *Times* from Mr. Robert Thomson, on October 3rd. Writing on September 29th, he said :—

"Two years ago I introduced to the island of Jamaica from the Republic of Colombia a few cuttings each of some 30 varieties of cassava (*Manihot utilissima*), all of which are new to the West Indies. I propagated them until I had a stock of many thousands of stems, which yield numerous cuttings for planting purposes. The tubers of seventeen of these varieties were analysed by the Jamaican Government Chemist with remarkable results. Thus, eight of the varieties contain from 33.30 to 35.0 per cent of starch; and all the varieties (the tubers constitute an important article of food for man and animals) contain an average of only one-sixth of the poisonous property—hydrocyanic acid—which characterises the kinds grown in the West Indies. These precious non-poisonous varieties were offered for sale to the public of Jamaica. Only the Government Botanic Garden purchased one or two cuttings of each variety.

I thereupon communicated with the Agriculture Department at Washington. That department immediately despatched the professor in charge of the sub-tropical experimental grounds in the south of Florida to report on my collection; thus the entire collection of stems were disposed of and transferred to Florida. In recent years strenuous efforts have been made to establish cassava cultivation, one or two of the West India varieties, on a great commercial scale, and more than one factory for the production of starch, glucose, &c., have successfully embarked on this project. Moreover, the farmers of Florida have discovered that the tubers are of the greatest value for feeding stock. It is interesting to note that prior to the shipment of the stems to Florida I despatched to the Government of Bombay and Punjab, in accordance with instructions, sets of cuttings of these valuable varieties, also a set to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies."

In this connection it is of interest to note that Mr. H. H. Cousins, the Island Chemist, has just presented to the Jamaica Board of Agriculture a report on Cassava, with regard to a proposal to ask the Governor for a grant of £200 for experiments. Mr. Cousins is of opinion that it is for starch only that the industry can pay. Casareep would prove a useful by-product. He believes that the poison from Cassava is brought about by the fermentative action of bacteria.

Molascuit Cattle Foods.

With reference to our paragraph regarding Molascuit we are asked to state that contracts for forward delivery of this commodity are being made on the basis of 45% *minimum* sweetening matter. The Molascuit food for animals has, says the *Buenos Ayres Standard* of September 1st, now had a fair trial and has proved beyond doubt to be a very great success. Mr. J. G. Lumb placed this food on the Buenos Ayres market early last month, and in order to give it a severe trial he placed two lean steers and two lean milch cows on public exhibition at the auction yard of Messrs. Yriondo & Co. (ex Funes Lagos & Co.). On entering the yard the red steer weighed 595 kilos and the roan steer 584 kilos, and the other having taken a severe cold was withdrawn. The cattle were first fed with this new food on

the morning of the 10th of August at the rate of 4 lbs. each per meal for two meals daily, or in other words they began by consuming 8 lbs. daily. After twenty days the steers weighed as follows: Red steer which weighed 595 has advanced to 650 kilos, or 55 kilos in $\frac{2}{3}$ of a month. The roan which turned the scales at 584 kilos when placed in the yard on the 10th of August now weighs 638 kilos, or an increase of 54 kilos for 20 days. The cow which weighed in at 495 now weighs 505 kilos, and she has increased her milk from 4 litres on the day of her entry to $7\frac{3}{4}$ litres to-day. This is indeed eloquent proof, if proof be needed, to demonstrate the qualities of this famous food. As will be seen from the foregoing, the steers increased 55 and 54 kilos respectively, and the cow made up 10 kilos more notwithstanding that her milk increased almost double. This new food—Molascuit—is simply crushed sugar cane and molasses and is one of the simplest, and at the same time one of the healthiest, foods that can be given to cattle. Its fattening powers cannot be denied and no one will, or can, question its simplicity and wholesomeness. Estancieros can now procure a ton of this food for cattle, horses, rams, milch cows, pigs, etc., at the modest outlay of \$50 per ton delivered at any railway station. Already its fame has travelled far and wide and it is being eagerly bought up by breeders of fine stock and by various well known estancieros. Sugar in any shape or form is of a very fattening nature, so much so that many individuals are prevented from taking it owing to its fattening properties; and for the fattening of animals it has no rival. No one can do better than give it a trial and see for themselves. On estancias where milk is scarce, owing chiefly to the bad and bare camps, what would be more appropriate than a few bags of this famous food?

New Members of the West India Committee.

Attention is called to the fact that the subscription paid by Members elected during the last three months of the current year will not be renewable until January 1st, 1905. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 1st inst., the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
MESSRS. HENRY WHITE & Co.	Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
JOHN C. S. SPOONER, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.
MESSRS. WM. JAMES & HENRY THOMPSON	T. Du Buisson, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
JAMES ANDREW, Esq. (British Guiana)	Guy C. Wyatt, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
W. T. EDEN, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.

The next Election will take place on Thursday next. Forms of application for Membership can be obtained from the Secretary.

The West Indian Club.

The usual fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club took place at the Club Rooms on the 30th September, 1903, and the opportunity of meeting His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies as the guest of the Club was taken advantage of by the following Members:—Ven. the Archdeacon Downer, Major Douglas, the Hon. W. Clark, and Messrs. J. Braham, — Brett, L. De Mercado, W. G. Devey, W. C. Dunlop, W. Scott Evans, J. Grinan, A. Gillespie, G. H. N. Haly, A. Johnson, — Klein, Joseph E. Mitchell, G. C. Mills, A. M. Nathan, Charles Scott, F. Scott, J. A. Scott, R. Schult, H. Powell Rees, J. Rippon, and the Hon. Secretary, W. A. M. Goode. His Grace replying to the toast of his health, given in a complimentary manner by Mr. Powell Rees, said that some provision in the shape of a reserve fund should be earmarked yearly in the West Indies, to provide for loss caused by the destruction of precarious crops by hurricanes, &c., and that all assistance should be given to bring the peasantry to the condition of accepting and adapting themselves to improved methods of cultivation

and the preparation of produce. His Grace made reference to the loss sustained by the churches in Jamaica, and this subject was taken up by Archdeacon Downer, who prepared the Members present for a visit he intended to make to them and all West Indians in London during the next few months of his proposed stay in England. He also intended to preach in many churches on Sundays, and collect on week days. The next dinner will be held to-morrow, Tuesday the 13th inst., and Dr. G. B. Mason, who is about to leave England for Antigua, will be the guest of the Club, the Members generally being desirous of showing their appreciation of services given always and unstintingly by him, which not only led to the initiation of the Club, but to its present large membership.

Notes.

IT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO WEST INDIANS who are wont to make their mid-day repast in the City, to know that a PEPPER POT has been established, and has already earned great popularity, at Messrs. W. Hill & Son's Restaurant, 60 Bishopsgate Street, E.C. Pepper Pot day will be Thursday, but the dish will be on order every day. The initiative is due to Mr. James Philip, of the Pure Cane Sugar Company, 4, Fenchurch Buildings, E.C.

THE BANANA TRADE OF THE CANARY ISLANDS has been stimulated since the export of Bananas from Jamaica to this country began. According to Mr. Consul Croker's report, early in 1900 fears were expressed that in consequence of the facilities given to Jamaica shippers, the trade from the Canary Islands was doomed. They were quickly dissipated. Whether from the advertisement, as the Consul thinks, or from the taste growing out of greater plentifulness of the fruit, the Canary Islands are exporting more than ever, and the superiority of the article they supply ensures satisfactory prices. Liverpool last year handled 708,000 packages of Canary bananas, approximately worth £363,771. It also received, it may be added, £74,488 worth of tomatoes from the same source.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Trent" anchored off Plymouth, at 3.50 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7th, and the mails were delivered in London by the first post on the following day. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, September 30th. The letters of our Hon. Correspondents, to hand by the Mail, contain many expressions of the profound regret which is felt throughout the West Indies at the resignation of "our greatest Colonial Minister," and the following extracts which we take from the West Indian Press are typical of the feelings of our West Indian Colonies on the subject.

"The people of this Island, in common with those of the whole West Indies, realise how deeply indebted these Colonies are to him for the lively interest in their affairs which have been kindled within recent years."—*Barbados Agricultural Reporter*, Sept. 21st.

"At the hour of our brightest anticipation there has been a shadow of gloom cast over the whole West Indian horizon."—*Barbados Globe*.

"Mr. Chamberlain's Colonial policy is pleasing to the natives of this Island. Mr. Chamberlain . . . is an Imperial Patriot."—*Barbados Daily News*.

"Mr. Chamberlain having put his hand to the plough, there will be no turning back. In losing his services as Colonial Secretary it is only to gain them in a wider and more important sphere."—*The Argosy, Demerara*.

"The resignation of Mr. Chamberlain is a heavy blow . . . to the Empire. Mr. Chamberlain, shrewd, incisive and outspoken man of affairs that he is, the man whose services the country can least afford to dispense with at this juncture. The Colonies will be unanimous . . . in deploring his retirement."—*Demerara Daily Chronicle*.

Mr. Chamberlain "has not merely been 'our greatest Colonial Minister' . . . He has been, and is still, the greatest living force in present day politics."—*The Daily Gleaner, Jamaica*.

"It is much to be hoped that Mr. Chamberlain will succeed in his statesmanlike proposal, and that he will in time bind up the Colonies in one Great British Zollverein."—*Saint Christopher Advertiser*.

Mr. Chamberlain "sees more clearly the disadvantages of the English game of Free Trade in which no other joins, and is animated by an earnest desire to rid the Empire of that weapon which is being used for her downfall."—*The Sentry, St. Vincent.*

"We have faith in Mr. Chamberlain's business capacity, and it is to be hoped that he will guide the Nation correctly through his great campaign."—*The Mirror, Trinidad.*

"The English People remembering the Policy which lost them the United States, will think twice before casting from them the golden opportunity to strengthen the bonds of Empire, and to defend British trade against the subsidies and intrigues of those foreign Powers which profit so largely by the self-denying policy of Free Trade."—*Port of Spain Gazette, Trinidad.*

We extract the following from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua.—A. St. G. Spooner, Esq., September 23rd. Insect pests had done some harm to the growing crops of cotton, but where the proper preventative measures had been taken, the damage seemed to have been slight. Since the 19th torrential rains had fallen, varying from 4 in. to nearly 10 in. in different localities. Speaking generally the down-pour would do a vast amount of good. The land had got a good soaking at the most important time for growth, and the ponds, on which the country districts of the Island mainly relied for water, had been quite filled. The news of Mr. Chamberlain's resignation had been received with profoundest regret. Antigua had special reason to be grateful to him.

Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, September 24th. When the Legislature reassembled some grateful recognition would, he hoped, be paid to Mr. Chamberlain for all he had done for Barbados. Mr. Chamberlain was the only Colonial Minister who had gone to the roots of the decadence of the West Indian Colonies, and had striven to build it up again. The weather during the past fortnight had been all that could be wished, nice rains being alternated with sunny days. At Porters, as much as 10.62 in. had fallen for the month to date; but all the Island except the extreme north and part of the Scotland district had had good showers. The canes were green and healthy, and under a splendid growth, so they had every promise of a fine crop. Cotton was also doing well and was beginning to flower. The Cotton Growing Association had telegraphed that they were sending out five more gins, so that they would be well equipped to take off next year's crop. The Italian warship "Liguria," with H.R.H. the Duke of Abruzzi on board, had been lying off Barbados for the last week. Mr. Wilkinson returned by the Mail.

British Guiana.—J. C. McCowan, Esq., September 23rd. Mr. Gonsalves had been elected to the Court of Policy, and had taken his seat as Member for East Demerara. The celebration of the Centenary of the Colony was to take place in Berbice on the following day, but nothing was being done in Demerara. Small lots of Refining Crystals had been sold during the fortnight at about \$2.02½. They had learnt with regret the resignation of Mr. Chamberlain; his departure from Downing Street was a distinct loss to the Colonies. The weather had been generally too dry, and showers would be beneficial.

Dominica.—E. A. Agar, Esq., September 24th. There was nothing to report. A few cargoes of oranges were being shipped both to London and to Canada.

Grenada.—Hon. D. S. de Freitas, September 24th. At a meeting of the Legislative Council on the preceding day, the sum of £2200 had been voted for the purpose of purchasing the Harvey Vale Estate in Carriacou, with the view of selling it in small lots to peasant proprietors. This was the second estate thus purchased for this excellent object; the first estate being Beausejour. Purchasers were eagerly forthcoming to take up lots. Cacao was ripening slowly in the low lying lands. Some Estates had already picked a few bags, but no heavy pickings were likely to be made before November. Prospects continued to be promising. Many enquiries were coming from New York for Grenada cacao, where the price had gone up 1 c. per lb.

Jamaica.—J. L. Ashenbeim, Esq., September 21st. There was a feeling of depression as to the near future. The Relief Committee had put aside out of the subscribed funds £3000, to be held in reserve against the necessity of providing food for the poor in the smitten parishes later on. The weather generally had been: Fine showers throughout the Island. Vere—fine weather with an occasional shower.

St. Lucia.—Hon. C. A. Shand, September 21st. It was quite a pleasure to see the energy displayed by the planters and peasant proprietors in pushing the new industry, and the fields of young cotton presented a lovely appearance at that moment. Of course initial mistakes were to be anticipated in an entirely fresh departure, and the tendency had been to make inadequate preparation and to plant too close. This latter fault, however, was capable of being easily remedied. The Imperial Department of Agriculture had kindly offered a small sum in prizes for the best plots of cultivation in cotton by peasant proprietors, which had been an inducement to many of the lower classes to plant from ½ to 1 acre in cotton. The Agricultural Society had four new members elected at its last meeting. The cane crop was very poor, and even with heavy rains up to the end of the year must be short of an average one, so that there was all the more necessity of supplementing it by some other culture.

St. Lucia.—Hon. E. Du Boulay, September 25th. St. Lucia shared the regret of all the Colonies at the resignation of Mr. Chamberlain. The weather had been intensely hot, with some showers, but no heavy rains.

St. Vincent.—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., September 25th. It was with general regret that the news of Mr Chamberlain's resignation had been received in St. Vincent. The hope was, however, that he might return to power with a strong Government to back him up later on. The weather, although hot, had been all that could be desired for the growing crops.

Trinidad.—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, September 25th. The weather had been mostly dry during the fortnight, but several heavy showers had fallen, and the heat had been trying. Growing crops were doing well, and the prospects for the coming crop were good. The reports from all centres foretold late crops, and higher prices were expected. There had been a steady demand for copra, and prices had advanced from \$2.35 to \$2.40 per 100 lbs.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), October 12th. "Seasonable weather."
British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campell & Co.), September 29th. "Weather dry, some showers would be acceptable." October 7th. "We have had one shower since last message, but the rain has all passed off again."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
	Hhds.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Barbados—								
Jan. 1 to Sept. 10 1903	34,937	—	—	—	—	30,056	—	—
" " 10 1902	47,954	—	—	—	—	42,437	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to Sept. 22 1903	68,130	109,402	—	15,266	4984	3494	61,472	6683
" " 23 1902	67,110	95,933	—	18,987	3360	1215	70,643	9038
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
April 1 to Sept. 5 1903	7802	15,428	16,229	22,935	10,627,585	Cwts. 16,723	Bunches. 7,209,072	8,116,450
" " 6 1902	11,130	7500	31,592	1,349,322	10,746,926	38,477	7,654,224	6,420,943
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Tres.	Brls.
Jan. 1 to Sept. 24 1903	378,633	25,915,710	41,120	1143	9,483,592	Puns. 3473	178	166
" " 24 1902	442,870	25,674,590	39,840	1259	8,502,525	3314	141	236

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," October 8th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. T. W. Wilkinson, Capt. E. C. Challenor, Mr. W. Abbott. **Demerara.** Mr. G. D. Kaufman, Mr. F. J. Seard, Mr. J. Harrison, Mr. E. J. Macquarrie, Master H. W. Humphreys, the three Masters Murray; Mrs. Nedd, Dr. P. Perot, Mr. A. Tinnie, Mrs. Rowland, Miss Ida Tengely, Mr. W. R. Xavier. **Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. H. M. R. Crichton, Mr. A. Lewis, Mr. E. Boyle. **Trinidad.**—Mrs. Farnum, Mr. P. Abel, Master P. Lango, Rev. F. C. Lees, Mr. E. Hargreave, Mr. C. Miller. **Antigua.**—Miss A. E. Walter. **Dominica.**—Rev. Father F. Trontten. **Grenada.**—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Latham, Master A. J. Latham, Master L. Neckles. **St. Kitts.**—Miss M. Pogson. **St. Vincent.**—Mr. A. Smith.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," October 14th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—His Honour Judge Greaves and Mrs. Greaves, Right Rev. Bishop and Mrs. Swaby, Captain Fox, Captain Hastings, Miss Layne. **Demerara.**—Mr. and Mrs. Lovelack, Major Raynor, Miss M. Sharples, Mr. H. N. Kemble, Mr. W. Craib, Captain W. Russell, Dr. and Mrs. Ireland, Mr. A. W. Bartlett. **Jamaica.**—Maj.-General and Mrs. Black, Lieutenant G. W. Rolph, Major W. Robinson, Hon. and Mrs. O. Marexcaux, Colonel and Mrs. Bayley, Mr. R. Gillard, His Honour Judge Beard, Lieutenant Douglas, Lieutenant Langdale Jones, Mr. Hope Levy, Mstr. F. Kerr, Mr. Phillips, Captain E. M. Sandys. **Trinidad.**—Lady Mary Milbanke, Mrs. Clarke, Miss E. Gifford, Mr. and Mrs. Hewlett, Mr. A. Truitt, Mr. and two Misses Dalgleish, Mr. W. Schoemer, Mr. Disney, Mr. and Mrs. J. Fitzgerald. **Antigua.**—Dr. G. B. Mason. **Grenada.**—Mr. J. Burgess, Mr. J. Copland, The Hon. D. Alexander, Mr. R. G. Dugdale, Dr. and Mrs. Durrant. **St. Lucia.**—Miss Thimim. **Tobago.**—Mr. A. Tait, Mr. H. Mellen, Mr. and Mrs. Straus, Mr. A. Mendel.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," Sept. 30th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. I. S. Brandon, Mr. T. W. Clarke, Master R. B. Clarke, Mr. R. W. Dodd, Mr. J. H. Duff, Miss E. A. England, Miss D. England, Rev. E. Fray, Master Cyril Gideon, Mr. R. Hay, Mr. C. Hall, Mr. J. Hall, Mr. C. C. Munton, Mr. W. Y. Mathers, Master J. G. Mosley, Mr. R. Paterson, Rev. Wm. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. K. Price, Miss Pile, Major Kyde, Mr. J. C. Sharp, Dr. Taylor, Mr. P. T. Gordon, Mrs. H. H. Taylor, Mr. J. C. Walshe.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," Oct. 14th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mrs. K. J. Binning, Mr. A. Bravo, Mr. C. Reid Campbell, Hon. T. Capper, Mrs. and Miss Capper, Dr. J. L. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Dewar, Miss A. Forwood, Mr. G. H. Grayson, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Hamilton, Mr. M. D. Harrel, Miss E. G. Harris, Lady and Miss Hemming, Mrs. and Miss Isaacs, Mrs. and Miss Kenny, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Kingdon, the two Misses Kingdon, Miss A. L. Kirkham, Mrs. Latchmore, the two Misses Land, Mr. H. MacDonnell, Mr. J. H. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Miles, Mrs. D. Mills, Commander M. H. H. Nelson, R.N., Mrs. A. Plaxton, Mr. A. W. Saint, Miss Shar, Mr. Spicer, Mr. H. E. Thomas, Mr. E. L. Thomas, Mr. W. W. Wynne, Mr. R. Wynne, Mr. H. J. Woodhouse.

44

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet—The growing crops on the Continent are generally believed to be irregular, and it is a well-known fact that irregular crops are never large crops. The weather too, during the current month, has also been irregular, and as this is, perhaps, the most important period in the growth of these beet-root crops, much depends on the class of atmosphere experienced from now onwards. Conservative opinions lean towards an out-put of some 5,800,000 Tons for all Europe, against some 5,600,000 Tons during the season just closed, but this figure may well be 5,600,000 or 6,000,000 Tons, according to the way in which the crop develops itself, and the determination of which cannot be fixed by anyone for at least another month. The final solution of this point is all important, more especially so at a time like the present, when we have something like 1,000,000 Tons of undigested old Sugar carried over a second time, the production of the pernicious Cartel periods, now possibly brought to a termination. The Market is sensitive, and no two days alike. Refiners and the Trade are waiting to see what effect the realisation of this old Sugar will have on values, and also for further light on the possible out-turn of the still growing crops. To-day's prices of 88% "New Sugar" are as follows:— Oct., 8s. 10½d., Nov./Dec. 8s. 10d., Jan./Mar. 8s. 11¼d., April/June 9s. 1¼d., August 9s. 3d., and crop 1904/5 Oct/Dec. 9s. 4½d. all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America are as follows:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	
Europe	1,300,000	1,340,000	540,000	400,000	540,000	Tons.
United States	150,000	160,000	160,000	40,000	150,000	"
Cuba	140,000	110,000	70,000	—	10,000	"
Cargoes afloat	140,000	200,000	110,000	130,000	190,000	"
Total	1,730,000	1,810,000	880,000	570,000	890,000	
Comparative prices of 88% for 5 years:—	1903. 8s. 10½d.	1902. 7s. 1d.	1901. 7s. 6½d.	1900. 9s. 9d.	1899. 9s. 1½d.	

Crystallised Sugar.—The business of the fortnight is small, ranging from 15s 6d. for inferior grades, up to 16s 6d. for fine Sugar, with average qualities at 16s., being in all cases full prices. Our stock, which is now reduced to 15,000 Tons, still shows a deficiency of 20,000 Tons compared with last year. A cargo of dark crystals should easily command 10s. on floating terms to Cane Refiners.

Molasses Sugar.—Nothing here, and supplies urgently wanted, partly for export to the Continent where the reduction in Import duties admit of the introduction of this Sugar. Dark qualities would realise 11s. to 12s., and grocery 13s. to 15s.

Muscovado.—No stock and prices uncertain.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports to date	20,000	55,000	41,000	34,000	Tons.
Deliveries ..	33,000	33,000	31,000	31,000	"
Stocks ..	15,000	35,000	18,000	9,000	"

Rum.—Further sales have been made of Demerara at 9d. to 9½d., the former being the approximate value of fair Rum. Importers have now sold all their stock. Jamaica is slow of sale at anything over 1s. 9d. for Standard Home Trade Marks, and there is still a good accumulation to be worked off. Cuba and other Foreign kinds are worth 7d. to 10d., according to quality and package.

London Figures to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports Jamaica	8000	11,500	9800	9000	Puns.
Demerara	9100	15,000	14,000	10,000	"
Stocks Jamaica	11,500	12,100	10,800	9800	"
Demerara	7200	8600	5100	3600	"
Total of all kinds:—				Deficiency.	
Stocks	29,149	31,517	2368	Puns.	

Board of Trade Returns for 9 months

	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports	4,368,000	6,576,000	5,655,000	Gallons.
Home Consumption	2,567,000	2,798,000	2,845,000	"
Stocks 31st September	10,033,000	9,633,000	8,115,000	"

Cocoa.—The market is firm with limited supplies of British West Indian, and full prices to an occasional advance of 1s. in Trinidad have been realised for the small quantity on offer. If this improvement is maintained it will be well for the new West India crops arriving during the winter. The latest scales have been as follows:—Trinidad, fair collected, 66s., Estate Marks, 66s. 72s., Grenada fair, 56s., fermented, 61s. 64s., fair Native from other Islands being worth about 54s., and fermented 57s. to 62s. The landed quotation of fermented African is about 60s.

Stocks in London:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports	68,000	75,000	102,000	99,000	Bags.
Home Consumption	18,666	20,474	19,505	Tons.	
Stocks 30th Sept.	13,851	16,101	14,626	"	
	5455	5212	8423	"	

The nine months Home Consumption does not point to any expansion of the trade such as we have been accustomed to for several years previously, and requires watching in the face of the ever increasing production.

Coffee.—For the time being the speculative market remains firm, and the price of Santos for this month's delivery is 28s. 1½d. All the same the statistical position is alarming, and stocks must be materially reduced before any permanent improvement can be established. In the meantime the value of good ordinary Jamaica remains about 33s. Nutmegs still tending upwards. Sales of West India 70 to 76 to the lb. at 2s. ; 100's at 1s. 3d. ; 120's at 10d., down to 150's at 7½d. and in shell from 6d. to 7d.

Mace.—Also dearer, with 100's pale at 2s. 4d. to 2s. 5d.; red, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 3d.; dark and broken, 2s. to 2s. 1d. **Pimento.**—Firm at 3½d. for fair. **Ginger.**—Neglected, and very little doing, with an easier tendency. **Cotton.**—Weak. October delivery American, about 5½d. and November/December 5d. The value of West India is approximately 5½d. for fair. **Arrowroot.**—Dull, and only small sales of fair manufacturing at 1½d., a price which does not seem to tempt our large buyers. Some better quality sold up to 2½d. Deliveries still lag behind late years.

London Figures to 30th Sept.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports	11,322	15,966	16,074	21,078	Brls.
Deliveries	9728	10,052	14,401	16,590	"
Stocks	13,845	13,633	9873	7019	"

Lime Juice Dull at 10d. to 11s. 2d per gallon, Concentrated rather firmer at £13 10s. per cask of 108 gallons. **Distilled Oil** done at 1s. 5d. per lb. Hand Pressed, Jull and lower, value 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per lb.

Algernon E. Espinall, Secretary.

427

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Ent. Stationers Hall.]

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 1903.

No. 108.

The West India Committee & Tariff Reform.

In furtherance of the resolution pledging the fullest support to Mr. Chamberlain's Fiscal Proposals, which was passed at our General Meeting convened on October 15th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Mr. Joseph Rippon, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall have been nominated and elected to represent the West India Committee upon the Committee of the Colonial Section of the Tariff Reform League. This Section, which is composed of influential gentlemen interested in the Colonies, and is likely to take a prominent and important part in the campaign now proceeding, will doubtless receive a large measure of support. Frequent meetings have been held, and we hope to be in a position to publish in our next issue the names of the very representative Committee which has been formed, and further particulars regarding this Organisation. Meanwhile the views of the West Indian Colonies regarding this appointment are being ascertained, and having regard to the resolution of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, which we received by cable and printed in our last issue, we have no doubt but that it will meet with very general approval.

In the meantime the discussion regarding the fiscal proposals goes on merrily. There seems to be no diminution whatever in the public interest shown in the question. Since our last issue Mr. Chamberlain has made another brilliant speech, at Newcastle on October 20th, where he was again received with the greatest enthusiasm. It seems to be becoming evident that the whole of this movement has arisen out of the Sugar question. We have no doubt that, as we have already pointed out, it was this question which opened Mr. Chamberlain's eyes to the serious effect which cartels and trusts, the outcome of the heavy protective duties in Europe and America must have upon our industries.

Mr. Chamberlain's Proposals Approved.

A special General Meeting of the West India Committee was held on the 15th inst. to consider Mr. Chamberlain's Fiscal Proposals. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and there was a large attendance, including Mr. Henry K. Davson, Deputy Chairman, Sir James Fergusson, G.C.S.I., M.P., Sir Walter Sendall, G.C.M.G., Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., Mr. R. K. MacBride, C.M.G., Mr. E. Anderson, Mr. W. E. Atkinson, Mr. E. G. Barr, Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. G. G. Brown, Mr. R. W. Chamney, Mr. J. Blyth Currie, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. G. McG. Frame, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. R. A. Hankey, Rev. R. Hart, Mr. Robert Harvey, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. James Inniss, Mr. H. Jackson, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. E. Kynaston, Mr. A. McConnell, Capt. G. Molyneux-Montgomerie, A.D.C., Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, Mr. E. Packard, Mr. Charles S. Parker, Mr. R. Rutherford, Messrs. Sendall & Wade, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Mr. Geo. Shute, Mr. H. K. Franklin Smith, Mr. Roger Thompson, Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Trollope, Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, Mr. T. B. Younger, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK in opening the proceedings said: Gentlemen, we are met here to consider the proposals put forward by Mr. Chamberlain. I feel that after the very exhaustive and clear speeches which have been made by Mr. Balfour at Sheffield, and by Mr. Chamberlain at Glasgow and Greenock, it would be superfluous on my part to explain them in detail; but there are one or two

points to which I should like to allude. Now you have all probably seen a poster, published, I believe, by the *Daily News*, showing a big loaf and a little loaf. The big loaf is about five or six times as large as the little one. Now I have no wish to suggest that the *Daily News* is capable of putting forward anything it does not believe to be true, and there is therefore only one conclusion which we can come to, and that is that in the opinion of the *Daily News* a duty of 2s. per quarter on wheat will raise the price of wheat by about 150s. (Laughter). For my own part I think this shows a great want of intelligence. (Hear, hear). Now I want to say a word as to the effect of a 2s. duty on the loaf. You all know that wheat is not the only thing which enters into the cost of bread. If a duty of 2s. is placed on wheat it would no doubt raise the price of wheat (assuming always that the duty falls upon the consumer), by 2s. as that wheat lies in the docks. But wheat has to be removed from the docks to the miller, and by him ground into flour; the flour has to be conveyed from the mill to the bakery, and the baker has to bake and deliver the bread. I have been endeavouring to find out what would be the effect of a duty of 2s. on the price of bread. If that duty is paid by the consumer it would amount to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the price of wheat, but that percentage would only represent five per cent. on the loaf. Now if you draw two loaves to scale, one being five per cent. larger than the other, the eye would hardly be able to detect the difference.

Another point; it is admitted by everyone that we are at the present moment importing at least £100,000,000 worth of commodities in payment of debts due to this country. No doubt those persons who possess foreign stocks derive some advantage in that form, but what is the effect of it on the working classes? Supposing that these £100,000,000 worth of commodities did not come here, and suppose we were not a creditor nation, do you think that we should do without that quantity of commodities, or do you suppose that we should employ British labour to make them? In my opinion we should employ more of the labour of the working classes if we were not a creditor nation.

The Commission on Trade Depression.

Again, in discussion I have had it thrown in my teeth, and I have seen it in the press, that this enquiry into the fiscal system is an entirely new thing sprung upon us; that nobody had ever heard of severe trade depression, and that everybody was perfectly satisfied until Mr. Chamberlain told us that we were all suffering. Now I want to remind you that some twenty years ago, so serious was the position in this country, that the Government, after enquiry, appointed a Royal Commission "to enquire and report upon the extent, nature, and probable causes of the depression now or recently prevailing in various branches of trade and industry, and whether it can be alleviated by legislation or other measures." If we were all so prosperous why should the Government have appointed this Royal Commission nearly twenty years ago. Twenty three members were nominated, of whom I was one. Lord Iddesleigh was the chairman. Mr. Sam Storey was also a member, and the most prominent was Mr. Ecroyd. The result was a majority report and a minority report, as is usually the case with a Royal Commission. Eighteen members signed the majority report, but of these five signed a separate report to the effect that it was too optimistic, that it minimised the "depression which the evidence submitted to us proves to exist in almost every branch of trade and industry of the country." A sixth member, Sir C. Palmer, also signed the majority report, but drew up a separate one of his own to the effect that, in his opinion our minority report "more accurately describes the extent and severity of the depression in trade and industry, and the consequent insufficiency of employment of labour than does the report of the majority of the Commissioners." Four of us signed a minority report, which was drawn up by Mr. Ecroyd, and signed by him, by Lord Dunraven, Sir Phillip Muntz, and myself, who recommended "a duty of ten to fifteen per cent., ad valorem, on all

manufactures imported from foreign countries, as a duty sufficient to countervail the bounty derived by foreign manufacturers from the protective system, and from the unenviable economy of production arising from the longer hours of labour and less effective inspection and regulation of its conditions"—in other words from their sweating system. We further recommended a duty equal to about ten per cent. on a low range of values on "those articles of food which India and the Colonies are well able to produce, and pointed out that this would involve the abolition of the heavy duties now levied on tea, coffee, cocoa, and dried fruits—all Colonial and Indian products." It may interest you to know that Mr. Sam Storey, who wrote a long letter to the *Times* recently, was a member of that Commission. He did not then agree with us who signed the minority report, but he is now convinced that we were right, and he, for one, refuses to make this a party question, and I think it is a pity that others do not follow his example. Now what I have attempted to prove to you is that this question is not a new one, as so many of Mr. Chamberlain's opponents assert. The position was already so acute in 1885 that, as I have said, a Royal Commission was then appointed to enquire into it. We all know that industries do not go up and down continuously, they proceed, so to speak, in waves, and we must follow the waves to see whether the general tendency is up or down. My firm belief is that the tendency is distinctly on the down grade.

One word about cartels and dumping. It appears to me that those who oppose Mr. Chamberlain, and who think that cheapness is everything, are in this dilemma: if it is well to let one trade be destroyed by cartels, bounties, etc., it clearly would be better if two trades were so destroyed, and it obviously follows that it would be best of all if we allowed the whole of our industries to be destroyed by these means, cotton, woollen, sugar, iron industries, and so forth, all destroyed by artificially cheap articles being dumped down here by these means. Can they really believe this?

A Practical Example of Dumping.

The Company of which I have the honour to be Chairman, received an order recently for rails for Trinidad. We obtained estimates from Middlesborough and from Berlin, and this is the result, that the cost of those rails bought in Berlin and delivered in Trinidad is £550 c.f.i., and bought in Middlesborough £690 c.f.i., a difference of nearly twenty-five per cent. between the Berlin and Middlesborough price. Now of course you must know that there cannot be anything like twenty-five per cent. difference in the cost of production of rails in Middlesborough and in Berlin. The greater part of this difference I understand, arises from a cartel. Under the tariff system in Germany manufacturers combine to sell rails inland at £5 15s. od. per ton, while for export they sell at £4 5s. per ton. It seems to me a monstrous thing that the trade which ought to belong to this country and its Colonies should be filched from us in this manner, and that as Mr. Chamberlain says, we should take it lying down. I now therefore beg to move:—

"That this General Meeting of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE having fully considered the policy enunciated by Mr. Chamberlain in his speech at Glasgow on October 6th, involving the reform of our Fiscal System and the establishment of preferential trade with our Colonies, cordially approves of the proposals put forward and pledges itself to give them the fullest support."

MR. HENRY K. DAVSON then said: I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution. Our position is this, it is universally known that we all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Chamberlain for all that he has done for the Colonies, and I have no doubt that some of those who criticise our actions will think that the present resolution is intended as a sort of partial payment of our obligation. It is not, however, out of mere gratitude that I second, as I most cordially do, the resolution that has been so ably put by the Chairman, but because Mr. Chamberlain's scheme, both in its conception and its scope, so thoroughly appeals to my own ideas. We have lived under the banner of Free Trade for nearly fifty years, and I am ready to admit the beneficial results of that policy up to a certain time and

up to a certain point. That period is when the foreigner, instead of reciprocating our good treatment, which was what we had looked for, discovered that we were so wrapped up in our self-complacency that he could take advantage of our childlike slumber for his own benefit and to our injury, and those who oppose his scheme have proved the correctness of Mr. Chamberlain's views by showing that they have no other argument than personal abuse. It is a gratifying feature, however, to find that there are men, and the Chairman has given a notable instance of one in particular, sitting on the opposite side of the House to Mr. Chamberlain, who are Britons first and party men afterwards, and who have not only risen above party faction, but have had the courage to support him, and I firmly believe that if the great Cobden could return at this crisis he would repudiate the clamour of that Club which is playing such havoc with his name. (Hear, hear).

Sir J. Fergusson Congratulates the Committee.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON, Bart. (M.P. for North-East Manchester) said that he had been heartily at one with the West India Committee in the work they had been doing for many years past, and he was glad to see that a large measure of success had attended their efforts to get justice for the West Indies by the removal of the bounties and the discouragement of the cartel scheme which had been so ruinous to West Indian industries. Being anxious that his co-operation with the Committee should not end with these achievements on their part, he gladly accepted the invitation to attend this meeting, but at the time he did not know it was intended to put forward a resolution entirely supporting the proposals of Mr. Chamberlain. He therefore thought it right that he should say that he was not at present convinced that Mr. Chamberlain's proposals were practicable. He represented a constituency in Manchester which, in common with many Lancashire constituencies, was not prepared for any measures which would, in the opinion that was held there, increase the cost of food to the people. He entirely agreed with the statement of the Chairman that it was absurd to say that a 2s. duty on corn would have that effect, because we knew that the 1s. duty on corn (which was so precipitately taken off this year) had no such effect—(hear, hear)—but that, on the contrary, the price of bread never was lower—in Manchester at least—in our time. He questioned whether a 2s. duty would have any greater effect than the 1s. duty, because we all knew that the causes which operated to produce a rise or fall in the price of bread were various, and were not even chiefly connected with a fiscal duty. He yielded to none in his admiration of Mr. Chamberlain's great services to the Colonies, and was deeply grateful to him for the great part he took in promoting the measures by which this country would resist the continuance of the sugar bounties, and would, if necessary, prevent bounty fed sugar from coming into this country. They would see, therefore, that he was in great sympathy with them, but he could not sit there and be supposed to be a party to the entire acceptance of Mr. Chamberlain's present proposals. (Hear, hear).

SIR FRANCIS FLEMING said that he was sure that every gentleman present was prepared to give the utmost consideration and the gravest attention to what was, perhaps, the most important question which had arisen during the present generation, without regard to politics on one side or the other. Mr. Chamberlain had placed his proposal before them on two grounds, viz.: benefit to (1) the United Kingdom; and (2) the Empire at large. What a benefit the scheme would prove to Ireland alone! It was the only thing which could give back to Ireland what she had lost. As to the Colonies, it would unite them into one mighty Empire. He really believed that this scheme was the only one upon which could be built up that mighty Empire which Mr. Chamberlain was so anxious should arise, and which once established could never be destroyed.

The Chairman then put the resolution to the meeting and upon a show of hands declared it to be carried unanimously. Proceedings were then brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Edward Kynaston.

Supplement to "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR," No. 108, Oct. 26th, 1903



THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS.

2. THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

L.S.

Resolutions from Antigua, Barbados, and Trinidad.

The following is the text of a resolution moved by Mr. R. Bryson, seconded by the Hon. A. Spooner, and adopted unanimously at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Antigua early in October:—

"That this Society hears with great regret of the resignation of the office of Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, and desires to express its sincere appreciation of the efforts which he has made during his term of office for the consolidation of the Empire, improvement of the condition of the Colonies, and of the earnest attention which he has given to the affairs of the West Indies. In expressing this appreciation this Society particularly desires to lay stress upon those efforts which have resulted in the abolition of the European Bounties upon Beet Sugar."

At the request of the organisers of a public meeting held in the Wilhelmina Hall, Bridgetown, Barbados, on October 6th, Sir George C. Pile presiding, the West India Committee has communicated to Mr. Chamberlain, at Highbury, the following resolution, which was proposed in a masterly speech by the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, seconded by Mr. Catford, and passed at the meeting unanimously:—

"That this meeting of the people of Barbados desires to express extreme regret at the retirement of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain from the Secretaryship of the Colonies, a position which he has filled with conspicuous ability for over eight years, and which he has elevated to be one of the most important posts of the Government. During his term of office he has been able to draw closer the ties which bind the larger Colonies to the Mother Country, and for the West Indies in particular he has been instrumental in obtaining many benefits. By the Royal Commission of 1897 the British public were authoritatively made aware of the injustice under which these Colonies were suffering by the unfair imposition of the Foreign Sugar Bounties, and this meeting recognises that it is chiefly to Mr. Chamberlain's efforts that this iniquitous system has now been abolished, and that our staple industry has at last obtained fair play."

On the same day the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Edgar Tripp and seconded by Mr. Randolph Rust, was adopted unanimously at a meeting of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, held at the News Room, Port of Spain, the Hon. W. M. Gordon Gordon presiding:—

"That a telegram be sent to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain expressive of the grateful recognition due to him for his services to the British West Indies generally in bringing about the abolition of bounties, and this Colony in particular, during his term of office, and of the Chamber's undiminished confidence in the ultimate success of his Fiscal Policy."

Our Fruit Imports.

An interesting article upon our imports of fresh fruits appeared in the *Times* of the 19th inst. Of fruits which we cannot grow in this country, except in greenhouses and hothouses, the banana appears to be increasing in popularity most rapidly. In the subjoined statement is shown the values not only of bananas, but of grapes, oranges, and lemons imported into the United Kingdom in the first nine months of 1901, 1902, and 1903. It will be noticed that of these four kinds of fruit it is only in the case of bananas that a continuous augmentation in the value of the imports has taken place:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.
Bananas	£654,847	£788,288	£906,611
Grapes	284,214	257,347	310,364
Oranges	1,435,542	1,734,746	1,686,393
Lemons	338,211	317,254	314,408
Total, nine months...	£2,712,814	£3,097,635	£3,217,776

Our import trade in bananas is increasing at a very rapid rate. The values of these imports for the entire years 1900, 1901, and 1902 were £548,956, £875,540, and £1,060,263 respectively; and it is evident that the value of this year's imports when ascertainable will considerably exceed any previous record. As recently as three years ago nearly the whole of the trade was with the Canary Islands; and, though these have increased their shipments, something like one-fourth of the present enlarged imports comes from the British West India Islands. Spain supplies nearly three-fourths of our imports of grapes, and even a larger proportion of our oranges; for this latter fruit, indeed, we paid to Spain over two millions sterling last year. Italy is the great source of our lemons (including limes and citrons), quite four-fifths of our entire imports coming from that country. The quantity of oranges and lemons we obtain from within the Empire is almost insignificant compared with our total imports of these fruits.

The Cotton Industry.

Mr. C. Watson wrote to us from Montserrat that the June and July planting of Cotton when the mail left on October 7th was in full bloom, and promised a fair return in spite of the attacks of caterpillars and the Leaf Gall mite with which it had become infected from a field of ratoons. From Antigua Mr. A. St. G. Spooner reported that the cotton caterpillar had been playing havoc all over the Island, but that it was being kept down to a great extent by dusting the leaves with Paris Green mixed with lime. In Barbados the pest has also made its unwelcome appearance. The current issue of the *Agricultural News* deals with this matter and after describing the cotton worm which is easily distinguished by its walk, it being one of the "loopers" or "measuring worms," gives the following hints for its extermination by the mixture of Paris green with dry unslaked lime applied by hand from a coarse cloth bag. "This mixture may vary to suit the case in hand; for slight attacks 1 lb. of Paris green to 100 lbs. lime; for severe attacks 1 lb. of Paris green to 50 lbs. lime may be used. London purple may be used in this mixture. At the present time the supply of London purple and Paris green in Barbados is exhausted, and for the next few weeks hand picking of the worms and pupae will have to be practised. This is being done on several estates and it seems to be entirely practical. After a little experience the labourers will detect the presence of the caterpillars on the leaf and of the pupae rolled up in the leaf, and the work can be done rapidly. The insects when caught can be dropped into kerosene or lime water and thus killed. On one estate the practise of killing worms and pupae on the leaves is being tried and appears to give good results. This is done by squeezing them between the thumb and finger; in this way the insect is killed and the leaf may be left on the plant. This method is much faster than the collecting and does no damage to the plant.

Mr. J. R. Bovell has made a calculation of the ratio of the cost of labour in sugar growing in Barbados and places it at 55 to 60 per cent. of the whole cost of production. The Hon. Francis Watts has received a report from a firm of Liverpool brokers on a sample of cotton grown in Barbados. In reply to the enquiry as to whether the market could take up at the price quoted, 13d. to 14d. per lb. for this sample Sea Island Cotton if it came forward in any large quantity, the reply was that opinions in Liverpool seemed to indicate that spinners would take up all they were likely to have offered, the experience being that so little of this quality could be grown satisfactorily over a series of years.

The following figures show the total sales and prices (fine and extra fine) for Sea Island descriptions for the last four years,

1900	1901	1902	1903 (to date).
350 bs.	890 bs.	130 bs.	280 bs.
13½d. to 21d.	13d. to 20d.	13d. to 20d.	13d. to 21d. per lb.

It will be seen that the quantity sold has not been large, and over the period named prices have kept remarkably steady. This cotton is principally used for making a specially fine thread used in needle work and lace working. It is an expensive article, and it is doubtful to what extent the demand would expand, without some shrinkage in value, if the supply were to be increased to any very large quantity.

Russia and the Sugar Convention.

It was Mr. Wallwyn P. Shephard, of Lincoln's Inn, who, with Professor Sheldon Amos, pronounced the opinion in 1879 that the imposition of countervailing duties against bounty-fed sugar would not be a contravention of the most favoured nation clauses of existing commercial treaties, and though his views were not upheld at the time the present Law Officers of the Crown have fully endorsed the contention of these learned counsel. An article from the pen of Mr. Shephard which appears in a recent issue of the *Journal of Comparative Legislation* based on the correspondence (Commercial No. 1, 1903) with the Russian government regarding this matter will command particular attention. The existing dispute originated with the Indian Tariff Act (1894) Amendment Act, whereby Russian sugar was subjected on importation into India to a countervailing duty. Mr. Shephard also examines the arguments of Lord Lansdowne, His Excellency M. de Stael, and Baron Graevenitz on behalf of the Russian government with respect to the liability of Russian sugar to the penal clause of the Brussels Sugar Convention.

The *Journal of the Society of Comparative Legislation* which is published by John Murray, Albemarle Street, London, has for some years contained abstracts of all Imperial and Colonial Acts of the Legislative Bodies. Those abstracts are made by members of the Bar, and constitute a valuable record of all the legislation of the Empire.

New Members of the West India Committee.

By virtue of Rule IV the subscription paid by new Members elected during the last three months of the current year will not be renewable until January 1st, 1905. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, October 15th, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
MESSRS. THOMAS LOWNDES & Co.	Edward Anderson, Esq.	Edward Kynaston, Esq.
HON. JAMES COX FILLAN (Dominica)	Messrs. C. W. & W. Gray	Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co.
GEORGE SANFTLEBEN, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
EDWARD ESTRIDGE, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
W. H. WOODROFFE, Esq. (B. Guiana)	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Guy C. A. Wyatt, Esq.
H. JASON JONES, Esq. (Barbados)	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.	Hon. W. P. Leacock.
C. REID CAMPBELL, Esq. (Jamaica)	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
J. HAYNES, Esq. (Trinidad)	William Gillespie, Esq.	Arthur Johnson, Esq.
A. WELLESLEY LEWIS, Esq., K.C. (Grenada)	G. McG. Frame, Esq.	Stephen Ewen, Esq.

A send off to Dr. G. B. Mason.

There was a large gathering of Members of the West Indian Club at the Club Dinner on Tuesday, October 13th, to do honour to Dr. G. B. Mason, their founder, who left Southampton on the following day to take up his appointment as Medical Officer of the Leeward Islands. Sir Nevile Lubbock occupied the Chair, and he congratulated Dr. Mason upon the success which had attended

the West Indian Club from its inception, and expressed the hope that he might succeed and prosper in the sphere of usefulness to which he was about to be translated, a sentiment which met with the cordial support of all those present. Dr. Mason's health having been toasted with musical honours and three times three, he rose, and in thanking Members for the honour accorded him, promised to do all in his power to further the interests of the West Indian Club in Antigua. He threw out various hints for increasing the usefulness of the Club, the formation of which suggested itself to him at a West Indian Cricket Match at Richmond, which was honoured by the presence of the late Duchess of Teck, in the year of the Diamond Jubilee; his speech being greeted with much applause.

Correspondence relating to the Volcanic Eruptions.

Further correspondence relating to the Volcanic Eruptions in St. Vincent and Martinique in 1902 and 1903 has just been presented to Parliament (cd 1783 in continuation of cd 1201). This covers the period from June 6th, 1902, to September 12th, and includes the report of Captain Young, the Chief Secretary for Cyprus, who was appointed special officer to deal with the relief of the sufferers and their re-settlement on the land. A month after the eruption of the Soufriere Mr. George Robertson, the owner of the Wallibu Estate, received compensation for his losses, the house and works of Campden Park Estate and 400 acres of land being conveyed to him together with £600 in cash. Mr. Chamberlain thought that this case was treated with somewhat excessive liberality, and could not consent to its being considered a precedent, the Mansion House Fund being primarily intended "to provide for the relief of actual and immediate distress, not to benefit those who have suffered but still have means left, nor to compensate those who had lost all for all they have lost." Sir Robert Llewelyn subsequently recommended that Mr. Porter, the largest sufferer, should receive compensation, but none was granted to him even for the stock lost on his estates as finally recommended by the Governor. Captain Young recommended the ultimate purchase, out of the balance of the fund, of five of the estates belonging to Mr. Porter and the establishment of a peasant proprietary, but no decision upon the point has been arrived at. Every effort was made to induce labourers to emigrate to Dominica and Jamaica, but, as was the case after the hurricane of 1898, they were unwilling to leave their native island. The Soufriere was again active on September 3rd and 4th, 1902, when sand and stones fell eight inches deep in Carib County and the area of land damaged was increased. The total receipts of the Eruption Fund amounted to £77,000, and of this total £29,500 was in the hands of the Crown Agents in mid September. The letters from the West India Committee to the Colonial Office are not published in this Blue Book.

Colonial Reports—Barbados, 1902-3.

The first Colonial Report for 1902-3 to appear is that of Mr. Acting Governor Knaggs on Barbados (Colonial Reports No. 398). The record of the financial year is necessarily rather a gloomy one. An epidemic of small-pox broke out in February, 1902, and lasted, with only a few weeks interval, until April, 1903; and throughout the whole of this period a rigid quarantine was enforced against the Island by the other West Indian colonies. As a consequence there was almost an entire cessation of the transshipping trade and of the inter-colonial trade carried on by small craft, and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company were compelled for a time to remove their headquarters to Trinidad. Thus on the one hand the epidemic had a most disastrous effect on the trade and on the revenue of the Colony, while on the other hand the expenditure necessarily incurred in endeavouring to stamp out the disease proved a severe strain on the Treasury. The surplus of £28,577 with which the financial year opened soon dwindled away, and it became evident that some additional revenue

must be provided to enable the Government to meet its obligations. Accordingly, on the 21st of October, 1902, Acts were passed by the Legislature increasing the Customs duties by 20 per cent. for the remainder of the financial year and raising the rum duty from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a gallon. Unhappily the necessity for these increases did not cease, as was anticipated, on the 31st March, 1903, and they have been continued for another year. Even this increased taxation, however, did not prove sufficient. To add to the difficulties of the situation, the sugar crop of 1903 began to show signs of failure in consequence of unusually dry weather, and towards the close of the year it became necessary to effect a temporary loan from the Colonial Bank of £7000 (of which, however, only £4185 was expended) to enable the Treasury to meet the claims upon it.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

1902-3	...	...	£161,585	...	£194,347	...	£32,762 Deficit.
1901-2	...	...	179,972	...	175,350	...	4622 Surplus.
1900 ...	...	...	185,474	...	182,865	...	2609 "
1899 ...	...	...	216,022	...	207,883	...	8139 "
1898 ...	...	...	182,682	...	185,840	...	3158 Deficit.

The Exports of Sugar and Molasses were:—

COUNTRIES.	SUGAR.	MOLASSES.	TOTAL.
United Kingdom ...	£16,828	£1103	£17,931
British North America ...	7745	114,282	122,027
Other British Colonies ...	2723	4178	6901
United States America ...	274,082	137	274,219
Other Foreign Countries ...	224	28	252
Total ...	£301,602	£119,728	£421,330

Owing to the prolonged quarantine the value of the transit trade fell from £206,167 to £146,883, a loss of £59,284. The population of the Island is now estimated at 195,588, an average of 1178 persons to the square mile. Special reference is made by Mr. Knaggs to the outbreak of small pox, the first case of which occurred in February, 1902, in a recent arrival from Canada: 150,000 persons in all were vaccinated and the direct cost of the outbreak to the Colony was £19,239. It was felt that the quarantine regulations of the other Colonies were not altogether necessary or reasonable and it was hoped that the report of the Local Quarantine Commission would form the basis of a further conference at which the restrictions hitherto considered necessary would be greatly modified. The Sugar Crop was a disappointing one. An attempt was being made under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture to revive the cotton industry. A grant of £250 had been supplemented by a gift of £100 from the British Cotton Growing Association who had also presented a gin to the Island. It was estimated that some 1200 acres capable of yielding about 300,000 lbs of clean cotton would shortly be under cultivation. The advantage of the industry to the Colony lies in the fact that cotton can be grown on land unsuitable for sugar cane and its introduction will not therefore displace sugar cultivation to any great extent.

Publications of the Department of Agriculture.

We have received by the Mail the undermentioned publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, copies of which can be obtained at the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE ROOMS (stamps to cover postage must accompany every order): *The Agricultural News*, Vol. II., No. 39. Price 1d. This number contains articles on "Reports on the Botanic Station and Agricultural Education, St. Kitts-Nevis, 1902-3." Price 3d. "Seedling and other Canes at Barbados, 1903." (Pamphlet Series, No. 26).

Price 4d. A summary of the experimental work carried on under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The varieties of cane reported on were grown on nine estates situated in typical localities in the Island, eight of the plots being on black soils, and one on red soil. Altogether, there were twenty two fields of cane under experimental cultivation. The canes were treated in each case, as in former years, in exactly the same manner as the other canes on the estate. Barbados seedling B 208 proved the best all-round cane on the year's experiments. White transparent maintained its reputation. B 147 occupies the second place in plant canes and the average quality of its juice was fair. Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, Mr. J. R. Bovell, and those associated with them carried on the experiments with the greatest zeal. "Ground Nuts in the West Indies." (Pamphlet Series, No. 25). Price 2d. Detailed information is given in this pamphlet of the present condition of this industry, from which it appears that in almost all the West Indian Islands the ground nut is known and cultivated to some extent, but in no case is it an important one. In the United States 40,000 tons are raised annually, and enormous quantities are used in confectionery, while the oil obtained by crushing the seeds is used for culinary purposes. The refuse is used for oil cake. Mr. Freeman suggests that this industry might seriously be taken in hand.

Notes of Interest.

JAMAICA RELIEF FUND. Since the closing of the Jamaica Relief Fund we have received and forwarded direct to the Governor of Jamaica the following sums;—Rev. A. S. Moore, £10; H. Symonds, Esq., M.D., £2 2s.; Mrs. Barden, £2.

OUR BANQUET NOV. 25. The Duke of Marlborough, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, has accepted the invitation of the West India Committee to attend the Banquet to Sir Neville Lubbock at the Whitehall Rooms on November 25th next.

THE "ORINOCO" DELAYED. The R.M.S. "Orinoco," which sailed for the West Indies on October 14th, collided with a barque and was compelled to put in to Plymouth upon the following day. Repairs having been effected she resumed her voyage on Saturday, October 17th.

SUGGESTIONS INVITED. We invite suggestions for the development of the *West India Committee Circular*. For spaces for advertisements, and for the scale of charges, applications should be addressed to the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

THE RUM REPORT. Mr. Steele's Rum Report was recently the subject of leading articles in two successive issues of the *Civilian*, the accredited organ of the Civil Service. This journal refers to it as "rather pedagogic, rather when-I-speak-let-not-the-dogs-bark in tone."

OVERSEERS' REGISTER. Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that arrangements are being made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at the West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

BRITISH GUIANA 1803—1903. Though there was no general celebration of the Centenary in British Guiana, it was marked by festivities in Berbice on September 24th. A "Centenary Supplement" was issued with the *Daily Chronicle* giving in a brief form the history of British Guiana. It contains a map of the Colony and reproductions of old prints which are remarkably interesting.

THE LATE MR. A. G. STEWART. We record with regret the death of Mr. Allen Campbell Stewart, Emigration Agent at Calcutta and Trinidad, which took place from dysentery on the 13th ult. Mr. Stewart was educated at the Royal College, Trinidad, and the Royal College of Chemistry, London, and was appointed sub-agent for immigration in British Guiana in November, 1881, and subsequently emigration agent at Calcutta for Jamaica, Fiji, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Mauritius.

MR. GEORGE MARTINEAU. The *International Sugar Journal* for October has as a frontispiece, an admirable half-tone portrait of Mr. George Martineau, C.B., whose indefatigable services in regard to the Sugar Question are recorded in an article which all interested in the Sugar Industry should read. (*The International Sugar Journal*, Altrincham, Cheshire, 1s.) We are glad to learn that Mr. Martineau is to receive a well deserved testimonial from the Sugar Refiners whose cause he has so ably championed for so many years.

THE BRUSSELS COMMISSION. The sittings of the International Sugar Commission were resumed on the 16th inst. and terminated for the present on the 24th inst. Little information can be gathered from the colourless official reports, but it appears that the efforts of the Commission have been concentrated upon an endeavour to conciliate Russia and induce her to join the Convention. Three Russian Delegates attended the later sittings and diplomatic negotiations with Russia are to be continued by the Belgian Government with a view to complete the work of conciliation.

IN PRAISE OF MR. CHAMBERLAIN. Mr. George Shute, whose name will be familiar to our Members from his able advocacy in the Press of the Abolition of Bounties, has addressed a letter to us recording his

" Deep sense of obligation to our late Colonial Secretary, but for whose foresight and energy, under the gravest of difficulties, the iniquitous system of Foreign Sugar Bounties, supplemented and aggravated by Cartels, would most likely up to this very present moment be still crippling our Sugar producing possessions in many parts of the world, and closing the few remaining still open gates at home of what was once a great industry.

" Mr. Chamberlain's new departure, under his great Preferential Tariff Scheme, offers innumerable and many sided advantages. It has in view the closer relations and mutual strengthening of the greatest world-wide Empire known to history, and it must render us far more secure from attack by all possible or conceivable combinations of other Powers.

" This most important and original new departure in political economy, discovered by Mr. Chamberlain, could not be better described than in the language of Dr. Johnson, referring to wit :

" ' It is at once natural and new, and though not obvious, is acknowledged at first sight to be just ; it is that, which he, who never found, wonders how he missed ! ' "

" I am so strongly reminded of a stanza in " Gray's Elegy," that seems to me almost a prophecy, for it cannot well fit in with any one of the Poet's contemporaries, that I must beg leave to complete this paper with the quotation :

" ' The applause of listening senates to command,
The threats of pain and reason to despise,
To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land,
And read their history in a nation's eyes ! ' "

TO PREVENT LEAKAGE. With the object of obviating the waste caused by the loosening of the hoops of casks when subjected to rough treatment, Mr. A. Jaffa, 17A, New Quay, Liverpool, has patented a simple plan whereby the hoops of casks are kept securely in the positions they are driven to. The hoops are kept immovable by means of two strips of hoop-iron, perforated up the centre at very short intervals. In the hoops perforations are also made through which split fasteners are put, these being in line up and down the stave. The band is then fastened to the hoop, one on each side of the cask, and the ends of the band are secured round the chinks.

CABLE INTERRUPTIONS. For the fifth time during the current year Cable communication between Demerara and Trinidad was interrupted on the 22nd inst. This does not redound to the credit of the West India and Panama Cable Company, and calls for the serious consideration of the merchants in those Colonies. A further cause for complaint is the nature of the news supplied by the Company. At the time of the recent political crisis the cabled announcement that " Mr. Balfour played golf yesterday taking ten shots at the tee and then destroyed his card," cannot have created very general interest.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN ON IMMIGRATION. A crushing reply from Mr. Chamberlain to the anti-immigration petition from some inhabitants of British Guiana is published in the *Argosy* of October 3rd, and the mail edition of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle*. Mr. Chamberlain said that no case had been made out for the reversal of the policy of the Government with regard to immigration. He did not regard the petition as representing any very large body of opinion in the Colony and said he was not aware of the existence of any widespread distress such as the petitioners claimed to have resulted from the over introduction of immigrants and to unfair incidence of taxation. We might add to this our conviction that if coolie immigration were to cease at the present time the effect on the Colony would be most serious and distress of an acute form would manifest itself.

Mr. COX AND HIS CLUB. We imagine that no great importance will be attached to Mr. Harold Cox's reply to Mr. Balfour's pamphlet. The Prime Minister is calculated to command more attention than the Secretary of the Cobden Club. Mr. Balfour's apparent error in referring to St. Vincent instead of Barbados, to which his remarks were clearly intended to apply, and putting the date of the Commission as 1897 instead of 1900 was eagerly seized upon by Mr. Cox. It was of Barbados the Commission said, " There is substantially but one industry, one product and one export—that of sugar—nor does the island appear to be suited for the growth of either coffee, cocoa, or fruit on a scale of any commercial importance." Mr. Balfour's argument was sound enough regarding Barbados. Our campaign, which resulted in the education of the country regarding the iniquity of Bounty system—and, we might add, the belittling of the Cobden Club—is referred to by Mr. Cox as the " whispered mis-information of interested persons " which poisoned the minds of the Government!

West Indian Securities.

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on September 3rd). 2½ % Consols, 88½.

Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Div.	Price.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Div.	Price.
20	Colonial Bank	6	6%	4½-5	100	Direct West India Cable Co.			
100	Royal Mail Steam Pckt. Co.	60	Nil.	25-27		Debentures	100	4½%	99-102
Stock.	Imperial Direct West India				5	New Colonial Co. Pref.	5	5%	2½-3½
	Mail Service Debentures	100	4½%	82-86	100	New Trinidad Lake As			
10	West India & Panama Tel. Company	10	Nil.	4-4		phalt Company...	100	6%	92-96
					Stock.	Demerara Railway Co.	100	Nil.	20-25

THE REPORT OF THE DEMERARA RAILWAY COMPANY for the year ended June 30th shows that the gross revenue was £21,038, and the gross expenditure £19,219, leaving a net revenue of £1819. After deducting Debenture interest and adding the Government subsidy of £6250, and the balance brought forward, the amount available for dividend is £11,399. This, after payment of the full dividend on the Extension Preference Shares for the half year, will leave a balance of £5149, which the directors recommend be carried forward to meet the expenditure on renewals referred to in the two preceding reports. The report was adopted on the 23rd inst.

THE REPORT OF THE COLONIAL BANK for the half-year to June 30th which was adopted at the half-yearly general meeting on October 8th, Mr. H. Dobree presiding, shows a net profit of £20,693 for this period. The dividend at the rate of 6 % per annum is maintained and the reserve remains at £150,000. The carry forward is £15,400, £4500 better than last year. The following table gives a comparison of the figures for the past four years:—

	Deposits and Current a/cs.	Bills Receivable.	Bills Discounted, &c.	Net Profits.	Dividend.
June 30th, 1900	£1,951,054	£1,035,101	£1,048,043	£18,841	6 %
" " 1901	1,997,518	1,050,416	949,636	18,492	6 %
" " 1902	2,005,770	1,061,689	876,440	18,638	6 %
" " 1903	2,186,985	896,028	853,656	20,693	6 %

THE DIRECTORS OF THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY have issued an interim report to the proprietors for the half-year ended June 30th. They state that the draft of the Supplementary Charter, which the proprietors unanimously sanctioned at the annual general meeting on April 29th, is still under the consideration of the Privy Council, awaiting the approval of the Crown. Fully recognising the necessity of providing new vessels, the court have ordered on favourable terms three powerful cargo steamers of large carrying capacity, two of which are being constructed by Messrs. Harland & Wolff (Limited), and one by Messrs Workman, Clark & Co. (Limited, of Belfast, while the important question of still further strengthening the fleet will continue to engage the court's most careful consideration. The results for the half-year ended June 30 last do not admit of the payment of a dividend.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "La Plata" anchored off Plymouth at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21st, and the mails were delivered in London by the first post on the following day. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Maria" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, October 14th.

Mr. Forster M. Alleyne has asked us to correct a statement in his letter of August 13th quoted in *Circular* 104, to the effect that a steam pipe had broken on board the "Orinoco," as he is informed by Captain Owen that this did not occur. Mr. Alleyne adds that he believes that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are now doing all in their power to fit their steamers for carrying fruit, and this we are assured is the case. As Mr. Williams pointed out to us in a letter published in our last issue (p. 58), an addition is being made to the fruit storage capacity of the "Atrato," "Trent," and "Tagus," and we are informed that the Company also intend to run three other steamers of about 4000 tons, at intervals between the Mails, specially fitted to carry fruit. If these arrangements are carried out the fruit trade will rapidly develop, but it behoves planters on their side to give every care to the details of their business not only in the packing of the fruit but also in

its selection, as the manner in which it is delivered depends very much on these two conditions. We extract the following points of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents from which it will be seen that the conditions continued favourable.

Antigua.—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, October 6th. The Agricultural and Commercial Society had been invited by the Governor to make recommendations regarding the new contract for the Mail Service with Great Britain and with Canada. Regarding the former service, increased speed, no transshipment, and the reduction of rates of freights, and facilities for carriage of fruit were recommended. With regard to the latter, the Society was strongly of opinion that the subsidy should be continued in order to secure a regular service with Canada, but urged the desirability of an additional steamer in crop time, and an occasional steamer to Montreal at the same period. The Society also recommended that Nevis should be put on the schedule as a port of call, with a view to promote inter-colonial trade. The weather for the fortnight had been intensely hot and windless, with frequent showers on many estates. The crop was rapidly recovering from the effects of the drought. The windward estates, however, were still very backward, and copious rains were required to make up the growth lost during the drought. Onions were coming on well, insect attacks being less than last year.

G Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, October 9th. The cotton crop was growing excellently, but the leaves were being attacked by worms. The onion crop was coming on nicely. The weather continued excellent, September having continued a favourable month up to the last, and October having begun with good showers. For September, 12.25 inches were marked at Porters, and 4.05 were marked for October to date. There had been some furious gusts of wind, which had beaten down the canes in some places, but it did not appear that any extensive damage was done. The canes were very fine and heavy, so that they were more susceptible to wind.

British Guiana.—A. Summerson, Esq., October 8th. There was a short meeting of the Legislature on September 28th. Except for a heavy fall of rain on that day, the fortnight had been hot and dry. This weather was favourable for reaping operations, which were then in full swing. Showers, however, would do good to the young cultivation. Refining crystals reached 2.06, but the market had eased since.

Dominica.—E. A. Agar, Esq., October 7th. It was reported that an Italian Steamship Company was going to run fortnightly boats from Dominica to New York and London, with lower freight charges than any existing line. The appointment by the Imperial Department of Agriculture of Mr. J. Russell Murray as agent in Canada to work up the trade between the West Indies and the Dominion, was favourably commented on. The weather was dry and fine.

Grenada.—Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son. The following is a comparative table showing the exports to Sept. 30th :—

CROP.		COCOA.		SPICE.		COTTON.		COTTON SEED.	
Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.		Bags.		Packages.		Bales.		Bags.	
1902-3	...	63,019	...	6195	...	1028	...	7125	...
1001-2	...	61,285	...	4770	...	951	...	5799	...
1900-1	...	53,387	...	4406	...	838	...	4724	...
1899-00	...	53,388	...	5633	...	995	...	5816	...
1898-99	...	52,141	...	3976	...	641	...	4281	...

Of which, the following were shipped to North America :—

	1902-3	1901-2	1900-1	1199-00	1898-9
Cocoa ...	9766	4552	5440	4180	1713 bags.
Spice ...	1642	749	1727	1673	819 packages

And the remainder in Europe.

Jamaica.—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., October 5th. The weather had been seasonable during the fortnight. The country looked green, and the growth of vegetation since the hurricane had been phenomenal. The cocoa crop would be late and probably a short one on account of the hurricane. Coffee would also be late but the quality would be good and the quantity about the same as last season. A Mr. Andrew Greenhalgh, of Manchester, who was said to be interested in bleaching and finishing cotton goods had visited the Island. He was of opinion that the Cassava starch gave the superior finish to American cotton goods, thus enabling the United States to have the pull of the Colonial trade to the detriment of Great Britain.

Montserrat.—C. Watson, Esq., October 7th. The weather during the past month had been all that could be desired for cotton cultivation. Calm and hot with light and frequent showers. It was thought that the lime crop would be late but the return would be a fair one.

Trinidad.—Hon. C. A. Shand, October 7th. Mr. Francis Watts had paid a visit to the Island and had done a great deal towards advancing the Cotton industry. On the 8th inst, he gave a most interesting and instructive address on the

subject of cotton growing at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society to which the peasant proprietors were invited. The Cotton looked very well though rain was badly wanted. The Sugar crop he feared was past redemption, excepting on the higher elevation, which had been more favoured, and the crop next year must be a short one.

St. Vincent.—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., October 9th. The arrowroot was ripening fast and reaping would be general by the end of the month, the weather being every thing that could be desired. If no further disturbance of the Soufriere occurred it was expected that the people would drift back to their old quarters. Already those who had been provided with houses in a safe zone were continually found in their old haunts.

Trinidad.—Edgar Tripp, Esq., October 8th. There were only about 120 acres of cotton under cultivation in the Colony, but judging from the interest awakened it was probable that this area would be very rapidly extended. At the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce it was decided to ask the West India & Panama Telegraph Company to include cotton in their daily market quotation, and this would probably stimulate the trade. It had been decided that the cost of replacing the Government buildings destroyed during the riot in March last should be covered by a tax of two per cent. upon the rental value of properties in Port of Spain. This, added to the new sewerage and water rate, would form rather a heavy charge upon local property owners. The vexed water question was to be considered by a Committee of the Legislative Council with certain persons from outside to be nominated by the Governor. The new Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Hugh Clifford, had already created a most favourable impression among all classes. The cocoa position remained unchanged, hardly any was being reaped, but reports from all centres foretold late crops. There was a steady demand for Copra and prices had advanced from \$2.35 to \$2.40.

Weather Telegram.

British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), October 29th. "Weather dry, some showers would be acceptable."

Exports from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
Barbados—	Hhds.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Jan. 1 to Oct. 8 1903	35,034	—	—	—	—	30,120	—	—
" " 8 1902	47,954	—	—	—	—	42,437	—	—
British Guiana—	Tons.							
Jan. 1 to Oct. 6 1903	69,454	111,922	—	15,450	4984	3494	64,635	6836
" " 7 1902	68,110	95,933	—	18,999	3360	1218	74,119	9714
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
April 1 to Sept. 19 1903	7842	15,646	16,732	846,095	11,829,235	22,917	7,265,586	14,115,140
" " 20 1902	11,270	7573	32,126	1,395,423	11,721,176	47,001	8,239,239	12,297,303
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to Oct. 8 1903	381,868	25,970,110	42,120	1143	9,703,602	3473	178	166
" " 8 1902	449,159	25,865,330	39,840	1259	8,880,625	3314	141	236

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "La Plata," October 21st, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. C. M. Goodridge, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thorne, Mr. J. S. Sainsbury, Miss M. Leacock, Mr. H. S. Osment, Mr. Geo. L. Pile, Mr. James Elliott. **Demerara.**—Mr. J. T. Shore, Mr. A. F. Andrade, Mr. J. Ogilvie, Mrs. A. L. W. McEwan, Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Ross, Mr. G. V. Downer, Dr. R. Evans, Dr. and Mrs. Law. **Jamaica.**—Rev. G. S. Collie, Mr. P. J. Todd, Mr. S. Paolitch, Mr. A. Neilson, Mr. A. Kayat, Mr. S. Kayat, Mr. Alex. Kayat, Major E. Townsend, Mr. F. Enderby, Mr. R. Beauchamp, Mr. T. H. Powell. **Trinidad.**—Miss M. Cunningham, Master J. Naysmith, Mr. and Mrs. W. Livingstone, Miss S. E. Augustus, Mr. F. Blongden, Mr. G. Ramage, Very Rev. F. McCarroll, Mr. Venancio Moralejo, Mr. C. W. Banks. **Antigua.**—Mrs. G. A. Hanley, Mr. M. Comacho. **Grenada.**—Mrs. C. J. Bertrand, Mr. Batt. **St. Lucia.**—Mrs. M. Hancock, Mrs. Collins.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent," October 28th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Dr. and Mrs. Manning, Dr. and Mrs. M. Clarke, Miss da Costa, Mrs. G. C. Edghill, Mrs. and Miss Barnett, Miss B. Evans, Mr. W. Bowring, Mrs. Emtage, Rev. Canon Bindley, Mr. D. da Costa, jun., Mrs. V. Hanschell, Mrs. Buttenshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Calder, Master Calder, Lieut. Boeluncr, Mr. M. Stuart. **Demerara.**—Mr. W. Bellamy, Hon. and Mrs. Lucie Smith, Captain G. G. Gilligan, Mrs. H. Garnett, Mr. T. H. Hiscocks, Mr. and Mrs. Lennox, Mr. A. Brand, Mr. A. J. McConnell, Hon. and Mrs. M. Ashmore. **Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. O. Crowden, Colonel and Mrs. Buckton, Mrs. J. Pierce, the Rev. Baron, Rev. W. Branley-Moore, Mr. W. E. Blyth, Mr. and Mrs. J. Grinan, Mr. E. Greg, Dr. R. Boxall, Miss E. Younger, Mrs. C. Andrews, Mrs. Millholland, Miss James, Captain Russell, A.S.C., Mr. T. R. Glanville, Dr. and Mrs. Elliot, Miss Holwell, Mr. and Mrs. Whitelocke, Mr. C. B. Dignum, Miss Bragge, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar, Miss Richards. **Trinidad.**—Commander the Hon. W. H. Coombs, R.N., Miss Ellen Pierce. Mrs. A. Cumming, Miss L. Wood, Miss S. Green, Mr. and Mrs. de Gannes,

Mr. and Mrs. Rust, Mrs. Grell, Miss N. Devenish, Mrs. de Boissiere, Mr. A. Laverack, Mr. A. de Vertenil, Mr. F. Agostini, Mrs. E. Richards, Mr. Hosany, Mr. Richards, Mrs. Declé, Mr. A. Marryatt, the Most Rev. Archbishop Flood, Miss O'Connor, Mr. H. McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Haynes, Miss A. Richardson, the two Misses Monteil, Mr. Abell, Miss Wainwright, Mr. W. Richardson, Mr. Evans, R.N. **Antigua**.—Mr. H. Walton, Mr. W. Scott Heriot. **Grenada**.—H.E. Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., Lady Llewelyn, Mr. J. F. R. Baron. **St. Lucia**.—Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Henderson, Mr. C. N. Henderson.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Maria," Oct. 15th, 1903:—**Jamaica**.—Mr. J. H. Duff, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Greenhalgh, Mr. E. S. Mayor, Mr. P. Sewell, Mr. J. B. Lucie Smith, Miss A. Whittaker.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Maria," Oct. 24th, 1903:—**Jamaica**.—Mr. C. Allan, Mr. S. V. Duran, Mr. L. Facey, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gardner, Miss A. Grist, Dr. Gupierrez, Mr. A. N. Horrocks, Mrs. A. L. Jamieson, Mr. G. W. A. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. T. Padgett, Mr. F. Reid, Mrs. and the two Misses Sewell, Mr. A. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. A. Walder, Mr. H. J. Woodhouse, Mr. E. P. Atmore, Miss B. Heathcock.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Crystallised Sugar.—The market in sympathy with Foreign granulated has remained dull, but Importers having made a slight concession in prices rather more business has recently been done on the basis of the following prices:—Inferior grades 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d., yellow 15s. 9d. to 16s. 3d., and fine Sugar 16s. 6d. to 16s. 9d. The value of average qualities now barely exceeds 15s. 9d. with well made Sugar 16s. "Imitations" are selling from 14s. 9d. to 15s. 1½d. Deliveries as will be seen by the subjoined table continue to be maintained and our stock is 14,000 Tons compared with 33,000 Tons at this date last year. A cargo of dark crystals should command about 10s. on floating terms to Cane Refiners.

Molasses Sugar.—Much wanted and some high prices such as 14s. to 15s. could easily be obtained for Grocery Sugar.

Muscovado.—Nothing here. Grocery kinds would sell readily.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports to date	20,000	55,000	42,000	34,000	Tons.
Deliveries	34,000	35,000	34,000	33,000	"
Stocks	14,000	33,000	16,000	7,000	"

Rum.—A dull tone prevails in this market and business is unusually circumscribed. As winter approaches it is to be hoped more trade will be met with. Quotations are, fair Demerara 9d., Standard Marks of Home Trade Jamaica 1s. 9d., and 7d. to 10d. for Cuba and other Foreign kinds according to quality and package.

London Figures to date:—	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports Jamaica	8200	11,800	10,100	9600	Puns.
" Demerara	9100	15,000	14,000	10,500	"
Stocks Jamaica	11,100	11,800	10,500	9900	"
" Demerara	6800	8200	4900	3800	"
Total of all kinds:—	1903.	1902.		Deficiency.	
Stocks	28,301	31,158		2857	Puns.

Cocoa.—The market has turned flat and prices are easier with very little business doing, the recent special requirements being all satisfied. African receipts keep heavy being estimated at 40,000 Bags for the current month. Quotations of West India Cocoa are as follows:—Trinidad fair collected, 56s., Estate Marks 66s. 72s., Grenada fair 55s., fermented 60s. 64s., fair Native Cocoa from other Islands being worth about 53s., and fermented 56s. 60s. Fermented African costs about 57s. laid down in the United Kingdom ports on full London landed terms.

Stocks in London:—	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
	63,000	69,000	96,000	100,000

Coffee.—The speculative market has ceaseless fluctuations consequent on the conflicting accounts of the Santos and Rio crops. The quotation of the former for this month's delivery is about 28s. 9d. Good ordinary Jamaica remains about 33s. **Nutmegs** still selling well and price again advanced for West India. Sales of 60 to the lb. up to 3s.; 80's at 1s. 11d.; 100's at 1s. 2d.; 120's at 11d., 140's at 9d.; and in shell at 7d. **Nace**.—Also selling well, fair pale at 2s. 4d.; reddish, 2s. 1d. 2s. 3d.; and broken, 2s. 1d. **Pimento**.—Dearer, the value of fair is now about 4½d. **Ginger**.—Dull and difficult to sell. **Cotton**.—Firmer. October delivery American, about 5½d. and November/December 5½d. The value of ordinary West India is about 5½d. **Arrowroot**.—No improvement in prices and 1½d. is not easily obtainable for fair manufacturing. Some better quality sold up to 2d.

London Figures to 30th Sept.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	11,322	15,966	16,074	21,078
Deliveries	9728	10,052	14,401	16,590
Stocks	13,845	13,633	9873	7019

Lime Juice.—Slow demand at 10d. to 1s. 2d. per gallon; Concentrated, dull, at £13 per cask of 108 gallons; Distilled Oil, quiet at 1s. 5d. per lb; Hand Pressed, also quiet at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per lb.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—The first three estimates of the now commenced Beet Root crops, being the annual issues of the three authorities whose figures are accepted as some sort of indication as to the amount of the Continental production, have now appeared and will be found in the course of these remarks. Varying as they do they are not worth much, but they will permit thinking about, especially this season when we are still overwhelmed with the surplus of the Cartel and Bounty produced crops of the previous three seasons. Of course, neither of these estimates can be taken as anything like final, for with only one-third of the roots out of the ground and the other two-thirds exposed to all the vicissitudes of the next six weeks weather, strange alterations may have to be made in the figures put before us. As this season sees the end of Bounties at least, if not entirely of Cartels, in considering the European crops as well as the existing

The Produce Markets Summary—continued.

European stocks, regard need only be paid to the figures of those countries whose sugar is "admitted" into the United Kingdom, and for this reason the writer has set them forth in two separate tables as follows:—

ESTIMATES OF CROPS, 1903/4.					GIESEKER.	LICHT.	CENTRALBLATT.
Germany	+++	...	...	...	1,830,000	1,830,000	2,000,000 Tons.
Austria	...	...	...	...	1,120,000	1,200,000	1,275,000 "
France	...	...	...	...	860,000	810,000	925,000 "
Belgium	...	...	...	...	225,000	240,000	275,000 "
Holland	...	...	...	...	135,000	135,000	125,000 "
Admitted	...	...	...	...	4,170,000	4,215,000	4,600,000
Russia	...	...	...	...	1,150,000	1,250,000	1,300,000 "
Other Countries	...	...	...	...	380,000	385,000	425,000 "
Excluded	...	...	...	...	1,530,000	1,635,000	1,725,000
Total Crops	...	...	...	...	5,700,000	5,850,000	6,325,000

These compare with the four previous Seasons as follows:—all "admitted."

	1902/3	1901/2	1900/1	1899/1900
Germany	1,748,000	2,304,000	1,984,000	1,798,000 Tons.
Austria	1,057,000	1,302,000	1,094,000	1,108,000 "
France	875,000	1,183,000	1,170,000	977,000 "
Belgium	215,000	334,000	333,000	302,000 "
Holland	102,000	203,000	178,000	171,000 "
	3,997,000	5,326,000	4,759,000	4,356,000 "
Russia	1,220,000	1,098,000	918,000	905,000 "
Other Countries	350,000	393,000	367,000	263,000 "
	1,570,000	1,491,000	1,285,000	1,168,000 "
Total Crops	5,560,000	6,810,000	6,040,000	5,520,000 "

Assuming M. Licht's figure of 4,215,000 Tons to be about correct for crops from countries whose Sugar is admitted into the United Kingdom, we arrive at the following figures:—

M. Licht's Figures. Stocks in "admitted" countries, 1st October.

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Germany	291,000	395,000	148,000 Tons.
Austria	46,000	129,000	86,000 "
France	457,000	324,000	116,000 "
Holland and Belgium	116,000	134,000	13,000 "
	910,000	982,000	363,000
Crops	4,215,000	3,997,000	5,326,000 "
Admitted	5,125,000	4,979,000	6,689,000

From the point of view of the Sugar available under the terms of the Brussels Convention for Export to the United Kingdom, if M. Licht's figure of 4,215,000 should prove about correct, and impartial critics support his estimate as against the other two authorities above quoted, then the small increase of 146,000 Tons is not worth consideration, bearing in mind the possible increase in consumption that may be expected on the Continent through the reduction in the Home Duties there conceded. Of course, the immediate future does not present a picture of advancing prices, for with a visible supply of some 1,410,000 Tons (Licht's figures), 5,850,000 Tons of Beet for next season and fully 4,000,000 Tons of Cane we have an approximate supply of some 11,260,000 Tons to do duty for the known world's consumption, which can scarcely denude us of all Sugar by 1st October, 1904. Again, once more, let it be said "reduced sowings" next spring are an absolute necessity if prices are to be restored to a profit bearing platform. The results of the workings of the present crop are very irregular and the most pronounced "bear" scarcely dare hint at a figure much in excess of M. Licht's 5,850,000 Tons. Whether it will be reached or exceeded remains to be seen, and in the meantime prices with constant fluctuations are but little changed, viz.:—*New Sugar*, Oct. 8s. 11d.; Nov./Dec., 8s. 9d.; Jan./Mar., 8s. 11d.; April/June, 9s. 0½d.; August, 9s. 2½d., and crop 1904/5 Oct./Dec., 9s. 4½d., all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Europe	960,000	1,050,000	460,000	270,000	420,000 Tons.
United States	140,000	170,000	170,000	50,000	180,000 "
Cuba	130,000	100,000	70,000	—	10,000 "
Cargoes afloat	110,000	140,000	50,000	90,000	150,000 "
Total	1,340,000	1,460,000	750,000	410,000	760,000

Comparative prices of 88 % for 5 years:—

1903	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
8s. 11d.	7s. 7d.	7s. 4½d.	9s. 8d.	9s. 2½d.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

465

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Ent. Stationers Hall.]

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 1903.

No. 109.

Sir Henry Katz Davson.

It is with feelings of the liveliest satisfaction that we record the announcement, made as we go to Press, that the King has been pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood upon Mr. Henry Katz Davson, Deputy Chairman of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, and formerly Member of the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana. Mr. Davson has for very many years been one of our most active members, and was appointed Deputy-Chairman in succession to the late Mr. Quintin Hogg who resigned in 1898. With our next issue we hope to present a portrait of the new Knight, to whom we tender our heartiest congratulations.

The West Indian Cables.

We are by no means surprised to learn by the Mail that the breakdown for the fifth time during the present year of the Demerara-Trinidad Cable of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company is causing a feeling of exasperation in British Guiana. On another page we give a list of the interruptions during this year and last, which, taken in conjunction with the extract from the letter of Mr. Summerson our Hon. Correspondent in British Guiana which we give on page 94, forms significant reading. The loss and inconvenience resulting from these constant breakdowns is a serious matter which we feel calls for immediate and united action on the part of the Colonies. A discussion regarding this subject took place at the last meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on the 29th ult., and in accordance with the feelings then expressed it has been decided to address a further protest to the Colonial Office. In view of the fact that the existing contract for telegraphic communication is now on a yearly basis it is thought that opportunity might and should be taken to advertise for tenders for a thoroughly efficient service, which it ought not to be difficult to obtain. The present state of affairs is intolerable and cannot be allowed to continue. It has been suggested that an endeavour should be made to link up some of the Islands with wireless telegraphy, though it is said that the experience of the working of this system between Martinique and Guadeloupe has not proved altogether satisfactory, and to secure the extension to the Islands of the lines of the Direct West India Cable Company, whose service to Jamaica appears to meet with very general approval. The Cable question is one which demands the co-operation and attention of the Colonies.

The Expiring Mail Contract.

The question of the West Indian Mail Contract which expires on June 31st, 1905, has recently been engaging the attention of the West India Committee, and Mr. Lyttelton has suggested that we should submit any proposals we may have to offer regarding it for consideration with those received from the various Colonies concerned. In our last issue (extract from the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner's letter, page 77) we gave the views of Antigua on the subject and we now append those expressed by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce.

"The Committee desire to express approval of the Secretary of State's notice of the termination of the contract, and recommend that tenders for the new contract should be advertised for. They suggest that the new contract should call for a higher rate of speed than the existing one, and that all steamers should be fitted with cold storage for the safe conveyance of fruit and other perishable cargo. They propose to request that Trinidad should continue to be the second place of call of the main line steamer—if it is quite impracticable to make it the first—and this without any extra subsidy being granted, the present extra £5000 per annum having been given under exceptional circumstances which necessitated the alteration of an existing contract. Should the homeward route be continued as at present, they strongly urge that an hour of departure convenient to passengers should be fixed and adhered to, as great inconvenience has been caused by the irregularity of the present service. With regard to passage money, they would desire to point out that passengers are

charged more from this port than from Jamaica, although the voyage to the latter is of several days' longer duration, and they are also charged considerably more than occasional tourists who contribute nothing to the subsidy. They suggest that these facts should be borne in mind when a new contract is being arranged, and they are convinced that a substantial reduction in fares would materially increase the number of regular passengers, many of whom are at present finding their way home and back *via* America and Canada. They also consider the rates of inter-colonial passage and freight excessive, and by no means conducive to extended trade and intercourse. They consider that the present arrangements for landing and embarking passengers and their luggage should be retained and improved. They consider that the claims of Trinidad to be made the headquarters of the contracting company should not be lost sight of, its commodious harbour, safe for transshipping at all seasons of the year, being specially suitable for such a purpose.

"With regard to the Pickford and Black service the Committee are of opinion that it has done much to increase trade with Canada, and in view of the Dominion taking a largely increased proportion of our produce it would be a serious loss of commerce if the Imperial and Canadian Governments should withdraw their support.

"If communication between this colony and Canada could be appreciably accelerated the Committee then think that the Government would be justified in considering the question of a subsidy, in which case cold storage is a matter that should not be overlooked."

We shall be glad to receive the views of the other Colonies upon this important subject.

Codrington College, Barbados.

As a result of a recent conference with the Archbishop of the West Indies, the Bishop of Barbados, and Professor Caldecott (a former principal), the Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel have decided to invite the West Indian Bishops to formulate a scheme for the administration of Codrington College, Barbados, and its estates, by the Provincial Synod of the West Indian Church, subject to the necessary reservation of the Society's position as Trustee.

Begun as a Grammar School in 1745, and opened as a College in 1830, this noble institution has been enabled to render admirable service in the cause of higher education and more especially in the training of Clergy, for nearly three-quarters of a century. Three-fifths of the Clergy who have laboured in the West Indies have been educated at the College, besides many laymen who have risen to eminent positions, while coloured Missionaries have been sent thence to the heathen in West Africa. In 1875 the College was affiliated to the University of Durham, and in 1892 it was constituted a centre for the Oxford and Cambridge Preliminary Examination of Candidates for Holy Orders in the West Indies.

The need for the work and influence of the College is greater at the present time than, perhaps, at any in the past. Fewer Clergy than heretofore are likely to be obtained from England, and fewer persons are likely to send their sons to England for education. Of late years the original endowments of the College (which consists of two sugar estates bequeathed by General Christopher Codrington in 1710) have not been sufficient to maintain the Institution at the level of efficiency laid down in the Statutes, namely, "not fewer than three professors and a convenient number of scholars." It will be remembered that a few years ago, through the initiative of the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, the West India Committee came to the rescue of the College and by raising an Emergency Fund averted the imminent danger of its having to close its doors. Efforts are now being made to raise a supplementary endowment fund for the Institution.

Mr. Chamberlain's Campaign.

Mr. Chamberlain has continued his campaign during the fortnight by addressing enthusiastic meetings in Liverpool and Birmingham on October 27th and November 4th respectively. For the convenience of our friends in the West Indies we extract from the *Times* the following summary of his impressive speeches on these occasions.

Addressing a great meeting in the Hippodrome, Liverpool, he said his case was that our trade abroad had been stationary or was diminishing, and this was likely to be still more the case in the future. He looked forward to a time of depression following our recent prosperity. The only thing

Supplement to "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR," No. 109, Nov. 9th, 1903



Photo by ALGERSON E. ASPINALL.]

CODRINGTON COLLEGE, BARBADOS.

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469

that gave him room for gratification was the increasing trade with our Colonies. He proposed to meet the foreigner with his own weapons, and to treat the Colonies better than hitherto. Apart from material prosperity, he hoped to lay a firm and deep foundation for that Imperial unity which he had at heart. In reference to the dear food argument, he asked them to take his pledge and believe in his sincerity when he said that if they accepted his proposals not one farthing would be added to the cost of living of any family in the country. In his opinion, in the case of the poorest families, they would somewhat reduce that cost. The responsibility in the whole matter lay with the working classes, but it was the duty of a leader to lead, even at the risk of ending his political career. The Trade Union Congress had pronounced against his policy, but he ventured to appeal to the men who appointed the trade union officials. It was impossible, he maintained, to reconcile free trade with trade unionism. To buy in the cheapest market was not the whole duty of man, and not in the best interests of the working classes. What was the use of prohibiting sweating in this country if they allowed sweated goods to come from foreign countries? If we were to buy everything in the cheapest market, why not labour also, by importing cheap labour? If protected labour was good, they should protect the results of labour. He hoped to give the working classes more employment by keeping a firm hold on foreign markets, by having something to bargain with, and by encouraging trade with our kith and kin across the seas, which was our most profitable trade. He maintained that the shipping industry, like others, would benefit, and could not lose, by his policy; for in this also we were not progressing so fast as foreign countries. Mr. Asquith had said that what was wanted was intelligence, capacity, and enterprise. If there were any trade of which this was untrue, it was our great shipping and ship-building industry. How could men, even with brains and free food, contend against the subsidized shipping and the other disabilities imposed by foreign Governments? He pleaded for scientific treatment of trade subjects, instead of the futile and feeble policy of their opponents, and the official apathy which made it below the duty of the British Government to take care of British trade. The object of Mr. Balfour and himself was to secure the power of bargaining, and even of retaliation. If there were any difference between them, it was that he went further than Mr. Balfour, and asked, not in the future, but to-day, for preferences which would bind the Empire together. Beyond all other considerations his appeal was to Imperial sentiment and national patriotism.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN on November 4th addressed an enormous gathering in the Bingley Hall, at Birmingham. He alluded to the amount of public discussion that had been expended on the fiscal question since he first raised it six months ago. He was glad the public were not wedded to the wisdom of our ancestors. Mr. Asquith's appeal to them to stick to our well-tryed policy sounded queer from the lips of a Radical. The theory of his opponents, that the semi-starvation which sometimes prevailed among the poor before the days of free trade was due solely to the Corn Laws and the high price of bread, and that free trade had changed all that, was a delusion. If protection inevitably brought with it starvation, and free trade inevitably brought prosperity, how was that to be reconciled with the fact that every other nation had adopted protection and had progressed under it? Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to contend that the distress of 1841 and 1842 was due to trade depression, following on a period of great prosperity; that the free-trade movement was a manufacturers' movement, and was not favoured by the working classes; that, as the price of corn during the ten years following the repeal of the Corn Laws was on the average higher than in the year of the repeal, dear bread was not a consequence of those laws; and that the twenty-five years of unparalleled prosperity which followed had nothing to do with free trade, but came about as the result of gold discoveries and improvements in communication. Quoting Cobden's anticipation that under free trade the Americans would "dig, delve, and plough for us," Mr. Chamberlain said the Americans had not so conceived their national destinies. Behind their tariff wall they had built up their own industries, and now, not satisfied with their own markets, they were invading ours. He did not blame them for that, but were we really so conservative a nation that when such a change as that had taken place we were still to

"stick to well-trying policy"? Discussing the position of our Colonies, he maintained that it was to our interest to stimulate trade with them, quite independent of any affection we might have for them. If we gave them a preference, they would reciprocate that preference. If we took more from them they would take more from us. It was, therefore, in our own interest to treat our friends better than our rivals and competitors. But the pocket was not everything in these days; and if we were out of sympathy with our Colonies, if we rejected their offers—made in the most patriotic spirit, and not solely with a view to their own interests—if we would not co-operate in sustaining the Empire on the lines they offered, then we might lose our opportunity, and it might never recur. Mr. Chamberlain dwelt at some length on this aspect of the question, and complained that no appreciation of the importance of Imperial unity was shown in the speeches of his opponents. After reviewing some of the evidence as to the decline of our foreign trade and denying that the changes he proposed would materially increase the cost of food, he closed with an eloquent reference to the importance of the issue at stake.

The Gratitude of Barbados and Liverpool.

The following resolution was adopted at a meeting of the West India Association of Liverpool, on the 4th inst. :—

"That the West India Association of Liverpool deeply regret the loss sustained by the British Colonies in the resignation by Mr. Chamberlain of the office of Secretary of State, and while tendering to him its hearty thanks for his devotion during his term of office, to the interests of the Colonies, desires to express its appreciation of the motive which has prompted him to make this sacrifice to promote with greater vigour and efficiency the unity of the British Empire."

The following is the text of a resolution passed by the Barbados Agricultural Society, on September 25th :—

Resolved :— "That the Barbados Agricultural Society has heard with extreme regret the news of the retirement of the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain from the office of Secretary of State for the Colonies, which he has held with such distinction for over eight years. They desire to express their sense of his services to the Empire, and their thanks for the benefits he has been enabled to confer on the West Indies, and Barbados in particular. They trust that whether in a private capacity or in office, the interest he has taken in the welfare of these Colonies will never be diminished."

Mr. Chamberlain thanks Barbados.

We received, on the 29th ult., and forwarded to Barbados the following letter from Mr. Chamberlain in acknowledgment of the resolution adopted at a public meeting in Bridgetown on the 6th inst., the text of which we gave in the last *Circular* :—

HIGBURY, MOOR GREEN, BIRMINGHAM. *October 27th, 1903.*

DEAR SIR,—I am desired by Mr. Chamberlain to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst. enclosing copy of resolution passed at a public meeting held in Bridgetown, Barbados, on the 6th inst. Mr. Chamberlain begs you to express his gratitude to the meeting for the kindness with which the resolution speaks of his services to the West Indies. It has been to him a great satisfaction to do something to redress the injustice under which he considers they have long suffered and he sincerely hopes that, with fair play, the ancient prosperity of Barbados may be restored.

I am, yours faithfully, (*Signed*) J. WILSON.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Esq., Secretary, West India Committee.

The Windward Islands.

Sir Robert Llewelyn, Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, attended a general meeting of the West India Committee on Monday, October 26th. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and among those present were Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., Mr. P. Abel, Mr. W. L. Atkinson, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. R. A. Hankey, Mr. R. Harvey, Mr. A. Boyd Neilson, Mr. H. A. A. Nicholls, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. Alex Smith, Lt.-Col. F. C. Trollope, Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. A. F. Turnbull, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

Sir Nevile Lubbock having introduced Sir Robert Llewelyn to the meeting, a general discussion regarding matters affecting the welfare of the Windward Islands took place, and in reply to various questions put to him SIR ROBERT LLEWELYN said that regarding the expenditure of the balance of the Soufrière Eruption Fund he referred them to the recently issued Blue Book, which showed the line adopted by the Secretary of State, and added that the £25,000 now deposited at interest in England would be spent on some scheme, yet to be settled, for the benefit of the Island in general. He hoped the eruptions were now over, but could not presume to guarantee they were. He explained the nature of the steps taken for encouraging the growth of cotton in St. Vincent, and pointed out that the people at Carriacou and the Union Islands in the Grenadines had never given up the cultivation and would, he hoped, now increase it with a better quality of seed and improved gins. Owing to the prosperous state of Grenada the Government had been able to make and maintain good driving roads, and this made travelling easy by carriage over the greater part of the Island. He considered Grenada, on the whole, the pleasantest island to visit or stay at in the West Indies, but it still lacked a hotel a little way out of the town of St. George's—excellent though the little "Home Hotel" was—a good hotel was wanted in the country which tourists preferred to the town. In St. Lucia roads were wanted to open up the country and then the cultivation of some of the excellent land in the interior would follow. The principal residents in St. Lucia were interested mainly in coaling steamers in Castries and were not so much interested in the agricultural development of the Island. The Brussels Convention should benefit the four Central Factories in St. Lucia. When the military works were completed, which would probably be in about two years, he hoped the mechanics and labourers now employed on them would create townships on Crown Lands and settle in St. Lucia instead of migrating elsewhere.

The Cuban Reciprocity Treaty.

Writing from New York on October 23rd, Mr. John Farr, our Honorary Correspondent in that city, said that during the past season the West Indian sugars had been marketed at fairly good prices. The spring crop of Demeraras was practically all sold to Canada owing to the reciprocity treaty, and the bulk of the sugars from St. Kitts and Antigua went to Halifax, and under an arrangement with the Montreal refineries were divided between Halifax and Montreal. In the case of the St. Kitts and Antigua sugars he figured that the Canadians got the benefit of at least four-fifths of the reciprocity concession, but as Muscovado sugars were not very suited to their requirements, the shippers must be satisfied with any advantage they got over this market. There was no market in Canada for Barbados sugars, and these were all sold locally to New York buyers at prices which netted the planters at least one-sixteenth per cent., on the average, more than if they had been shipped on consignment. For some reason the Trinidad sugars, which were largely crystals, were not offered to Canada, and the bulk of the sugars shipped from there were stored here, and eventually sold at prices which gave no better results than if they had been sold to Canada on arrival. At that moment, owing to the proposed legislation in connection with the Cuba Reciprocity Treaty, the Canadian buyers were looking for lower prices on Demerara sugars on the ground that Cuba would undersell other cane sugars. His opinion was that it would be some time before the Cuba Reciprocity Treaty was passed, and that, in the meanwhile, there would be a good market in New York for most of the Demerara crop. Certainly up to that time their refiners showed no disposition to discriminate against them in favour of Cuba sugars. In this connection his experience of the practical working of reciprocity was that the planter got a very small percentage of the benefit, as he was ready to sell at a small advance over the price obtainable in non-reciprocating markets, and that the refiner gets the lion's share. In other words it works out better on paper than it does in practice. The general opinion was that the Cuban Reciprocity Bill would be passed, but it was by no means a sure thing.

Trinidad Cane Farmers' Crop, 1903.

Mr. Edgar Tripp has favoured us with the figures which we give below showing the Trinidad Cane Farming return for the 1903 crop. It will be seen that the quantity produced by the farmers was about ten per cent. less than the previous year, but this may be considered satisfactory as a falling off from twenty to twenty-five per cent. was feared. It is noticeable that the amount paid for the reduced quantity exceeded that paid for the larger output of 1902. These returns were presented to the Agricultural Society at its last meeting. Planters who were present confidently predicted a large increase in the farmers' crops next year.

ESTATES.	Tons of Sugar made from Estate Canes not weighed.	Tons of Estate Canes Ground.	Tons of Canes Purchased.	Amount paid for Canes.	NUMBER OF FARMERS.	
					East Indian.	West Indian.
Brechin Castle... ..		38,509	3056	\$6594	185	172
Bronte		11,615	11,604	25,026	205	180
Caroni		24,576	3413	6478	115	178
Craignish	110		4781	10,330	192	204
Colonial Co.'s U.S.M. Estates		89,471	43,199	92,055	1358	1145
Esperanza		17,836	10,716	22,663	205	210
Forres Park		4263	17,721	38,716	335	180
Hindustani		2200	2738	5476	80	212
La Florissante		4210	801	1218	23	67
Lothians	317		2756	5951	78	110
Mon Desir	336		1787	2788	90	70
Mon Plaisir		11,949	3713	7662	139	142
Orange Grove		24,355	15,922	34,392	53	220
Palmiste		17,267	11,156	24,097	180	226
Perseverance, Cedros...		5704	4310	7216	90	95
Reform	1020		9734	18,689	200	200
Tennants Estates		69,951	12,794	25,295	814	696
Woodford Lodge		15,726	* 6389	13,799	101	133
	1783	337,632	166,590	348,445	4443	4440
Return for 1902	4379	337,911	184,867	327,183	4506	4850
,, 1901	3652	434,003	169,918	369,482	3819	4737
,, 1900	1286	364,355	105,996	227,865	2826	3591
,, 1899	1571	426,306	106,741	219,011	2826	3870
,, 1898			105,753	202,901	2326	3824

* Besides 2349 tons purchased from Endeavour Estate.

The Indian Sugar Act.

A correspondent wrote to the *Times*, October 27th: "Last year the Indian Countervailing Sugar Duties Act of 1899 was amended in order to bring within its scope foreign imports of sugar enjoying indirect bounties, more particularly by the operation of the cartel system. The appeal of the Indian sugar refiners for a sufficient enhancement of the duties to make them equivalent to the subsidies, State-granted or otherwise, direct or indirect, which imports from the Continent received in the country of production was not fully met in the amending Act. But the *Times of India* points out that the effect of the additional duties is strikingly shown by the Scinde Customs returns. The total Customs receipts in the fiscal year ended March 31st last fell from nearly 50 lakhs of rupees to 31. This reduction was almost entirely due to the diminution of imports of sugar at Karachi, the revenue there obtained from the countervailing duties falling from nearly 24 lakhs of rupees to a little under seven lakhs. In his financial statement for the current fiscal year, Sir Edward Law stated that the practical effect of enhancing the duties had been to close, temporarily, the Indian market to the direct

importation of German and Austro-Hungarian sugar and to encourage imports from such beet-growing countries as Holland and Belgium, which do not maintain high protective duties. The imports of cane-sugar from Hong-kong, Java, and the Straits Settlements had also been largely increased. These results may be regarded as very satisfactory."

Molasses as Cattle Food.

The long spell of wet weather, following on an equally unfavourable summer season, will very possibly, says the *Produce Markets Review*, October 31st, produce illness among both sheep and cattle. As a precaution, therefore, care will no doubt be taken to alternate or vary their natural food, such as hay and roots, with some material rich in heat and flesh-forming principles. Unfortunately, this year the hay crop was mostly gathered in a bad condition, and it is to be feared that the root crop, though abundant in quantity in places, will be deficient in quality. It will be necessary, therefore, especially with regard to the poor saccharine strength of roots this year, to make an artificial addition of those very ingredients which are known to be so essential and beneficial to stock during the winter months. The comparative small quantity of sugar contained in swedes and mangolds will probably, owing to the wet weather and lack of sunshine, be less than usual, but there is nothing to prevent our dairy farmers and stock-raisers from using, at an extremely small cost, something to compensate for the lack of saccharine. It is well known that all our domestic animals are blessed with a sweet tooth, and not only does sugar impart a relish to their food, which, if represented by damaged or fermented hay would be otherwise distasteful to them, but considerable benefit is also derived from the increased percentage of cream and richness of milk obtained from the cows. The simplicity of the operation of adding saccharine material, by sprinkling and mixing their food with molasses and water, has much to commend it, and this, combined with the cheapness of the article, should readily induce every farmer to give the saccharine diet a trial with their stock. The sugar contained in Cane Molasses is specially adapted for use in feeding horses and cattle. It contains sugar and hydrocarbons forming a total of 55 per cent. of substances directly useful in producing muscular force and fat. The subject has long since passed the experimental stage, as is proved by the constant repetition of inquiries from the same people, who have made use of this valuable adjunct for some years past. It is, indeed, a question whether the use of Molasses for cattle feeding has ever been so absolutely indispensable as it will be in the present and coming season, while, in addition, the exemption from the sugar duty which it now enjoys when used for feeding, or in the manufacture of cattle foods, enables it to be sold at a price which compares most favourably with the many prepared foods now obtainable. The farmer or stock-raiser, however, being his own food producer, only requires to buy the Molasses to obtain the beneficial results which are sure to attend its use. The casks in which the Molasses is packed are well made, are of a handy size, weighing about 5 cwt., and are usable in many ways when empty. No definite rule can be laid down as to the quantity to be used, but equal parts of straw chaff and Molasses, or linseed cake and Molasses, are understood to give good results.

Molascuit.

In our issue of October 12th (No. 107) we gave an extract from the *Buenos Ayres Standard* dealing with the experimental feeding of two steers on MOLASCUIT. According to a later issue of that journal it appears that the results far exceeded expectations. "The animals were placed at the auction yard of Messrs. Iriondo & Co. on the evening of August 8th and then weighed—Red steer 596 kilos, Roan steer 584 kilos. They were fed for the first time on this food on August 10th. On the 31st of the same month they weighed—Red steer 650 kilos, or an increase of 54 kilos in twenty days; Roan steer 638 kilos, or an increase of 54 kilos. On September 13th the red steer turned the scales at 682

kilos, or an advance of 32 kilos in 13 days; and the roan reached 668 kilos, or an increase of 30 kilos in the same period. On Friday afternoon the red steer had advanced to 720 kilos, or say 38 kilos in 18 days: and the roan had run up to 705 kilos, or an advance of 37 kilos. Now, if any proof of the fattening powers of Molascuit were wanting, here they are in abundance. That animals could be fattened in such short time, and at such a comparatively low cost, speaks volumes for the future fattening food of the country. Mr. Lumb says that the two animals will be sold by public auction in the yard of on the 15th inst., and that they will be slaughtered there and then on the premises. He also states that he has refused an offer of \$150 each for them, and he did quite right, as they will bring much more. Such beef as this could be sold to the hotels and restaurants at any price, as it is the sweetest and best in the world. The two animals were not worth more than \$50 each when placed to be fattened, and if they have increased to the value of even \$150 in two months what more could Mr. Shylock himself want or wish for?"

Dominica's "Imperial Road."

A report dated July 28th, 1903, from Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, Administrator of Dominica, to Mr. Chamberlain regarding the expenditure of the balance after the liquidation of outstanding liabilities of the Grant-in-Aid of Dominica voted in 1898 has just been issued (Colonial Reports Miscellaneous No. 23, cd 1784). The total grant was £30,000, and of this £15,000 became available for the construction of roads to open up the Crown Lands of the interior. Mr. Bell's predecessor, Mr. Templar, intended to make a road right across the Island and £3000 was spent in the survey of the projected road, the reconstructing and metalling of 12 chains near Roseau. But when Mr. Bell assumed office in September, 1899, he did not think it necessary to go as far as this in view of the existence of a fairly good path from the East Coast to the West *via* the Fresh Water Lake. He accordingly recommended a bridle track of such a gradient that it could eventually be used for wheeled traffic as far as Bassinville, a point near to the centre of the Island, which would open up a large area of excellent land near the upper waters of the Layou River suited for coffee, vanilla, oranges, nutmegs, rubber and other products which thrive best in mountainous lands, and thence down the Layou Valley through lower altitudes and a warmer temperature suited for cocoa, limes and bananas, and the mouth of the Layou River where an excellent shipping place is available. This scheme was adopted and the road named the Imperial Road—representing as it does a gift from the mother country—has been completed as far as Bassinville. A description of the road and of the estates adjoining it is given. Nearly all the land so far taken up has been purchased and developed by Englishmen possessed of moderate capital, and Mr. Bell expresses opinion that a number of moderate capitalists each developing his own enterprise would tend to improve the Island to a more permanent extent than the sudden operations of a large Company working with capital owned by absentees. The Parliamentary Grant was given just at a time when it was most needed. Many of the large plantations of cocoa and limes which now contribute so much to the prosperity of the Island, had not then come into full bearing, and ready money was scarce. The labouring population found it difficult to obtain work, and emigration was assuming disastrous proportions. The sudden gift of £15,000 of ready-money created an effect far greater than might have been expected considering the smallness of the amount. The employment of large gangs of labourers on the new road at once put money into circulation, and trade received a notable fillip. Labourers from all parts of the Island found work, and the influx of natives from the northern islands dates from that time. While the revival of Dominica was, without doubt, also due to other causes, it certainly was coincident with the grant of this Imperial aid, and the inhabitants of the Island generally are grateful for this assistance. A map showing the direction of the road and the districts that have been rendered accessible by it accompanies this interesting report.

Mr. Chamberlain and Coolie Immigration.

The following is the text of a dispatch from the Secretary of State to the Governor of British Guiana which contains the reply to the memorial against Coolie Immigration sent to the Colonial Office by Mr. C. E. D. Farnum, to which we referred in our last *Circular* :—

Downing Street, 10th September, 1903.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 328 of the 11th ultimo forwarding a petition from certain inhabitants and taxpayers of British Guiana in which they protest against the continuance of the existing system of introducing Indian immigrants into the colony. I have also received your despatches No. 319, of the 5th and No. 331 of the 12th August, on cognate subjects.

2. In your despatch No. 272 of the 14th of July written after the publication of the memorial in the *Daily Chronicle* newspaper, you very fully discuss the various points raised by the petitioners, and I must express my general concurrence in the views and arguments you have there put forward.

3. You will be good enough to inform the petitioners that I have received their memorial but that I regret that I cannot regard a petition which, after extensive and prolonged circulation in the colony has received only three thousand nine hundred and fifty-two signatures as representing any very large body of opinion in the community. I have this further difficulty that the large majority of the inhabitants of the colony have either been themselves introduced with the assistance of the State, or are the descendants of persons so introduced in comparatively recent times: so that it is clear that either the petitioners' claim to represent the mass of the inhabitants is ill founded, or the mass of the inhabitants are protesting against the very system to which they owe their presence in the colony.

4. The claim to exclude immigration on the ground of prior right might be put forward with some show of justice on behalf of the aboriginal Indians, but I do not gather that a large number, if any, of such persons are to be found among the signatories of the petition.

5. But I do not wish to be understood as maintaining that such a claim would be justified even in the mouths of the aboriginal Indians, for it will be, I think, generally allowed that the only ground on which a people is justified in opposing immigration to its own country is when it has beneficially occupied, or has a fair prospect of so occupying, within a measurable time, the territory under its control, and when immigration means not so much the addition of citizens who will develop the resources of the country and increase its wealth, as overcrowding an area which is already peopled in due proportion.

6. These conditions clearly do not apply to the case of British Guiana. The area of the colony is over one hundred thousand square miles, a large proportion of which is stated to be well adapted for cultivation, but the area actually cultivated has been, I understand, estimated at no more than some one hundred and thirty square miles. The population of the colony, which is about three to the square mile, as against about one thousand one hundred and eighty to the square mile in Barbados, has increased very slowly, being now some three hundred thousand, as compared with one hundred and thirty-six thousand in 1851, and even this slow increase is mainly due to the State-aided immigration which the petitioners wish to suspend. These facts, coupled with the failure of the coloured population which you note, to develop or maintain the coffee and cotton industries, make it impossible for me to approve a policy which would make these extensive territories a close preserve for those who have not yet shown that they are able or desire to make use of them.

7. Both labour and capital are needed to develop a new country, and experience has shown that capital will not go where the labour supply is not adequate and moderately secure. The petitioners complain of the suppression (? supersession) of their race by the coolies as labourers on the plantations, but it does not seem to me at all probable that the planters would go to the expense of obtaining coolies from India, if they had at hand an adequate supply of native labour such as is found, *e.g.*, in Barbados.

8. I have always understood it to be the case that the coloured population in British Guiana are as a rule, averse to the continuous labour necessary for the successful cultivation of sugar and prefer to work on their own account rather than to serve on the plantations; nor am I aware that any obstacles are now placed in the way of their obtaining land on which to exercise their industry, and I only wish that I could say with truth that they used their opportunities in this direction with as much enterprise and energy as is shown by members of their race in some other parts of the West Indies.

9. In these circumstances I cannot see that the petitioners are justified in objecting to the employment of coolies in an occupation which they do not themselves apparently desire to follow; nor can I regard as serious the commiseration which they affect to bestow on the lot of the coolies on the estates. The condition of the coolies when under indenture is very far from being one of semi-slavery; and the habits of steady labour which they then acquire enable them on the completion of their term, to rise by their independent exertions to positions of comfort and even affluence.

10. While the continuance of Indian immigration in my opinion is amply justified on these grounds the question of the extent to which State-aid should be given to it remains one on which different opinions may be held.

An arrangement has just been arrived at under which the whole expense of Indian immigration has been thrown upon the planters themselves with the exception of the pay of the Government Immigration officers and certain minor expenses, which may for the most part be regarded as being incurred rather for the protection of the immigrant, than in the interest of the planter.

11. On the other hand the whole cost of the Medical Service has been transferred to the Colonial Government, and the petitioners protest against this and claim that the planters should pay a share of the cost based upon the ratio between the resident population on estates and the total population within the medical districts.

12. It must however be borne in mind that the services of Medical officers are rendered free to paupers and to other persons at a rate fixed by the Government, and also that the planters, in addition to being taxpayers, maintain at their own expense, hospitals, for the workers on the estates at a cost of one hundred and sixty-six thousand, eight hundred and forty-five dollars per annum, thus relieving the general taxpayer the cost of providing for these persons in the Government hospitals, and I cannot in the circumstances regard the payment of the salaries of the doctors as otherwise as a fair charge on the general taxpayer who benefits by the introduction of industrious immigrants who form at first the mainstay of the chief industry of the colony, and subsequently in many cases merge in the general body of taxpayers and help to bear the common burdens of the community.

13. The memorialists state that owing to the over-introduction of coolie immigrants, and to the unfair incidence and amount of taxation "the suffering in the colony among the masses is very great and is every day becoming more acute and unbearable." I was aware that the colony in common with the West Indian islands had been suffering from the depression of the sugar industry, which His Majesty's Government have taken steps to relieve and sustain; but I was not aware of the existence in British Guiana of any widespread distress and I presume that if the allegations of the Memorialists in this respect were well founded you would have informed me already to that effect.

14. They go on to suggest that the acreage tax now levied on sugar estates for the benefit of the Immigration Fund should be paid to General Revenue. I agree with you that such a course would not be equitable. I think, however, that there may possibly be some ground for the complaint as to the taxation of donkeys, carts, mules and boats and, if you agree in this view, I should be glad if you would invite the Combined Court to consider whether means can be found to provide the revenue derived from these taxes in some other way.

15. On the whole I do not consider that any case has been made out for the reversal of the policy of the Government in regard to Indian immigration in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners, or for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into matters on which His Majesty's Government believe themselves to be already in possession of adequate information, and I must repeat the opinion which I expressed in the House of Commons that the colony as a whole derives benefits financial and otherwise from coolie immigration as being in a large measure State-aided colonisation.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor Sir J. A. SWETTENHAM, K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

Cotton Cultivation in Cuba.

A recent report on "Commercial Cuba," published by the United States Department of Commerce and Labour, deals with the proposed cultivation of sea island cotton in that island, and in this connection the opinion of an American cotton expert has been obtained. It is considered that the farm lands in Pinar del Rio, which apparently consist as yet to a large extent of recently cleared virgin soil of great fertility, are well suited to the purpose, timber and fuel sufficient for many years' supply being at hand. Cotton has been found growing wild in the woods, the trees appearing to range from one to five years in age. On cultivated farms sea island cotton has been planted from seed imported from Florida from fifteen days to four months old, and in every case the plants appeared healthy. The crop from a twelve-month old tree is estimated at 500 mature bolls per tree for the first year, and it is anticipated that every crop would be better until after the third or fourth year. This would give a result of 4 lbs. of seed cotton to the stalk in a year's growth, or about 3000 lbs. of seed cotton to the acre, which would net at least two 500-lb. bales of lint cotton per acre.

The staple is stated to be strong, fine, and silky, and longer than the average sea island cotton in the United States. Its strength would probably increase with the employment of a high-grade

fertiliser. In conclusion, the American expert says: "In a word, I consider conditions in Cuba from every standpoint more favourable to successful cultivation of cotton than conditions in the cotton belt of the United States, and that with proper preparation of the soil, careful selection of the seed, and frequent cultivation, the sea island cotton grown in Cuba will be far superior to our best varieties. The native wild cotton resembles the Egyptian variety in texture, and has a clean, black seed, with a staple somewhat longer than our best uplands, but I would recommend the exclusive growing of sea island cotton on your plantations, as the conditions of the soil there appear to me favourable to the successful raising of the choicest variety of long-staple cotton."

As regards the British West Indies it will be seen from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents that some anxiety is still felt with regard to the caterpillar pest, which, though abating in Antigua, was still active in Barbados and Nevis when the mail left.

Interruptions in Cable Communications, 1902-3.

We append a list of the interruptions in West Indian Cable communication which have occurred since January, 1902. The first list, covering the period from January, 1902, to May, 1903, accompanied our letter to the Colonial Office of May 28th last.

JANUARY, 1902 to MAY, 1903.

	FROM	TO	
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable ...	30th January ...	11th February ...	Cutting off Demerara.
Jamaica-Puerto Rico, Ponce Cable	23rd February ...	24th February ...	
" " " San Juan Cable	23rd February ...	2nd March ...	
Jamaica-Colon...	13th March ...	10th April ...	
Dominica-Martinique...	5th May ...	—	Not repaired.
St. Lucia-St. Vincent...	7th May ...	16th September	
St. Lucia-Martinique...	7th May ...	—	Not repaired.
St. Lucia-Grenada ...	7th May ...	11th October ...	
St. Lucia-St. Vincent...	18th September	—	Not repaired.
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable	1st November ...	1st December ...	Cutting off Demerara.
Guadeloupe-Dominica ...	4th November ...	11th December	
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable	21st December...	1st January, 1903	Cutting off Demerara.
Jamaica-Colon...	31st December...	4th May	
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable	3rd January, 1903	5th January	Delay.
St. Thomas-St. Kitts ...	14th January ...	—	
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable	27th February ...	19th March ...	Cutting off Demerara.
St. Vincent-Grenada ...	8th May ...	—	

MAY, 1903 to OCTOBER, 1903.

	FROM	TO	
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable ...	9th June ...	30th June ...	Cutting off communication with Dominica.
Antigua-Guadeloupe ...	9th August ...	24th September ...	
Jamaica-San Juan ...	11th August ...	—	
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable ...	26th August ...	14th September	
Trinidad-Demerara, No. 2 Cable ...	23rd October ...	—	

NOTE.—Jamaica was cut off from all West Indian Colonies from 11th August to 22nd August, as a result of the hurricane of August 11th.

New Members of the West India Committee.

No less than **180** new Members have been elected to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE during the first ten months of the current year, a record which will not be easy to beat, but, in view of the fact that by virtue of Rule IV. the subscriptions of Members elected during the present and next month will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1905, leads us to the hope that this number will

be considerably augmented before the close of the year. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 29th ult. the following new Members were elected to the West India Committee:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
COLONEL SIR ROPER PARKINGTON, J.P., D.L.	A. N. Lubbock, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
HAMILTON ROSS, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.	H. A. Trotter, Esq.
JAMES HENRY WENHAM, Esq.	G. N. Stewart, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.

The next election will be held on Thursday next, before which date it is hoped that names of candidates will be sent to the Secretary. Sixteen candidates are already on our list.

Notes of Interest.

MOSQUITOS AND MALARIA. Major Ronald Ross, F.R.S., C.B., will read a paper (with lantern illustrations) under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute, at the Whitehall Rooms at 8 p.m., on Tuesday, Nov. 10th. The Chair will be taken by the Right Hon. Sir George T. Goldie, K.C.M.G.

THE DEATH OF MR. MACASKIE. We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Stuart Cunningham Macaskie, K.C., Recorder of Sheffield, which occurred in London on the 3rd inst. Mr. Macaskie was one of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Riot in Port of Spain, Trinidad, of March last.

OVERSEERS' REGISTER. Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that arrangements have been made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at the West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

THE BIRTHDAY HONOURS. The list of Birthday honours published to-day includes, in addition to that of our Deputy Chairman, to whose appointment we refer elsewhere, the names of the following gentlemen who have been connected with the West Indies: Nathaniel Nathan, Esq. (Knight), Leslie Probyn, Esq., James Allwood, Esq., and Thomas J. Pittar, Esq., C.B. (C.M.G.'s).

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER. The Archbishop of Port of Spain was entertained to dinner at the West Indian Club on Tuesday, October 27th, Mr. Lubbock in the chair. Responding to his health, which was most cordially drunk, the Archbishop referred with pride to the fact that he was one of the oldest members of the Club. Dealing with present conditions in his own Diocese, the Archbishop declared his belief that, thanks to the abolition of the Sugar Bounties, a period of prosperity lay ahead of the West Indies. Mr. Bell-Smythe proposed the health of the Chairman.

THE BANQUET ON NOV. 25. Among those who will be present at the Banquet to Sir Nevile Lubbock on Nov. 25th are the Duke of Marlborough, K.G., Sir James Fergusson, Bart., G.C.S.I., M.P., Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Bart., M.P., Field Marshal Sir Henry Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Major-Gen. Sir Reginald Talbot, K.C.B., Sir Montague Ommaney, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Sir Walter Sendall, G.C.M.G., Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., Sir Henry Bergne, K.C.M.G., Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Sir James S. Hay, K.C.M.G., Sir Frederic Young, K.C.M.G., Lt.-Col. Sir J. Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., Mr. H. Bertram Cox, C.B., Mr. C. P. Lucas, C.B., and Monsieur Yves Guyot.

JAMAICA RELIEF FUND. Since we last went to press we have received and forwarded direct to the Governor of Jamaica the following donations in aid of the sufferers from the Cyclone of August 11th last:—The Drapers' Company, £105; Sir Henry Stephenson, J.P., £5; the Earl of Rosebery, K.G., £25. In this connection it is worth recording that the Direct West India Cable Company forwarded free, regarding the Fund, 1596 words. The value of free transit accorded by the Commercial Cable Company would equal about £70. At a meeting of the General Committee of the Hurricane Relief Fund held on October 19th at Kingston, a resolution was passed expressive of thanks for the assistance given by the West India Committee.

WEST INDIA CRUISE IN THE "ORIENT." The attractions and the advantage from a health point of view of escaping the rigour of an English climate in winter are forcibly suggested by the comprehensive programme of Winter Cruises just issued by the Managers of the Orient-Pacific Line. In our Circular No. 106, we foreshadowed a busy tourist season for the West Indies during the coming winter. We now learn that in addition to the tours planned by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., The United Fruit Co., Messrs. Pickford and Black, and Dr. Lunn, a pleasure cruise is contemplated by the Orient-Pacific Line, whose S.S. "Orient" will leave Tilbury on Wednesday, January 13th, visiting, among other places, Barbados, January 29th; Trinidad, January 31st; Grenada, February 3rd; St. Lucia, February 4th; and Jamaica, February 9th.

West Indian Securities.

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on September 3rd). 2½ % Consols,										
Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Div.	Price.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Div.	Price.	
20	Colonial Bank	...	...	6	6%	4½-5			
100	Royal Mail Steam Pckt. Co.	60	Nil.	24-26	100	Direct West India Cable Co.				
						Debentures	...	...	100 4½% 99-102
Stck.	Imperial Direct West India				5	New Colonial Co. Pref.	...	5	5% 2½-3½	
	Mail Service Debentures	100	4½%	83-87	100	New Trinidad Lake Ash-				
10	West India & Panama Tel.					phalt Company...	...	100	6% 91-96	
	Company	10	Nil.	¾-½	Stck.	Demerara Railway Co.	...	100 Nil 20-25

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Tagus" anchored off Plymouth at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4th, and the mails were delivered in London by the first post on the following day. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, October 28th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "Tagus," from which it will be seen that conditions generally continued favourable throughout the West Indies during the fortnight under review:—

Antigua.—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, October 21st. Sir Gerald Strickland had returned to the Colony and lost no time in throwing his energies into its development. At a meeting at Government House on the 19th, he put before the Members of the Agricultural and Commercial Society a very interesting account of the Central Factory negotiations which were satisfactorily settled, and also some proposals for assistance to the cotton industry by way of loans to land owners or small cultivators, unable on account of want of capital to embark on the industry. As regards the smaller central sugar factory scheme, the machinery had already arrived and was in course of erection, while preparations were being made for the erection of the larger factory. The weather had again been favourable during the fortnight, with a good general rainfall extending fortunately to the windward estates, hitherto left out to a considerable extent, which had fallen over the westerly half of the island. Most estates got about 2-2½ inches of rain during the fortnight. Regarding cotton, the caterpillar pest seemed abating. It would appear as though this pest had its particular season, and perhaps something might be done to secure immunity from attack by rather later planting than had been done that year. The application of Paris green and lime to the plants appeared to be a successful way of dealing with the pest, but it had to be applied anew after every good shower, as it readily got washed off the leaves; it was, however, a cheaply and easily applied insect poison, only requiring a little care to be taken against breathing or swallowing any of the fine dusty poison during application to the plants.

Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, October 22nd. The Masonic bodies of the island had contributed £50 to the local Jamaica Relief Fund, which with other small sums brought the total subscribed by Barbados to close on £550, an amount far greater in proportion than that subscribed in England. The "Atrato" arrived early on Monday the 12th, after rather a stormy voyage, bringing the Governor and his party. His Excellency seemed in good health and spirits, and had at once resumed active work. He had obtained from Mr. Andrew Carnegie £2500 for a Public Library, with which he proposed to build a new building and transfer to it the books at present in the Public Buildings, fitting it also with lecture rooms, etc., of which there was a great need. The thanks of the Legislature had been suitably given to Mr. Carnegie. The caterpillar was still active among the cotton, but it was hoped that it was on the decrease, as it had left some fields with the leaves only half eaten, and had not attacked others at all. It was most unfortunate at this juncture that there was no Paris green in the island, and they had consequently to resort to hand-picking. He had again to report a most favourable fortnight as regards weather. Showers had been copious, and in some parts heavy, and when rain had not actually fallen the sky had been grey and lowering. At the time of writing the sun had appeared and was very welcome. At Porters they had marked 9.46 inches of rain for the month to date, but all the island had had sufficient for the present. The canes in Christ Church and St. Philip were very fine and heavy; many places had suffered from the short but violent squalls which they had occasionally, which had knocked down the canes, the damage, however, had not been to a wide extent, and the whole crop of the island was a very fine one for the time of the year. The roads in the Scotland districts had suffered severely in the late rains.

British Guiana.—A. Summerson, Esq., October 22nd. Mr. R. G. Duncan had been appointed Chairman of the Planters' Association in the place of Mr. Howell Jones resigned. The sugar market had fluctuated during the fortnight and some 4000 tons had changed hands at prices ranging from 1.97 to 2.04; as the mail closed it was reported weaker and it was doubtful if \$ 2 would be given. The "Erne," the first Coolie ship of the season, arrived on the 16th with 567½ adults. Telegraphic communication with Trinidad was again interrupted at a busy season; this interruption threw the whole work of the commercial community out of gear and hampered business considerably, and the question had to be faced whether they should get a new cable or stop the subsidy altogether. The Governor in Council on passing the accounts of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company for service during the past two quarters had made considerable deductions on account of interruptions; from the account of \$5400 for the last quarter \$1115.22 was deducted owing to the service having been interrupted for nineteen days, and \$1246.15 was deducted from the previous quarter's account for twenty-one days' interruption. The weather was too dry and, while favourable for reaping, good showers were required for the young cultivation.

Dominica.—E. A. Agar, Esq., October 21st. A consignment of local fruits for the Banquet to Sir Nevile Lubbock, representing Dominica's contribution to the testimonial in recognition of his eminent services, was to be sent home. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's agent had not only offered to carry the fruit free, but had offered to put the more perishable fruit on ice until they could be put in the refrigerator on the homeward boat at Barbados, by this means it was hoped that many little known fruits might appear at the dinner. During the last week the south end of the Island had suffered from excessive rain and some damage was done to estates and roads by landslips.

Grenada.—Hon. D. S. de Freitas, October 22nd. The rainfall during the month had been insufficient to satisfy cocoa planters.

Jamaica.—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., October 19th. The Hurricane Relief Committee had passed a resolution thanking the West India Committee for their services. Jamaica had not had her usual seasons. There had been more or less general showers but an absence of anything like the usual October rain, still enough had fallen to keep things going except in Vere where it was certainly wanted. From all sides he heard that the Vere irrigation scheme was not working very satisfactorily, more water was needed for the canal and it would seem that an additional source for the supply of extra water would have to be obtained if the scheme was to be a successful one.

Nevis.—Hon. C. A. Shand, October 21st. The weather had been favourable for the crops, but the cotton had had to pass through a very severe ordeal from the ravages of insect pests which were not so amenable to treatment as was supposed. It was unfortunate that the new industry should be thus handicapped in its initial stages and it must necessarily curtail its rapid growth as the measures which had to be adopted to keep the pest within bounds added so materially to the cost of growing the cotton that many would be afraid of taking it up.

St. Lucia.—Hon. E. Du Boulay, October 23rd. Abundant rains had fallen all over the Island.

St. Vincent.—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., October 23rd. A lake of clear blue water had formed in the crater of the Soufriere and even the most pessimistic of the residents were beginning to believe that the trouble from that quarter was over, and it remained to be seen what steps the authorities were going to take with a view to re-establishing the industries of the Colony. The reaping of arrowroot was pretty fairly started on most of the estates, but the prospects of a paying market for this product were gloomy in the extreme.

Trinidad.—Hon. G. T. Fenwick & Edgar Tripp, Esq., October 23rd. A letter of complaint as to the working of the Rice and Dhol regulations issued by the West Indian shipping companies (see Circular 106) had already been received. A Trinidad firm had incurred a loss of ten bags of rice (weight) in a shipment of twenty-five tons, for which there seemed to be no compensation. It was more than probable that shippers would look for direct sailing ships and steamers in future, to tranship in Europe by companies which did not exact the new clause on their bills of lading. Trade conditions with Venezuela remained the same. While the alternative schemes for making Amacuro, Carupano, or La Guayra headquarters for transshipping goods for the Orinoco were being discussed all import and export trade from Trinidad was at a standstill. Amacuro required a large expenditure in wharves for transshipping goods, Carupano was an open roadway and impracticable, and La Guayra was proving unworkable on account of the great expense entailed by the great distance. Meanwhile the custom houses of Bolivar and Cano Colorado remained closed and the produce of those districts of the Republic was being lost. Cocoa was rotting on the trees and hides were being lost for want of salt. While Trinidad suffered much, this suffering was nothing compared with the ruin which was overtaking the eastern part of Venezuela. Though a few good showers had fallen, the fortnight had been rather too dry for both cocoa and sugar estates. Deliveries of cocoa from the country had been light and shipments consequently small. Just at present it was

not possible to estimate correctly the December crop, the trees were looking healthy but the changing of the leaves was pretty general, consequently the young pods were drying up. By the middle of November it might be possible to estimate the coming crop for the season. Light pickings would begin about the middle of December and heavy pickings in January. There were good accounts of the appearance of the cultivation of the sugar estates and full crops were looked for. The fruit industry appeared to be booming. The packet that day carried the largest shipment yet made, viz. 3000 bunches Bananas and 400 boxes Oranges. The banana cultivation was being extended rapidly in Trinidad and Tobago.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), October 28th. "Weather all that can be desired." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), October 26th. "Weather too dry." November 7th. "Moderate rains generally, more would do good."

Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
British Guiana—	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Jan. 1 to Oct. 20, 1903	75,973	113,522	—	15,486	4991	3509	68,197	7016
" " 21, 1902	73,357	97,533	—	20,343	3360	1215	78,746	10,185
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
April 1 to Oct. 3, 1903	7896	15,908	17,487	859,117	12,574,625	32,482	7,306,969	22,698,150
" " 4, 1902	11,939	7623	34,074	1,433,682	12,987,576	64,348	8,724,819	22,211,867
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Tons.	Brls.
Jan. 1 to Oct. 22, 1903	382,332	26,151,670	42,120	1143	10,076,102	3473	178	166
" " 22, 1902	449,413	26,261,770	39,840	1259	9,631,225	3314	141	236
								Asphalt.
								Tons.
								154,622
								136,886

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Tagus," November 4th, 1903.—**Barbados**.—Mr. F. Lippold, Mr. and Mrs. John Locke, Mr. P. S. Pedersen, Mr. F. O. Fredriksen. **Demerara**.—Mr. J. Moir, Mrs. Bremond, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rodrigues, the three Misses O'Meara. **Jamaica**.—Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Kempson, Rev. and Mrs. Bavin, Miss Bavin, Mr. W. Cole, Mr. P. H. Heffer, Master R. Beale, Mr. Anderson, Qmr.-Sergt. and Mrs. Wilkins, Qmr.-Sergt. and Mrs. Hore, Sergt. and Mrs. Searle, Mr. R. Whitehead. **Trinidad**.—Miss Archibald. **Dominica**.—Miss F. C. Dupigny, Miss C. Dupigny. **St. Kitts**.—Dr. I. S. M. Nurse. **St. Lucia**.—Rev. Father Cadou, Armour Sergt.-Major and Mrs. Winward.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "La Plata," November 11th, 1903:—Barbados—Mr. F. J. Harrison, Miss M. Roe, Dr. Holt, Mr. E. Dunlop. **Demerara**.—Mr. J. Moyes, Mr. H. R. W. Greig, the Hon. and Mrs. A. G. Bell, Mr. Lloyd Dornford, Mr. and Mrs. John Lawrence, Mr. R. Kaps, Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. B. C. Simpson, Miss Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Pereira, Mr. W. F. Hay, Mr. F. V. Powell, Mr. V. Mainwaring. **Jamaica**.—Mr. F. Woodward, Mr. F. A. Ward, the Hon. Pipon Scholes, Mr. W. Wilson, Mrs. Whiteley, Mr. H. W. Bynoe, Miss G. Levy, Mr. E. Morse, Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Morris, Mr. Burgoyne. **Trinidad**.—Mr. E. N. C. Craig, Mrs. J. P. Riddell, Miss Wink, Mr. S. Fitt, Mr. P. and Mrs. J. Glendinning, Mr. S. Haynes, Mr. J. Ganghan, Commander the Hon. W. H. Combs, R.N., Mr. J. Loggie, Miss D. Cleaver. **Antigua**.—Miss Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Casalta. **St. Kitts**.—Mr. J. E. Foreman. **St. Lucia**.—Dr. and Mrs. Durrant, Mr. L. Barlow. **St. Vincent**.—Mr. and Mrs. Kernahan.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus" November 25th, 1903:—Barbados.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Connell, Miss McKinstry, Miss Briggs, Mr., Mrs. and the two Misses Sanderson, Miss I. Racker, Mr. G. A. and Mrs. McKinstry, Mrs. Jolliffe, Mrs. C. J. Clarke, Miss da Costa, Miss Templeton, Lady Morris. **Demerara**.—Mr. and Mrs. Hill, Mr. J. C. Weir. **Jamaica**.—Mrs. M. Henderson, Mr. Geo. Haley, Mr. and Mrs. Verley. **Trinidad**.—Mr. and Mrs. John Gordon, Miss Kathleen Moloney, Miss Gladys Moloney, Mr. and Mrs. Rankin, Mr. James Miller. **Antigua**.—Mr. W. Hart, Mr. E. Jarvis. **Grenada**.—Mr., Mrs. and the two Misses Paterson, Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Ongley, Mrs. Bishop. **Tobago**.—Rev. F. H. Casey, Mrs. Barnard.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," Oct. 28th, 1903:—**Jamaica**.—Mr. W. Henderson, Mr. F. Young, Miss Kerr.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," Nov. 7th, 1903:—Jamaica.—Captain H. Begbey, Mr. T. Blenkinsop, Mr. J. S. Brandon, Rev. H. M. Brown, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Drummond, Mr. G. Clive, Mr. and Mrs. D. Jones, Mrs. Kerr, Miss Kerr, Master Kerr, Rev. and Mrs. S. Lea, Mrs. and Miss Lewis, Rev. G. C. Linton, Mrs. O'Brien, Major Ryde, Mr. J. E. Sherlock, Mr. R. Thomson, Mrs. M. E. Westmoreland, Mrs. A. C. Westmoreland, Mr. A. W. G. Westmoreland.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," Nov. 21st, 1903:—Jamaica.—Mr. E. P. Binns, Mrs. Betts Brown, Mr. E. F. Chester, Miss Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Douet, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Terry Garnett, Miss Garnett, Mrs. and Miss Garsia, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hopkins, Mrs. Liddell, Mr. F. F. Mahon, Mr. Otto, Mr. Owen, Dr. and Mrs. Reinhardt, Mr. Stewart, Dr. E. M. Thompson, Mr. T. B. Clarke-Thornhill, Mr. E. Cole.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—The present season has many features of interest to those who look closely into the actual position of Sugar, and whose views are not solely dominated by the temper of the terminal and speculative markets. It is not safe to say that with the large carry-over of Bounty and Cartel Fed Sugar on the 1st October, and that with some 10,000,000 Tons production of Beet and Cane Sugar for the present season, we have not too much Sugar, for unfortunately it is so. Allowing for all probable increases in consumption, these 10,000,000 Tons will take a lot of dissipating, and even when done will leave us with a visible supply on the 1st October, 1904, of equal extent to the one just experienced. The only remedy for this will be reduced production on the Continent, without which the situation will never be relieved. This is the worst phase of the position. A less unfavourable view is presented by taking into consideration the increased cost of production through the abolition of Bounties, and coupling that with the reduced internal tax on Sugar in the various Continental countries, which sooner or later, and to a greater or less extent, cannot fail to influence consumption. This is all important, but being more or less for the distant future, those engaged in manipulating the 88 % Market have little inclination to go into such matters which will only exercise their influence as time passes on. It is abundantly admitted by all authorities that at 9s. basis 88 % and 10s. 9d. for White Granulated, free on board Hamburg, the Foreign producer barely covers his first cost, even if he does not realise a loss, which many contend he does. This fact does not tend to bring out genuine sellers at 8s. 7d. and 10s. 1½d., which to-day are the relative market quotations for these two Sugars. What increase there will be in Continental consumption is a matter that can only be decided when the season ends. Last year the figures under this head were approximately as follows:—Germany, 800,000; France, 450,000; Austria, 400,000; Holland and Belgium, 150,000; Total, 1,800,000 Tons. Allowing for a moderate increase of say, about 10 %, we arrive at a rough figure of 2,000,000 Tons for this season's distribution on the Continent, an estimate that the most pessimistic thinkers must admit as being a conservative one. If this is so, supplies available for this country from "admitted" nations are not so overwhelming as some think. Adopting M. Licht's figure of about 4,200,000 Tons as the crop, with about 900,000 Tons visible on the 1st October from "admitted" countries, and deducting 2,000,000 Tons for internal consumption, 1,500,000 Tons for export to the United Kingdom, and 600,000 Tons for necessary stocks at the end of the season, we arrive at a figure of 1,000,000 Tons as available for export to other parts of the world, which compares roughly with 1,300,000 Tons last year, a difference of small moment in dealing with total crops of 10,000,000 Tons. Indifferent as the immediate out-look is, there are possibilities looming in the not distant future that may change all this, notably so if the European producers will listen to reason and sow moderately for the next campaign. To-day's quotations are, "new Sugar" Nov., 8s. 7d.; Dec., 8s. 7½d.; Jan./March, 8s. 9½d.; April/June, 8s. 11d.; Aug., 9s. 0½d.; and Oct./Dec., 1904, 9s. 2d.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Europe	960,000	1,020,000	480,000	290,000	430,000 Tons.
United States	120,000	160,000	180,000	70,000	190,000 "
Cuba	120,000	80,000	50,000	—	10,000 "
Cargoes afloat	130,000	120,000	20,000	80,000	160,000 "
Total	1,330,000	1,380,000	730,000	440,000	790,000

Comparative prices of 88 % for 5 years:—

1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
8s. 7d.	7s. 4½d.	7s. 3d.	9s. 5d.	9s. 1d.

Crystallised Sugar.—As usual at this season of the year the whole attention of the retail distributors is absorbed in laying in their winter stocks of dried fruits, which has to be done to a large extent on arrival of the steamers with their various cargoes. This influence has been at work for about a month, and will last for another two or three weeks, when the pressure will be over. While this is going on Sugar is neglected and left to take care of itself, which accounts for the slow trade in Crystallised experienced for the last few weeks. In the meantime public distribution, of course, goes on as ever, and a time must come when exhausted retail stocks will have to be replenished, and with our reduced supplies this will not prove an easy matter without disturbing prices. Our London stocks are only 13,000 Tons compared with 32,000 Tons at this date last year. Business during the fortnight has been uninteresting and confined to inferior grades at 15s. 3d., 15s. 6d., with yellows at 15s. 9d. to 16s. 3d., the value of average qualities being fully 15s. 9d., and good Sugar 16s. A cargo of dark Crystals should command about 9s. 9d. on floating terms to Cane Refiners. **Molasses Sugar** in good demand and scarce. Values are, dark 11s. 6d., 12s. 6d., yellows 14s. to 15s. **Muscovado.**—No stock and prices uncertain.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports to date	20,000	55,000	42,000	34,000 Tons.
Deliveries	35,000	37,000	35,000	34,000 "
Stocks	13,000	32,000	15,000	6,000 "

Rum.—There is no improvement in this market, and buyers show no disposition to operate. Quotations remain unchanged, viz., fair Demerara 9d., Standard Home Trade Marks Jamaica 1s. 9d., with Cuba and other Foreign kinds 7d. to 10d. according to quality and package.

London Figures to date—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports Jamaica	8300	12,800	10,100	9800 Puns.
Demerara	9300	15,300	14,000	10,500 "
Stocks Jamaica	10,800	12,200	9900	9700 "
Demerara	6600	7600	4100	3600 "
Total of all kinds:— Stocks	27,812	30,684	28,100	27,600

Deficiency, 2872 Puns.

Cocoa.—A dull tone continues to prevail in this market, and prices are in some cases in buyers' favour, but as Importers have not pressed sales, the business done is on about last Mails terms, viz., Trinidad fair collected, 65s., Estate Marks, 66s. to 72s.; Grenada fair, 55s., fermented, 60s. to 63s.; fair Native Cocoa from other Islands being worth about 52s., with fermented 55s. to 60s. Fermented African costs about 57s., laid down in the various United Kingdom Ports on full London landed terms. Stocks in London:—1903, 59,000; 1902, 67,000; 1901, 89,000; 1900, 98,000 Bags. It is to be hoped consumption in this country will take a fresh start, otherwise the increasing production throughout the world will be a matter not easy to be dealt with.

Coffee.—Firm for speculative South American, and the quotation of Santos for this month's delivery is 29s 9d. Values of Jamaica range from 33s. to 125s. **Nutmegs.**—Not selling so readily, and prices of West India are irregular. Recent sales have been at 2s. 8d. for 63's, 2s. for 74's, 1s. 5d. for 102's, 1s. for 110's, and 8d. for 140's, with 7d. in shell. **Macce.**—Quiet. Fair to good pale, 2s. 3d., 2s. 5d.; red, 2s., 2s. 2d.; and broken, 1s. 11d. **Pimento.**—Quiet. Fair quoted 4½d. **Singer.**—Dull. Prices unchanged. **Cotton.**—Firm. November delivery American, 3½d., and fair West India about 5½d. **Arrowroot.**—There has been rather more business done, chiefly in good manufacturing at 2d. Fair still offers at 1½d. without attracting buyers.

London Figures to 31st Oct.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	12,422	16,801	17,734	23,072 Bels.
Deliveries	12,040	10,835	17,533	17,833 "
Stocks	12,632	13,685	8408	7770 "

Lime Juice.—Difficult to sell at 12d. to 15. 2d. per gallon; Concentrated, nominal value £13 per cask of 108 gallons; Distilled Oil, unchanged at 1s. 3d. per lb.; Hand Pressed, dull, value 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per lb.

Algernon E. Aspinal, Secretary.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Ent. Stationers Hall.]

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd, 1903.

No. 110.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Sir Henry Katz Davson	97	Trinidad and Venezuela... ..	104
Jamaica and Mr. Chamberlain... ..	98	Mosquitos and Malaria	105
Tariff Reform League	98	Colonial Report—St. Vincent, 1902-3... ..	106
Mr. Chamberlain at Cardiff and Newport	99	Origin and Growth of English Colonies	107
New Members of the West India Committee... ..	99	The West Indian in London	107
The West Indian Cables... ..	100	Notes of Interest	108
Proposed West Indian Produce Association	101	West Indian Securities	108
Confectioners and the Sugar Convention	102	The Homeward Mail	109
Cuban Reciprocity Treaty	102	Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad	110
Molasses for Cattle Food	103	Weather Telegrams	111
The Cotton Industry	103	The Mails	111
Coffee in Colombia	104	The Produce Markets Summary	111

FULL PAGE ILLUSTRATION: SIR HENRY KATZ DAVSON, Deputy-Chairman.

Sir Henry Katz Davson.

The subject of our illustration this fortnight is our Deputy-Chairman, Sir Henry Katz Davson, upon whom, as we were able to announce in our last Circular, the King conferred the honour of Knighthood on November 9th. That this honour was well deserved, all will most cordially agree, and inasmuch as it has been conferred upon him as Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, whose services to the Colonies have thus received further recognition. But it was also as a former member of the Court of Policy of British Guiana that Sir Henry has been decorated, and that Colony may accordingly feel fairly entitled to some reflected glory. Sir Henry's acquaintance with British Guiana goes back to the days of slavery, and to the time when the present County of Berbice, where he was born, was a separate Colony of the Empire.

Sir Henry entered the Colonial service in 1845, during the administration of Sir Henry Light, was appointed a Government Notary Public by Sir Henry Barclay in 1851 and a Justice of the Peace shortly after, while he was for many years on the Municipal Council of Berbice, being three times elected President. He was first elected to the Combined Court of British Guiana in 1863 and served during the Governorships of Sir Francis Hincks (1863-69), Sir John Scott (1869-73), Sir James Longden (1874-77), and in the Court of Policy under Sir Charles Kortright (1877-87) and Lord Gormanston (1888-91) in whose administration he was responsible for the framing of the new Constitution, which he undertook at the request of Lord Knutsford then Colonial Secretary. Sir Henry was one of the pioneers of the Balata industry, which now gives the Colony an export trade of many thousands of pounds annually and employment to many hundred labourers. He is a large estate and property owner in the Colony, being head of the firm of Messrs. S. Davson & Co., Berbice, which was founded in the year 1816; has been an active member of the West India Committee for many years and since 1898 has been the Deputy-Chairman, in which capacity he has, in an unassuming manner, rendered valuable service to the Colonies and has earned the respect and esteem of all those with whom he has had to deal.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, November 12th, the following resolution was proposed by Sir Nevile Lubbock and carried unanimously:—

“That this Committee desires to congratulate Sir Henry Katz Davson upon the honour of Knighthood which has been conferred upon him by His Majesty the King, as Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee and a former Member of the Court of Policy of British Guiana, and expresses the hope that he may live long to enjoy the honour, so well deserved, which has been bestowed upon him.”

Jamaica and Mr. Chamberlain.

We received by the mail and have forwarded to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, at Highbury, the following resolution, signed by Mr. Soutar, Vice-President, and Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, Secretary, of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, and passed at a meeting on Thursday, October 29th :—

Resolved.—"The Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange desires to express its deep regret that the necessity has arisen for your withdrawal from the British Cabinet. The Society has followed your proposals with intense interest, and hopes that your efforts to adapt the fiscal policy of Great Britain to existing conditions will continue vigorously to be prosecuted until finally crowned with success."

Speaking on the motion Mr. Soutar said hitherto Secretaries of State for the Colonies had been hereditary legislators; but that had ceased with the appointment of Mr. Chamberlain. During that gentleman's term of office he had shown himself to be essentially a business man and a large-hearted and patriotic Englishman; he therefore had pleasure in moving the resolution. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Arthur George and carried unanimously.

The Tariff Reform League, Colonial Section.

The arrangements for the formation of a Colonial Section of the Tariff Reform League have now been completed. The particular objects of the section are defined as follows :—

(1) To advocate the employment of mutually preferential tariffs, with a view to consolidate and develop the resources of the Empire, and to render it self-sufficing, especially as regards food supply.

(2) To promote the closer fiscal, commercial, and political union of the Empire.

The Colonial Section will provide, in connection with the general operations of the Tariff Reform League Speakers, and Lecturers, and Writers intimately acquainted with the Colonies, their vast resources and possibilities of development, and will further promote its particular objects by such other means as from time to time may seem desirable. It is proposed to promote branches of the Section throughout the Empire. The Committee which is fully representative of all Colonial interests, is composed as follows :—

Donald Armour, Esq., F.R.C.S.
 Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq.
 Donald Baynes, Esq., M.D.
 Col. G. A. Baynes.
 George Beetham, Esq.
 Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G.
 F. H. Congdon, Esq.
 F. Barlow Cumberland, Esq.
 Rankine Dawson, Esq.
 Arthur Fell, Esq.
 The Hon. George E. Foster.
 H. Handcock, Esq.
 Andrew Hepburn, Esq.
 R. J. Jeffray, Esq.

William Keswick, Esq., M.P.,
 F. A. Lingham, Esq.
 Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.
 Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
 Sir E. Montague Nelson, K.C.M.G.
 Edmund Owen, Esq., F.R.C.S.
 Sir Westby B. Perceval, K.C.M.G.
 Joseph Rippon, Esq.
 John Stroyan, Esq., M.P.
 J. S. A. Taylor, Esq.
 The Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart,
 C.B., G.C.M.G.
 The Rt. Hon. J. Powell Williams, M.P.
 G. S. Yuill, Esq.

Mr. F. H. Congdon is the Secretary of the Section, and all communications, subscriptions, and donations, should be addressed to him, at 7, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

Mr. Chamberlain at Cardiff and Newport.

Mr. Chamberlain was in his happiest vein on November 20th at Cardiff, where he continued his campaign by addressing a large and enthusiastic meeting in the Drill Hall. We extract from the *Times*, the following summary of his speech upon this occasion. After some preliminary observations, he said there was no industry which had been more a victim of the misconception of free trade than agriculture. Neither Mr. Cobden nor any one else could possibly have foreseen how that great industry would be brought down. Agriculture had a right to be consulted, and before he had finished he hoped to visit several of the agricultural districts. If he could persuade the towns, he felt sure he could persuade the land, for the prosperity of the one meant the prosperity of the other. This fiscal question was above party politics, though it had already divided parties. The question was not an invention of his own; it was in existence long before he took it up, and he was comparatively a recent recruit; but the knowledge gained in the office he had recently held had convinced him of the necessity of strengthening the bonds between this country and her Colonies. Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to contend that the responsibility for the question not having been brought sooner before the country lay with the Liberal leaders. Opinion was now changing; free trade and the unrestricted policy of the last 60 years was doomed. The people of this country were tired of always lying down to be trampled upon, and bullied when they got up. After Mr. Balfour's last speech, it was dishonest of any man to say he did not know what the policy of the Government was. Mr. Balfour had clearly explained that a fiscal reformer was one who believed in trying to secure a change in the face of conditions such as our grandfathers had never dreamt of. After commenting on the attitude of Sir M. Hicks-Beach, the Duke of Devonshire, and other free-trade unionists, Mr. Chamberlain discussed the position of the South Wales district in relation to the question. He did not say they were not prosperous now, but he thought he saw symptoms which, if not taken in time, might lead to danger and disaster. He argued that the export demand for Welsh steam coal could not be permanent, that the prosperity of the district would in the long run depend on that of the home trade, and that if one suffered all must suffer. They in Wales must defend other trades by their own. He referred to the injury done to the tin-plate trade by the American tariff, and said the trade was inevitably bound to go, because they had still kept to the free-trade policy. They ought to see from this example that the true interest of the working man lay in seeking employment for the greatest number by keeping wages at home. As long as our system was what it was, every employer would buy in the cheapest market. That was our fault for allowing foreign producers to dump their goods on our shores. Mr. Chamberlain closed by declaring that the old free-trade doctrine mumbled by his opponents was entirely irrelevant. At Newport (Mon), on November 21st, he addressed a working men's meeting, and in the course of his remarks referred to the Sugar Industry of the West Indies. A grossly unfair attack upon one of our principal industries had, he said, been stopped. We should have the chance of seeing the West Indies once more prosperous, and we should see this industry reviving throughout the United Kingdom. They would be told that the Sugar Convention was very injurious to this country, and raised the price of sugar, but that was untrue, for sugar was actually cheaper now than before the Convention.

New Members of the West India Committee.

Our membership continues to show a remarkable expansion, which may be attributed to our removal to more commodious premises, the enlargement of the *West India Committee Circular*, and, we hope, also to a growing recognition of the work being done by the Committee on behalf of the West Indian Colonies. Two hundred and three new Members have been elected since the beginning of the year, and it will be of interest to note how they are distributed over the Colonies. Trinidad now leads with 34; Jamaica has 33; British Guiana 29; Barbados 26; Dominica 8; St. Lucia 4; Antigua 3;

and Grenada 2; while 64 are resident in this country, but directly interested in the West Indies. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on November 12th, the following twenty-three new Members were elected:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
WILLIAM BURR, Esq.	Edward Anderson, Esq.	Ed. Kynaston, Esq.
Sir ALFRED MOLONEY, K.C.M.G. (Trinidad)	Hon. G. T. Fenwick.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
HUGH CLIFFORD, Esq., C.M.G. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
VINCENT BROWN, Esq., K.C. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
RANDOLPH RUST, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
GEO. H. WILSON, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	Arthur F. Turnbull, Esq.
B. H. STEPHENS, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	Arthur N. Lubbock, Esq.
F. W. TEELE, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
CARL DE VERTEUIL, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
RICHARD FITT, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
A. M. LOW, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
Dr. A. P. LANCE (Trinidad)	" "	" "
WM. KNOX, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
J. W. MCCARTHY, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
CARL A. BOOS, Esq. (Trinidad)	" "	" "
MESSRS. JULIAN H. AUCHER & Co. (Trinidad)	Edgar Tripp, Esq.	G. Bruce Austen, Esq.
The Right Hon. LORD ADDINGTON	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
Col. Hon. R. STAPLETON-COTTON (Antigua)	E. Luxmore Marshall, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
MESSRS. HARRISON, BURTON & Co.	Ed. Kynaston, Esq.	Edward Anderson, Esq.
JAMES WALTER SMITH, Esq., J.P.	J. Henry Wenham, Esq.	T. Du Buisson, Esq.
WILLIAM MARTINEAU, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
Commander W. H. COOMBS, R.N. (Trinidad)	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	C. A. Campbell, Esq.
J. H. HOWELL, Esq., J.P. (Bristol)	Elliot G. Louis, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.

We are glad to be able to announce that, as a result of our suggestion that it would be very desirable to form Local Committees in various Islands with a small executive similar to that which has done such a good work in Barbados, a very representative Committee has been formed in Trinidad composed as follows:—

HON. CHARLES LEOTAUD,
HON. HUGH McLELLAND,
HON. S. HENDERSON,

HON. RENE DE VERTEUIL,
L. J. BERNSTEIN, Esq.,
JAMES WILSON, Esq.,

with the Hon. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK and EDGAR TRIPP, Esq. as Hon. Correspondents. This appointment, which was made at a meeting of Trinidad members in Port of Spain, was confirmed by the Executive Committee on November 12th.

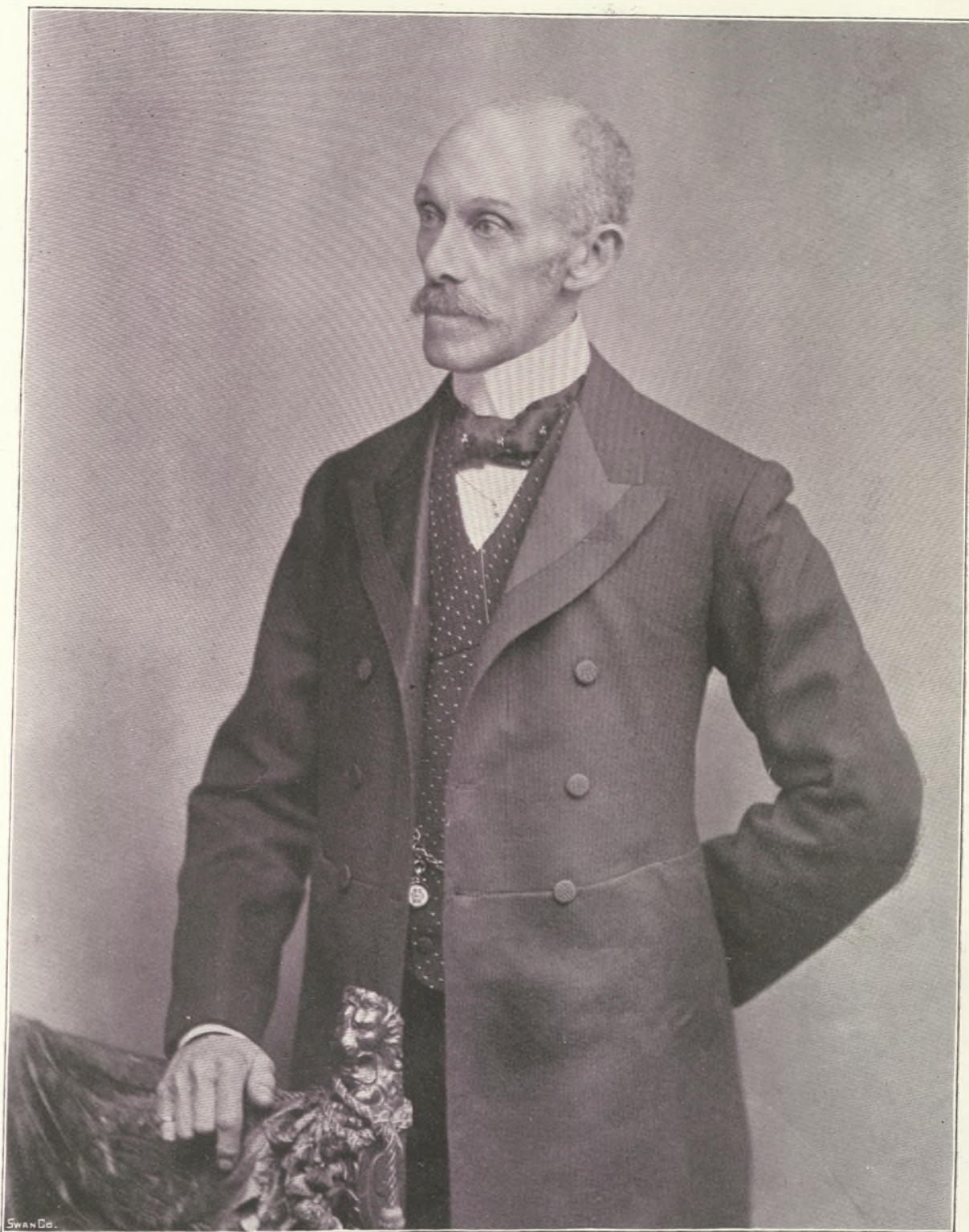
The West Indian Cables.

The following is the text of the letter which has been addressed to Mr. Lytton regarding the unsatisfactory state of telegraphic communication with and between the West Indian Colonies:—

SIR,

November 11th, 1903.

On June 5th last we had the honour to address a letter to Mr. Chamberlain, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of the constant break-downs of the telegraphic communication with and between the British West Indian Colonies. We pointed out the serious inconvenience and loss to which West Indian proprietors were being put by these interruptions, and the risk involved when a community was cut off from all communication with the outside world; we appended a list of



SIR HENRY KATZ DAVSON,

Deputy-Chairman West India Committee.

the interruptions from January 1902 to June 1903, and expressed opinion that the question as to whether wireless telegraphy between the Islands or the amalgamation of the existing companies might not afford relief, merited the closest investigation. On June 18th Mr. Chamberlain replied that this matter would receive his careful consideration.

We regret, Sir, to have to inform you that since our letter of June 5th was despatched, the situation has become aggravated, as you will observe from the annexed schedule of interruptions.* You will note, Sir, that on no less than five occasions during the present year the Trinidad-Demerara Cable has broken down, and it is unnecessary to emphasise the serious inconvenience and loss which has thereby been incurred.

We trust, Sir, that you will not think us importunate in urging as we do, that prompt and immediate steps may be taken to ameliorate the present state of affairs. Having regard to the fact that the contracts between the Colonies and the West India and Panama Telegraph Company are now on a yearly basis, we are of opinion that tenders should be invited for an efficient and reliable service for a series of years, and we would express a hope that the possibility of the introduction of wireless telegraphy and the desirability of the extension of the lines of the Direct West India Cable Company from Jamaica may not be lost sight of.

We have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

In this connection it is of interest to record that, on November 2nd, an ordinance relating to wireless telegraphy was introduced into the Legislative Council of Trinidad by the Attorney-General and passed through all its stages. The object of the enactment is to keep the control of wireless telegraphy in the hands of the Government. A similar measure has been passed in Jamaica.

Proposed West Indian Produce Association.

We invite our Members to send us their views regarding the proposals for the formation of a West Indian Produce Association, which are outlined in the following letter, which has been addressed to the principal Commercial and Planting bodies in the West Indies.

DEAR SIR,

November 10th, 1903.

My Committee have had under their consideration the desirability of forming an Agency or Produce Association, under the direct auspices of the West India Committee, with the object of furthering the sale of, and stimulating the demand for, all kinds of West Indian Produce.

You are doubtless aware that the Monocane Sugar Co., Ltd., was formed some time ago to advocate and increase the sale of West Indian Sugars, and although the capital of this Company has been found to be somewhat small for the purpose, the experience gained has been such as to justify the belief that there already exists in this country a large latent demand for West Indian commodities, which is waiting development by a properly equipped organisation.

That the formation of such an Agency would be of the greatest advantages to the West Indian Colonies, and would benefit equally Sugar Growers, Fruit Growers, Proprietors, and Peasants, we are most firmly convinced, and we feel that the present is a favourable time for its inception, when there is every prospect of a renewed interest, a revival of trade, and an increasing prosperity in the West Indies, but before taking any definite steps in the matter we are anxious to ascertain, through the representative commercial and planting bodies, the opinion of the West Indian Colonies, for we are confident that to ensure complete success close co-operation is absolutely essential.

We therefore venture to ask you to bring this letter before a meeting of your Association at an early date with a view to obtain for us a reply to the following questions:—

(1) Does the idea of the formation of a West Indian Produce Association, under the direct auspices of the West India Committee, meet with approval in the abstract?

(2) Would your Colony be prepared to endorse a request from the West India Committee for Government support to such an Association?

(3) Have you any suggestion to make as to the formation of such a West Indian Produce Association?

You will note that we have put forward no definite scheme at present, but are merely anxious to ascertain whether such a movement, on a large scale and with official support, would meet with approval. Our desire is to sound the Colonies on this point, and if replies received are favourable we shall then endeavour to place before them more definite proposals.

Trusting that you will kindly fill up and return the annexed form subsequent to the Meeting at which this matter is discussed.

I am, your obedient servant,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

Confectioners and the Sugar Convention.

A statement has been communicated to the Press to the effect that in answer to inquiries on the subject of the new duties in Belgium on imported confectionery, the Board of Trade has informed Mr. R. Just Boyd, hon. secretary of the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, that the Permanent Commission established under the Brussels Sugar Convention has decided that the limitation of the surtax laid down in Article 3 of the Convention does not apply to sugared products as distinct from sugar. It will be recalled that this question was the subject of a debate on August 5th in the House of Commons, when Mr. Kearley, M.P., moved an amendment to the Sugar Convention Bill to equalize the treatment of sugar and sugared goods. It was then pointed out by Members on both sides of the House that as the Bill stood it would result in the exclusion of bountied raw materials on which important British industries had been built up, while, on the other hand, it would allow the entry of bountied foreign manufactures to the injury of the native manufacturer. The Prime Minister on the following day stated that if the result anticipated—the entry of bounty-fed sugared goods—occurred, it would be the first and immediate duty of the Government of this country to stop it by legislation.

The position of the confectioners is indeed pathetic! For many years past they have chided us for complaining of the effect of the Bounty System, and now that they fear that they may be themselves affected by it, they are protesting vigorously.

In a letter to the *Standard*, Mr. George Martineau points out that it is quite erroneous to say that our "sugared products have not obtained equality of treatment in European markets. The protective duty on sugar in European markets has been reduced by the Convention, but it has not been abolished, and it is still high enough to protect. So it is with 'sugared products.' The protective duties were reduced solely in order to secure that they should not enable a combination of manufacturers to raise the price to the consumer, and thus get an export bounty. If the foreign makers of 'sugared products' were to do so, the bounty would be stopped, and that is all that the Convention is intended to secure."

Cuban Reciprocity Treaty.

In his message to Congress on the 11th inst. President Roosevelt said he considered that not only the interests but also the honour of the United States demanded legislation making the commercial treaty with Cuba operative. Failure to enact this would come perilously near repudiation of pledged faith. The Government had committed itself to a policy of treating Cuba as occupying a

unique position towards the United States. Under the Platt Amendment it was provided that the Republic of Cuba should stand in such close relations to the United States as to come within its system of international policy. It necessarily followed that Cuba must to a certain degree be included in the lines of the United States economic policy. It would be impossible for the United States to permit to any foreign Power the strategic abuse of Cuba. As a proof of her good faith, Cuba had granted naval stations for the safeguarding of American interests in the waters to the southward, which would be increased by the building of the Panama Canal. It would be shortsighted to refuse the opportunity to develop American exports to the great Cuban markets, and force Cuba to arrange with other countries, to the disadvantage of the United States.

Mr. John Farr, our Honorary Correspondent in New York, writing to us, on November 6th, said that the general impression prevailed that the Cuban Reciprocity Treaty would go through, but that there were already indications that its passage would be delayed. Some technical obstructions had already developed, and the Opposition would make the most of them to delay action. Meanwhile as regards the sugar market, refiners were holding off until the treaty position developed and the market was easier.

Molasses for Cattle Food.

From a general order issued by the Commissioners of Customs (59/1903 amended by 76/1903) it appears that Molasses, as well as Cattle Foods containing Molasses, intended to be used solely as *bona fide* food for stock will now be admitted to this country duty free, without reference to the amount of sweetening matter contained therein. This order is of considerable importance to producers of Molasses and Cattle Foods in the West Indies and shippers will do well to make note of it.

The Cotton Industry.

From a telegram received from Jamaica it appears that extensive experiments with Cotton are to be made in that island, and that the Jamaica Government intends to do all in its power to further the industry. Meanwhile the caterpillars have been pursuing their triumphant course through the cotton fields of Antigua, Barbados, and Nevis, though, as will be seen from the extracts from letters of our Hon. Correspondents, which we give on pages 109 and 110, the pest seemed to be abating when the Mail left.

The current number of the *Agricultural News*, Vol. II, page 41, gives further details regarding the use of Paris Green as a dry mixture with finely-sifted, dry, air-slaked lime for their eradication. The dry mixture has been the more strongly advocated because it requires no expensive apparatus for its application and because there are so few spraying outfits in these islands. While the cotton worm occurred only sparingly, as was the case at the beginning of the season, one pound of Paris Green in fifty to one hundred pounds of dry lime seemed to be sufficient; but now that every field attacked soon comes to have enormous numbers of caterpillars, this mixture is found to be too dilute.

Recent trials of a mixture at the rate of one to ten seem to give good results; while the Hon. F. Watts and Mr. W. N. Sands write that in Antigua the mixture is most successfully used at the rate of one to six. The amount necessary per acre varies, of course, according to the size of the plants, but in Antigua one pound of Paris Green has been found to serve for one application for half to one acre. An experiment, conducted at the Botanic Station, Barbados, has indicated that, mixed in the proportion of one to ten, a pound of Paris Green will be sufficient to dust one-third to half an acre.

Used as a spray, Paris Green has been recommended in a mixture at the rate of one pound to one hundred and fifty gallons of water with two or three times its own weight of lime. This mixture may be made stronger—one pound to one hundred gallons of water—if a proportionate increase in the amount of lime be made. In preparing a Paris Green mixture for spraying, the poison should

first be mixed with a small quantity of water and then added to the full amount, otherwise there is a possibility of its not getting thoroughly mixed.

Sir Daniel Morris and Mr. J. R. Bovell having now returned from their mission to the Southern States, where they have been studying the cultivation and treatment of Sea Island cotton, we may expect shortly a further publication from the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which should prove even more useful than the cotton pamphlet already issued, for which the demand has been very great.

The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, while in Charleston, South Carolina, made arrangements for seed of the best Sea Island cotton to be supplied to the Department for the next planting season. Planters and others desirous of obtaining this seed had to apply to the officers of the Department in each island not later than November 25th, stating how much they required. It was estimated that the seed would cost, delivered to the planters, about seven cents per pound. It may be mentioned that as there is a great demand for this seed, the holders were unable to give Sir Daniel Morris the refusal of it beyond the beginning of December; hence the necessity of requiring the orders to be sent in at once. It should be understood that the Department will be unable to procure a further supply of Sea Island cotton seed at any time before May next.

Coffee in Colombia.

The Coffee Trade in Colombia, is the subject of a recent report by Mr. Vice-Consul Spencer Dickson. A state of depression just now prevails there as a result of over-production. Six years ago Colombian coffee was produced in big plantations, with good machinery, and was stove-dried. The coffee which was carefully sun-dried was also much sought after, for Colombian coffee had a good reputation, and the price went up. This led to over-planting throughout the country. Large credits were taken, and the crops were often sold before they were produced. The labour difficulty became acute, and disaster overtook the promoters. To-day the coffee plantations are, from want of labour, losing half their coffee. Only those who have the best machinery can hope to do a profitable business. Transport is an expensive process, which still handicaps the growers. Coffee is easy to plant, and hardy, but it requires three years of care and expense before any result is obtained. Since the war Colombian coffee supplies have been interrupted, while the Brazilian coffee seems to be gaining ground, and the Brazilians are cultivating more scientifically every year. The British are not great coffee drinkers. Our consumption this year is put at 800,000 cwts., valued at about 2½ millions, as compared with 212½ million lbs. of tea, of the value of over seven millions sterling.

Trinidad and Venezuela.

The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce has issued an abridged account of the negotiations for the removal of the 30 per cent. differential surtax levied on importations from the West Indian Colonies to Venezuela since 1882, and the injury inflicted on the commerce of Trinidad by the closing of the ports of Ciudad Bolivar, Cano Colorado, and Guiria. The decree imposing the 30 per cent. duty was promulgated by General Guzman Blanco, President of the Republic, on June 4th, 1881, and has been in operation ever since May 3rd, 1882. The reason given for the decree was that smuggling from the islands of Trinidad or Curacao had assumed proportions so injurious to Venezuelan trade that some remedy must be found. According to a report written last year by Mr. Haggard, then British Minister to Venezuela, General Guzman Blanco wished to revenge himself on Trinidad for not having expelled refugees opposed to his administration, and also to force England to enter into another treaty from which the most-favoured-nation clause should be eliminated, to her own disadvantage, and to the advantage of the trade of other countries, especially that of the United States, Germany, and France. General Guzman Blanco was himself interested in some non-British trading houses in Caracas. The British Government pointed out that the imposition of this surtax contravened the

treaty concluded between Great Britain and the then State of Colombia (now Venezuela) in 1825, which provides that no duties should be imposed on imports from his Majesty's dominions higher than the duties imposed on similar articles from other countries. The Venezuelan Government employed the sophistical argument that the provisions of the treaty did not apply to British Colonies. The Foreign Office refused to admit this contention, and the matter has remained in dispute for 20 years.

Meanwhile the trade of Trinidad with Venezuela has decayed. The exports from the island to Venezuela were valued at £252,685 in 1881, and £64,656 in 1901. At the present time, in addition to the ordinary Customs duty, goods imported into Venezuela from Trinidad have to pay a territorial duty of 25 per cent., a differential surtax of 30 per cent., a special war tax of 30 per cent., and small stamp duties. In addition to this the ports of Ciudad Bolivar, Cano Colorado, and Guiria have been closed against shipments from Trinidad by a recent decree of President Castro's. All exports from the Colony have now to go *via* Carupano and La Guayra, and the closing of the three ports mentioned above is a serious impediment to the cattle business between Trinidad and the Orinoco districts upon which Trinidad mainly depends for its meat supply.

The Chamber enumerates the favourable opportunities which have presented themselves for the settlement of this matter. The first being when the delimitation of the boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana was referred to a Special International Arbitration Tribunal; the matter, however, was not referred to. The second was last year, when the British Government negotiated with Mr. H. W. Bowen, the United States Minister at Caracas, Venezuela's specially created Envoy and Plenipotentiary for the adjudication and settlement of the claims of British subjects against Venezuela. Repeated representations were made by the Chamber of Commerce, but the question of the surtax was ignored, although the loss of trade to Trinidad caused by the decree since 1882 many times exceeds the total amount of the British claims submitted to the mixed Commission appointed by virtue of the Protocol: and the third, the present time, the matter being closely connected with the proposals for an Imperial Zollverein.

Mosquitos and Malaria.

Major Ronald Ross, F.R.S., C.B., read a paper (with lantern illustrations) under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute, at the Whitehall Rooms at 8 p.m., on Tuesday, November 10th. The Chair was taken by the Right Hon. Sir George T. Goldie, K.C.M.G., and there was a large attendance. Major Ross, who was cordially received, said the extent to which malaria prevails in the tropics would scarcely be realised, except by those who had studied the vital statistics of many tropical Colonies. The annual Report of the Sanitary Commissioner to the Government of India showed that out of 305,927 persons composing the European and Native Armies, and the gaol population, no less than 102,640, or just about one-third, were admitted into hospital for malarial fever during the year 1900; while among the entire population of India no fewer than 4,919,591 deaths were attributed to fever—that was a mortality exceeding 13,000 deaths every day. As a whole, however, India was by no means an intensely malarious country. Besides its immense prevalence, malaria had other characteristics which greatly enhanced its maleficence. It occurred most of all in the richest and most fertile tracts, and especially attacked those engaged in various agrarian pursuits. It was, therefore, particularly the enemy of the pioneer, the traveller, the planter, the engineer, and the soldier, that was, of those whose labours were essential to the development of tropical Colonies: It might be safely maintained, not only that many important undertakings and industries in the tropics had been ruined by it, but that the progress of whole countries—some of which possess the greatest natural resources—had been retarded in consequence of this pernicious malady. The question how best to contend against the scourge became, therefore, one of the greatest economical importance for an Empire like ours. Discussing the question of preventive measures, he said that for the tropics, at least, mosquito

nets constituted the most useful prophylactic. Another precaution, scarcely less useful, was that afforded by the use of punkahs and fans. He considered the constant use of quinine to be of much less value than the mosquito net. A domestic prophylactic was wire-gauze screens to the windows. A last precaution was that of segregation. After alluding to the success of State measures for the repression of malaria in Sierra Leone, Havana, Lagos, Ismailia, the German Colonies, Hong-Kong, &c., Major Ross said that if we wished for a continuous policy against malaria and the other great diseases of our tropical Colonies we must re-organize our sanitary system. He thought we should not rest content merely with local and intermittent efforts, but should endeavour to form some scheme which would ensure a general advance against the enemy. Concluding, he said, "Do not let us rest until we see that the country has become fully alive to its responsibilities in this matter" (applause).

Colonial Report—St. Vincent, 1902=3.

The report of Mr. Administrator Edward J. Cameron on the Blue Book of St. Vincent for the year 1902-3 (Colonial Reports Annual, No. 403) covering as it does the period of the eruption of the Soufriere, is naturally of a less hopeful nature than the usual run of these publications. "The condition of an island," says Mr. Cameron, "which in a period of four years is subjected to two such cataclysms as the hurricane of 1898 and the volcanic eruption of 1902, coming on the top of a succession of years of gradual but marked decadence, cannot very well afford much scope for an encouraging report, and I fear St. Vincent must of necessity for some appreciable time continue to be a cause of considerable anxiety to those who are responsible for its government, both on the spot and at home."

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past five years :—

YEAR.	REVENUE.		TOTAL.	EXPENDITURE.		TOTAL.
	Local ...	Imperial Grant		Local ...	Imperial Grant	
1902-3	£25,931	3,361	£29,292	£25,758	2,632	£28,390 ... £902 Surplus.
1901-2	23,705	2,907	26,612	26,149	3,423	29,572 ... 2,960 Deficit.
1900...	28,376	2,050	30,426	29,081	7,040	36,121 ... 5,695 Deficit.
1899...	29,218	34,075	63,293	30,322	17,533	47,855 ... 15,438 Surplus.
1898...	26,901	—	26,901	27,674	—	27,674 ... 773 Deficit.

The following table gives the value of total and the principal exports for five years :—

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
Total Exports ...	£44,094	£51,987	£97,769	£33,575	£44,666
Arrowroot ...	21,817	28,636	74,748	22,457	14,517
Sugar ...	6,034	9,180	6,910	415	14,610
Cocoa ...	1,558	1,659	1,411	116	3,620

By the volcanic eruption of May, 1902, a large area of land, practically one-third of the island, comprising within its area some of the most fertile estates, was entirely devastated. The immediate result was to send up the price of ordinary quality arrowroot, the present St. Vincent staple, from less than 2d. to over 4d. per pound in the London market, and it has not since then gone below the 2d.

figure which was the irreducible minimum at which it was the aim of the combination of growers, referred to in the last year's report, to keep it. The production of sugar and rum in St. Vincent at the present day is inappreciable, and the conditions, as regards what remains of this industry, were not much altered by the catastrophe. Cocoa cultivation received a severe set back, great destruction and damage being done to all trees within the devastated area.

For a summary of the Colonial Report of BARBADOS, 1902-3, see *West India Committee Circular*, No. 108, page 72.

Origin and Growth of English Colonies.*

Under the above title, Mr. Hugh Edward Egerton has at the request of the author, compiled a new edition of Mr. C. P. Lucas' "Introduction to a Historical Geography of the British Colonies," which it is hardly surprising to learn is out of print, so much was it sought after. In view of the great development of colonial questions which has taken place in the interval between 1887, when Mr. Lucas' book was published, and the present time, and of the fact that several books have been issued, giving a general and succinct account of the British Colonies, it was thought advisable, not merely to edit and revise the former book, but somewhat to enlarge its scope, while incorporating the old matter, where it covered the same ground. This Mr. Egerton has done very successfully.

The West Indian in London.

As we were last going to press, several Members and their friends were availing themselves of the opportunity of witnessing the Lord Mayor's Procession from the windows of the Committee Rooms. From a spectacular point of view the pageant was shorn of some of its splendour by the absence of regular troops, whose place was taken this year by the more sombrely clad Volunteers and Imperial Yeomanry. But what could be more appropriate than that the great civic authority should be escorted through his domains by the citizen soldiers whose services during the recent campaign proclaimed to the world their true value, and their spirit of readiness to act in any national emergency? — Sir Henry and Lady Davson, who were among those present, were the recipients of many hearty congratulations upon the honour bestowed upon them on that day. — Sir Simeon Stuart took the chair at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on November 11th, which was, as usual, well attended. — The rain, like the poor, is always with us, and it is now many days since the world's record in this respect was beaten. There are some who are unkind enough to assert that this constant downpour comes as an unwelcome bequest from the West Indian Colonies, and it is actually possible that the meteorological upset may be attributable to the volcanic disturbances in Martinique and St. Vincent, which, by the way, have recently been the subject of a series of lectures by Dr. Flett at the Victoria and Albert Museum. As we write, however, the weather has turned sensibly colder, and prospects are entertained of a drier and more seasonable spell. — The engagement of Prince Alexander of Teck, and Princess Alice, only daughter of the much respected Duchess of Albany, which was announced in the *Gazette* on November 17th, has caused very general satisfaction. Prince Alexander, cheeriest and most popular of Royal Princes, is a Captain in the 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars, with which gallant corps he has seen considerable active service. He has also proved himself in South Africa to be a most capable staff officer. — The indefatigable Sir Alfred Jones is sparing no effort to popularise Jamaica as a tourist resort. The West India Committee Rooms were placed at his disposal on November 15th, 16th, and 17th, for the purpose of an exhibition of paintings of Jamaica by the well-known artist Mr. Joseph Kirkpatrick, who returned from a visit to the Island last May. — Lord Roberts and Sir J. Blundell Maple, have been among the distinguished

* "The Origin and Growth of the English Colonies, and of their system of Government" by Hugh Edward Egerton, M.A., Oxford, The Clarendon Press.

invalids of the fortnight, but latest reports state that they are progressing favourably. Here's wishing them a speedy recovery. — Mr. Chamberlain visited the Colonial Office on the 18th inst., and took leave of the Agents General, making an impressive speech on Imperial Union. — Before the next publication of the *Circular*, the dinner and presentation to Sir Nevile Lubbock will be *faits accomplis*: and, with so laudable an object as that of doing honour to our popular Chairman, it is certain that the attendance will be a bumper one. With a distinguished company of invited guests there should be some interesting speeches; and that the catering both with regard to viands and vintages will be beyond reproach, goes without saying. — Our guests, the King and Queen of Italy, made a state progress, on the 19th inst., through the principal thoroughfares to the Guildhall, where they were entertained by the Lord Mayor. The hearty reception they received in the streets was another instance of the *entente cordiale* now existing between this country and so many of our neighbours on the Continent, and which our gracious and tactful Majesty has done so much to promote.

Notes of Interest.

- CABLE DELAYS.** Télégraphic communication with Demerara, which was interrupted on October 23rd, was restored on the 14th inst.
- THE BANQUET ON NOV. 26.** No application for tickets for the Banquet to Sir Nevile Lubbock on Wednesday next can be entertained after 2 p.m. to-morrow, when seats will be finally arranged.
- A SPECIAL EDITION.** A Special Edition of the *West India Committee Circular*, containing a full account of a full account of the Banquet to Sir Nevile Lubbock on November 25th, with a verbatim report of the speeches, will be published on the 30th inst.
- THE LATE SIR H. LUDLOW.** Sir Henry Ludlow, who was Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands from 1886 to 1891, died on the 17th inst. at Hythe, Kent, from a paralytic seizure. Deceased, who was born in 1834, was a native of Hereford. He was a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, and some time Attorney-General of Trinidad. He had lived at Hythe for some years.
- TRINIDAD CANE FARMERS.** Mr. Edgar Tripp writes to us with reference to the figures of the Trinidad Cane Farmers' Crops for 1902-3, which we published in our last *Circular*, page 86, that the increased price paid in 1903 included the 1/- per ton special Government grant which was paid through the planters, who afterwards recovered the amount from the authorities. The farmers will not receive this extra amount next year, so that it is to be hoped the state of the sugar market will warrant the difference being made good by the planters.

West Indian Securities.

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on September 3rd). 2½ % Consols, 88¾.

Stock or Shares.	Paid.	Div.	Price.	Stock or Shares.	Paid.	Div.	Price.
20 Colonial Bank	6	6%	4½-5	100 Direct West India Cable Co. Debentures	100	4½%	99-102
100 Royal Mail Steam Pckt. Co.	60	Nil.	24-26	5 New Colonial Co. Pref. ...	5	5%	21-3½
100 Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Debentures	100	4½%	84-88	100 New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company	100	6%	91-96
10 West India & Panama Tel. Company	10	Nil.	7 16 16	100 Demerara Railway Co. ...	100	Nil.	15-20

WEST INDIA AND PANAMA TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—The accounts for the six months ended June 30th show that the amount to credit of revenue is £34,903, against £28,970 for the corresponding half-year of 1902. The expenses have been £23,051, against £22,399, leaving a balance of £11,852, to which is added £2127 interest on investments and £1914 brought forward, making a total of £15,893. It is proposed to pay 8s. per Share on account of arrears of dividend to June 30th on the First Preference Shares, and to carry forward £2068. This will leave arrears of £3456 on the First Preference Shares and £8404 on the Second.

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Atrato" anchored off Plymouth at 5.25 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18th, and the mails were delivered in London by the first post on the following day. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Saturday, November 14th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "Atrato"

Antigua.—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, November 5th. Regarding Cotton, the caterpillar pest seemed to have abated, but there was no doubt that the presence of such a pest in the Island would deter many from planting any large area in cotton until it was quite clearly proved that the fields could be quite safely and surely protected against attack by the use of insecticides on a practical scale. The chief objection to the use of Paris Green mixed with lime was that it got washed off the leaves by every good tropical shower, so that to secure freedom from attack the plants would require almost continual dusting, particularly as they are grown in the "wet season." Whether such dusting was practicable on a large scale had not yet been proved in Antigua, though it seemed to be so in the United States, but then perhaps the poison did not get washed off the leaves with the rain as it might be there with the greater force of the tropical rains. The engine and boiler for the cotton factory had arrived: the factory would be built at Skerret's Farm, where the Imperial Department of Agriculture could command suitable buildings for storage of cotton, &c. The weather had been generally favourable during the fortnight over most of the Island except the windward districts, where the rainfall had not been sufficient. A few estates were starting to grind "stand-over" canes. The building of the new sugar factory was being actively proceeded with



BARBADOS BANANAS IN ENGLAND.

Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, November 6th.

Intense interest was taken in Barbados in Mr. Chamberlain's speeches; all trusted that he might bring the entire nation round to his views. With regard to the letters of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company as to Banana shipments (see Circular 107, page 58) the writer was regularly in correspondence with Mr. Frank Pink, who was deeply interested in the matter. The shippers from Barbados numbered sixty, many of whom were of very recent date, and had not obtained the requisite experience in the time of picking or the method of packing, and shipped frequently very small bunches. (A letter from the writer on this subject appears in the *Agricultural Reporter* of November 2nd.) But Mr. Pink distinctly said that he did not think that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had yet put in sufficiently powerful ventilating fans, and he advised them by no means to alter their method of packing, except as they had been doing lately, to substitute tight sacking for cotton wool. The attack of the caterpillars on the Cotton had been serious. Few fields had escaped, and as there was no Paris Green in the Island scores of thousands of these insects had had to be hand picked from a field of five acres in a day. Some of the fields they had abandoned and the leaves were sprouting again, but where they had attacked the pods they would not make much of a crop. The worms, however, had much diminished at a time of closing his letter. He sent a photograph of a bunch of Barbados bananas shipped to his daughter in England which would be of interest, as the picture was typical in the opinion of Sir Daniel Morris of what a branch ought to look like on its arrival.

British Guiana.—A. Summerson, Esq., November 4th. The cable was still interrupted when the mail left, and much inconvenience was being caused thereby. Some 6000 tons Crystals had been sold during the fortnight at prices ranging from 2.01 to 2.02½. The weather continued dry until the 3rd, when over 3 inches of rain fell in Georgetown and neighbourhood, which would be of immense benefit to cultivation. Grinding operations were progressing favourably, and some districts were getting beyond the average returns. Cane Juice was also showing further improvements in quality.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), November 23rd. "Very dry, rain wanted."
British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), November 9th. "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara County." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), November 14th. "We have had some showers since last message, but more rain is wanted." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), November 14th. "Weather too dry." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), November 17th. "Weather continues too dry, rain much wanted."

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Atrato," November 19th, 1903:—**Barbados**.—Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Deane, Mr. J. Humphreys. **Demerara**.—Mr. John Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. B. Shields, Mr. McLean Ogle, Mr. J. H. Brathwaite, Mr. Robert A. Fitch, Mrs. Pearson, Mr. P. Kay, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Barbour James. **Jamaica**.—Capt. S. H. Hingley, Mr. Cornelius Wade, Col. and Miss Kitchener, Miss Charlotte Arboin, Mr. and Mrs. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Smith. **Trinidad**.—Mr. W. K. Miley, Mr. Arthur de Sola, Mr. John Reid. **Dominica**.—Mr. E. C. M. Heath. **St. Vincent**.—Mr. H. Powell.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Tagus," November 25th, 1903:—**Barbados**.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Connell, Miss McKinsty, Miss Briggs, Mr. and Mrs. and the two Misses Sanderson, Miss I. Racker, Mr. G. A. and Mrs. McKinstry, Mrs. Jolliffe, Mrs. C. J. Clarke, Miss da Costa, Miss Templeton, Lady Morris, Dr. J. and Mrs. Bibby, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, Miss A. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. de Winton, Mr. Pomeroy, Dr. T. Vallance, Miss E. Potter, Mr. C. M. Goodridge, Mr. T. R. Beaumont. **Demerara**.—Mr. and Mrs. Hill, Mr. J. C. Weir, Mrs. Quick, Mr. McGurran, Mr. W. M. Campbell, Mr. E. Chambers. **Jamaica**.—Mrs. M. Henderson, Mr. Geo. Haley, Mr. and Mrs. Verley, Mr. W. Abbott, Mr. H. Pittam, Miss Shore, Mr. H. Trotter, Miss MacGregor Smith, Mr. G. Harding, Mr. C. H. Ward, Mr. A. C. Ward, Mr. R. Thorn, Mr. and Mrs. Bell, Miss MacArthur, Captain and Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. Hendricks, Mr. E. H. Stapledon-Cotton. **Trinidad**.—Mr. and Mrs. John Gordon, Miss K. Moloney, Miss G. Moloney, Mr. and Mrs. Rankin, Mr. James Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. Maingot, Mr. Bert de Lemarre, Mr. R. J. Cipriani, Mrs. E. May, Mr. G. MacIntyre, Mr. A. J. Hamlin, Miss Macfarlane, Mr. C. Freeman, Dr. MacShine, Mr. L. Matthieu, Commander the Honourable W. H. Coombs, R.N. **Antigua**.—Mr. W. Hart, Mr. E. Jarvis. **Grenada**.—Mr., Mrs. and the two Misses Paterson, Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Ongley, Mrs. Bishop, Mr. Mitchell. **St. Kitts**.—Rev. and Mrs. Cault. **St. Lucia**.—Mr. H. Hunter, Mr. H. S. Smith, Miss H. Dennehy, Mrs. Thelwall, Rev. P. Sirrenne. **Tobago**.—Rev. F. H. Casey, Mrs. Barnard.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato" December 9th, 1903:—**Barbados**.—Miss E. Holt, Miss Mather, Mr. H. Melledew, Miss DaCosta, Miss Templeton, Mrs. Clarke, Captain E. Busey, R.N., Mrs. Bournee, Miss Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thorne, Mr. J. W. Help. **Jamaica**.—Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, Dr. and Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Whigham, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd-Smythe, Mr. M. Lyon, Mrs. Bruce, Miss Forlong, Mrs. and Miss Schooles, Mr. H. C. R. Sanders, Mr. J. N. Carvalho. **Trinidad**.—Miss Lynch, Mr. J. and Mr. R. Delgames. **Antigua**.—Mr. W. J. Douglas. **Dominica**.—Mr. and Miss Agar.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," Nov. 14th, 1903:—**Jamaica**.—Mr. J. S. Brown, Mr. R. Johnson, Mr. C. S. Moseley, Mr. W. Purnell, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Reed, Mr. H. E. Thomas, Mr. E. L. Thomas, Mr. Albert Leaf.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Royal," Nov. 21st, 1903:—**Jamaica**.—Mr. Andrews, Capt. and Mrs. Barnard, Mr. E. P. Binns, Mrs. B. Brown, Mr. E. Chester, Miss Cohen, Mr. W. F. Cullinan, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Douet, Mr. Franklin, Mr. J. Garnett, Miss Garnett, Mrs. and Miss Garcia, Miss Graham, Mrs. E. A. H. Haggart, Mrs. C. M. Hendriks, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hopkins, Mr. K. C. S. Jacobsen, Mrs. and Miss Kerr, Mrs. C. Liddell, Mr. and Mrs. Mahon, Mr. and Mrs. M. Mapstone, Capt. G. J. Mitton, Miss Nixon, Mr. R. H. Otto, Mr. G. S. Owen, Dr. and Mrs. C. Reinhardt, Mr. F. B. R. Saunders, Mr. R. Stewart, Mr. N. Thompson, Dr. E. M. Thompson, Mr. T. B. Clarke-Thornhill, Mr. George Turner, Mr. F. C. Allen, Mr. E. Cole, Mr. Graves, Mr. F. Reeves.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," Dec. 5th, 1903:—**Jamaica**.—Miss L. Jones-Bateman, Mrs. and Miss Forster, Ven. Archdeacon Downer, Mr. Maples, Mr. Maples, Jun., Mr. McMonies, Mr. P. Rattray, Mr. and Mrs. Reed, Miss Robertson, Mr. O. Sottberg.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—Taken collectively there seems little doubt but that M. Licht's estimate of the quantity of Sugar to be produced on the Continent this season is about correct. The figures given by this authority were 4,215,000 Tons from "admitted" countries, and 1,635,000 Tons from those that are "excluded" under the terms of the Brussels Convention, making a total of 5,850,000 Tons. These compare with 3,990,000 and 1,570,000 Tons respectively from "admitted" and "excluded" countries producing a total for the crop of 1902/3 of 5,560,000 Tons, or an excess of 290,000 Tons spread over the whole of Europe. Now, inasmuch as the production of Russia and other outside places is excluded from the United Kingdom, their crops are of little concern to us. What we have to consider is the increase in production from "admitted" countries, which amounts to 225,000 Tons. According to M. Licht, the visible stocks on the 1st October last, of Sugar so placed, was 910,000 Tons, against 982,000 Tons on 1st October, 1902. Carrying these figures to their conclusion we arrive at a surplus supply of some 150,000 Tons in "admitted" countries, as compared with last year, an amount which will go only a short way in providing for the anticipated increase in Continental consumption, the outcome of the reduced internal tax therein conceded. From this it may be clearly assumed that taking Europe alone, the position is not so bad but that it might be worse. Looking, however, outside this, and taking the figures of what is called the "known world," there seems little doubt the production of Beet and Cane this season will exceed that of last year by 600,000 half Beet and half Cane, and it is this increase which we shall have to consume to bring ourselves, on

The Produce Markets Summary—continued.

the 1st October, 1904, to the same position as we were on that date this year. This is not an insurmountable task, but when it is done we have still too much Sugar left over, the result of late Cartel and Bounty Fed crops. There appears to be but one remedy to relieve the situation, and that is a wholesale reduction of 10% in the production of Beet for next crop, rendered the more necessary through the expansion in the growth of Cane Sugar, notably in Cuba. If this were done, even for one season only, the Beet producers would obtain a paying price for their crops. If not, they must expect to put up with 8s. to 8s. 6d. basis 88%, and let us hope they will like it. In reducing the Beet crops alternative cultivation is possible, with Cane Sugar it is not so, for fields left unplanted for one season form themselves into jungle and are practically worthless. Continental growers will do well to fix their attention on the Island of Cuba, where, with a fair system of preference accorded by its owners, the United States, leading ultimately to free admission, as in the cases of the Sandwich Islands, Porto Rico, and the Philippines, the Island's crop, which last year was 1,000,000 Tons, and with 1,200,000 Tons in the coming season, can soon be increased to 2,000,000 Tons. This will no doubt be a wholesome check to the ever growing increase in Beet Sugar, for given a fair measure of reciprocity in the United States, capital will rapidly flow to Cuba, and labour will follow. Of this there can be no doubt. In the meantime the Market drags on, being kept down by the large quantity of Bounty and Cartel Fed Sugar left over from last season, and which our Refiners are slowly absorbing at 4½d. to 6d. per cwt. below the "paper" prices of new crops, which are as follows:—Nov., 8s. 5d.; Dec., 8s. 5½d.; Jan./Mar., 8s. 7½d.; April/June, 8s. 9½d.; August, 8s. 11½d.; and Oct./Dec., 1904, 9s. 1½d.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	
Europe	1,880,000	1,820,000	1,500,000	1,200,000	1,180,000	Tons.
United States	100,000	180,000	160,000	70,000	190,000	"
Cuba	120,000	70,000	40,000	—	10,000	"
Cargoes afloat	110,000	70,000	20,000	50,000	110,000	"
Total	2,210,000	2,140,000	1,720,000	1,320,000	1,490,000	

Comparative prices of 88% for 5 years:—

8s. 5d. 7s. 9d. 7s. 3½d. 9s. 8½d. 9s. 0½d.

Crystallised Sugar.—There is more trade and prices are well maintained, in some cases indeed favouring sellers. Quotations are, inferior grades, 15s. 3d.; yellows, 15s. 6d., 16s.; with fine Sugar 16s. 3d., 16s. 6d. The value of average qualities remains fully 15s. 9d., with good Sugar 16s. A cargo of dark Crystals to Cane Refiners should command 9/6 on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar in good demand from 11s. 6d. to 15s.

Muscovado.—None here, and quotations nominal.

West India figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports to date	21,000	57,000	31,000	37,000	Tons.
Deliveries	37,000	38,000	36,000	36,000	"
Stocks	13,000	30,000	14,000	6,000	"

Rum.—Dull, unchanged, with scarcely any business passing. Quotations are Demerara fair, 9d.; Standard Marks, Jamaica 1s. 9d.; and 7d. to 10d. for Cuba Rum.

London Figures to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports Jamaica	8400	13,200	10,200	9900	Puns.
Demerara	9300	15,300	14,000	11,000	"
Stocks Jamaica	10,500	12,000	9300	9500	"
Demerara	6200	6800	3500	3700	"
Total of all kinds:— Stocks	26,989	29,330			Deficiency, 2341 Puns.

Board of Trade Returns for 10 months

	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports	4,495,000	7,062,000	5,807,000	Gallons.
Home Consumption	2,922,000	3,219,000	3,234,000	"
Stocks 31st October	9,683,000	9,534,000	7,733,000	"

Cocoa.—The Market remains dull but quotations are unchanged, viz., Trinidad fair collected, 65s., Estate Marks, 66s. to 72s.; Grenada fair, 54s., fermented, 60s. to 64s.; fair Native Cocoa from other Islands, 52s. with fermented 54s. Fermented African is about 56s., laid down in London, Bristol, or Liverpool. Stocks in London:—1903, 56,000; 1902, 61,000; 1901, 86,000; 1900, 95,000 Bags.

Board of Trade Returns for 10 months.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Imports	19,256	21,709	20,695	Tons.
Home Consumption	15,165	17,312	16,089	"
Stocks 31st Oct.	4287	4635	7505	"

Home Consumption compares unfavourably with the two previous years, and is a feature not welcome to Importers and the Trade. A cold winter may possibly improve matters.

Coffee.—Steady, with numerous fluctuations in the price of Santos futures, to-day's quotation for November delivery being 29s. 9d. **Nutmegs.**—Irregular, and rather easier. Sales of West India 61's at 2s. 10d.; 82's at 1s. 9d.; 100's at 11d.; 125's at 9½; 132's at 8½d.; and in shell, 6½d. to 7d. **Mace.**—Cheaper. Fair to good pale, 2s. 2d., 2s. 4d.; red, 1s. 11d., 2s., and broken, 1s. 11d. **Pimento.**—Dull. Prices easier, fair about 4½d. **Ginger.**—Quiet. Small sales of Jamaica, lean and dark, 37s. to 39. **Cotton.**—Firm. American November delivery about 6d., and fair West India also about 6d. **Arrowroot.**—The Market is irregular, with moderate sales of manufacturing at 1½d. to 2d., the former price being the value of "fair." A superior mark sold at 2½d.

London Figures to 31st Oct.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports	12,422	16,801	17,732	23,072	Bris.
Deliveries	12,040	10,835	17,533	17,833	"
Stocks	12,632	13,685	8408	7770	"

Lime Juice.—Dull, prices nominal, about 10d. to 1s. 1d. per gallon; Concentrated, slow, nearest quotation £12 15s. per cask of 108 gallons; Distilled Oil, fairly steady at 1s. 5d. per lb.; Hand Pressed, dull, value about 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per lb.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

50

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

Ent. Stationers Hall.]

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, 1903.

Special No. 111.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Our Banquet of November 25th	113	Presentation to Mr. Martineau	135
The Company Present	116	The Sugar Bounties Agitation: A Retrospect	136
Report of the Speeches—		From our Minutes of 1779.	141
Sir Henry Norman	118	The Minor Industries of the West Indies	142
Sir James Fergusson	120	Impressions of the Banquet	144
Sir Henry Davson	122		
Sir Nevile Lubbock	123	Illustrations.	
The Duke of Marlborough	129	Portrait of Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	
Sir Cuthbert Quilter	131	Photograph of Our Banquet	
M. Yves Guyot	132	The Presentation Silver.	
Sir Alfred Jones	133	Portrait of Lady Lubbock.	
Sir Nevile Lubbock's Thanks	134	The Usine St. Madelcine, Trinidad.	
		The Cup Presented to George Martineau, Esq., C.B.	

Our Banquet of November 25th.

Never, we may venture to say, has a more representative gathering of those connected with the West Indies met in London than that which assembled at the Whitehall Rooms, on Nov. 25th last, to honour Sir Nevile Lubbock, Chairman of the West India Committee, and to present him with a Testimonial in recognition of his eminent services on behalf of our West Indian Colonies. With the extent of these services we need not deal at any length in these few introductory remarks, so ably were they extolled by Sir Henry K. Davson in his speech at the Banquet, which will be found on pages 122-3, but will confine ourselves to recording the arrangements for that entertainment and the manner in which they were carried out.

On November 27th, 1902, a Sub-Committee consisting of Sir (then Mr.) Henry K. Davson, Mr. R. Rutherford, and the Secretary was appointed to recommend how best the West India Committee might mark their appreciation of the services of Sir Nevile Lubbock as they expressed themselves desirous of doing. On February 19th, 1903, the Sub-Committee reported in favour of inviting subscriptions in the West Indies and this country towards a testimonial, and were confirmed in their appointment with full power to give effect to this suggestion. On February 25th, a circular was issued accordingly, pointing out that—

"For over nineteen years Sir Nevile Lubbock has occupied the position of Chairman of the West India Committee, of which he has been an active Member for more than thirty years, and it will be within your recollection that in 1899 her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, marked her approval of his 'services in connection with the West Indian Colonies' by conferring on him the honour of Knighthood of the most distinguished order of St. Michael and St. George. The work performed by Sir Nevile Lubbock in connection with the Foreign State Bounties ever since their blighting effect on the Sugar Industry of the British West Indies first manifested itself will be the more widely appreciated now that the proceedings at the recent Brussels Conference have resulted in the ratification by all the participating Powers of a Convention for their abolition. But it is in other directions also, as for example, by the inauguration of the prosperous cane farming industry in Trinidad that our worthy Chairman has earned the gratitude of all who have the welfare of the West Indies at heart. It is proposed that the testimonial shall take the form of such appropriate gift as funds may permit."

The response was prompt and far exceeded expectations, the matter being taken up most warmly both in the West Indies and at home, with the result that in a very few weeks the Sub-Committee were in a position to invite Sir Nevile Lubbock to sit to the well-known Academician, Professor Hubert von Herkomer, for a presentation portrait, and were also able to order a set of silver centrepieces and candelabra as well as a diamond crescent tiara for Lady Lubbock.

By May, the portrait was completed and hung in the West India Committee Rooms pending presentation. All who have seen it have pronounced it an admirable likeness, and it is gratifying to know that Professor Hubert von Herkomer considers it one of his strongest works and that it will probably grace the walls of the Royal Academy next May. But our friends across the water will be able to judge for themselves from the photograph of the picture, which faces page 120, how admirably

WINES.	MENU.	THE FRUIT
Chablis.	Native Oysters.	IS THE
Dry Sherry.	Petite Marmite.	Gift of the People of Dominica
Liebfraumlich.	Borsch à la Russe.	TO
(Friedborg's.)	Turbot, Sauce Mousseline.	SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK,
GIESLER & Co.,	Whitebait.	AND COMPRISES
Ex. Sup. Dry, 1895.	Suprême de Levrant, Nesselrode.	Oranges. Pines. Lemons
DEUTZ & GELDERMANN,	Poularde Chevalière.	Papaws. Limes.
Gold Lack, 1893.	Goblet Maltais.	Golden Apples.
LIQUEURS.	Selle de Mouton de Galles.	Shaddocks. Carambolas
Château Lafite, 1894.	Haricots Verts Nouveaux.	Grape Fruit. Soursofs.
MARTINEZ'S,	Pommes de terre Parisienne.	Avocado Pears. Mangostines.
Moderately Dry Port.	Langue Fumée Sauce Cumberland.	—
JAMAICA CIGARS.	Bécassines Rôties sur Canape.	COLLECTED AND PACKED BY THE
	Salade. Chips.	Dominica Agricultural Society
	Pouding Soufflé aux Avelines.	Nov. 25th, 1903.
	Fondu Chamonix.	
	Roses Glacées, Petits Fours.	
	Bananine Bread.	
	Dominica Fruit.	

the features of our respected Chairman have been portrayed. They will also find an illustration, facing page 124, of the presentation plate, which, as will be seen, is handsome and massive.

It was very generally felt that though the services which Sir Nevile Lubbock has rendered to the West Indies have not been connected with the sugar industry alone, the Banquet would go with much greater éclat after the passing of the Sugar Convention Act by the House of Commons which was to deal the death blow to the iniquitous Bounty System, and it was accordingly decided to await this auspicious event before making the presentation. But the summer was advancing, and, as it was not until August that the minds of West Indians were set at rest and the Bill became law, a further post-

ponement over the holiday season became necessary. At last, in October, we were able to fix a definite date for the pleasing function, November 25th, and at 7.30 p.m. on that day the distinguished company whose names we give elsewhere sat down at eight tables—one long high table with seven others at right angles—in the large Banqueting Room of the Whitehall Rooms, Northumberland Avenue, prepared to do justice to the excellent menu which was set before them.

The Rooms were decorated with West Indian flags, and behind Sir James Fergusson's chair stood a table on which was set out the presentation plate, while above it was the portrait, both bearing the inscription—

PRESENTED
TO
SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.,
CHAIRMAN OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EMINENT SERVICES ON BEHALF OF
THE WEST INDIAN COLONIES,
Nov. 25, 1903.

This was surmounted by a red ensign charged with the comprehensive badge of the West India Committee, which is now becoming, as it should do, very familiar. A feature of the Banquet was the

TOAST LIST.

The King.

Proposed by the Chairman.

*The Queen, the Prince & Princess of Wales
and the Rest of the Royal Family.*

Proposed by the Chairman.

The Imperial Forces.

Proposed by the Chairman.

Responded to by Field Marshal Sir Henry Norman,
G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E.

The Guest of the Evening.

Proposed by the Chairman.

Presentation of Testimonial.

By Sir Henry K. Davson.

Responded to by Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

Prosperity to our West Indian Colonies.

Proposed by Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

Responded to by His Grace The Duke of Marlborough,
K.G.

Our Guests.

Proposed by Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Bart., M.P.

Responded to by Monsieur Yves Guyot.

The Chairman.

Proposed by Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G.

Responded to by The Rt. Hon. Sir James Fergusson,
Bart., G.C.S.I., M.P.

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC.

- 1 March "King and Country" Farban.
- 2 Overture from "Dolly Varden" Edwards.
- 3 Entracte "Ecossoise" Ganne.
- 4 Valse "Sobre les Olas" Rosas.
- 5 Serenade "Slumber Song" Squire.
- 6 Three Dances "Nell Gwyn" German.
- 7 Selection "The School Girl" Stuart.
- 8 Valse Lente "Les Baisers" Stewart.
- 9 Idylle "Hiawatha" Moret.
- 10 Fantasia "On the Swanee River" Myddleton.
- 11 Selection "My Lady Molly" Jones.
- 12 Two Step "Lumbrin' Luke" Mills.

Director, MR. H. DELMA.

decoration of the tables with tropical fruits specially collected and packed by the Dominica Agricultural Society. Thanks to the care taken in their selection and packing, and thanks also to the admirable arrangements made by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, they arrived in first rate condition and were, we need hardly add, very greatly appreciated. The thoughtfulness of the Committee in giving instructions that all that was left over should be sent to the London Hospital will, doubtless, meet with the full approval of the generous Colony of Dominica. During the evening a programme of music was rendered by an orchestral band under the direction of Mr. H. Delma.

Proceedings were marked throughout with the greatest enthusiasm and it was gratifying to the Dinner Committee to receive so many congratulations upon the arrangements so perfectly carried out by the Gordon Hotels Company. Moreover, on all sides they heard of the renewal of old friendships and the cementing of new, a sure sign of success at a Banquet of this kind!

November 25th has come and gone, but we venture to think that it will remain fresh in the memories of all who were present, and it is to keep green the memory of this auspicious date among a still wider circle of well-wishers that we launch the present special edition of the Circular.

The Distinguished Company at the Banquet, November 25th

The Right Hon. Sir James Fergusson, Bart., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., M.P., who occupied the Chair, was supported on the right by the guest of the evening, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., and on the left by his Grace the Duke of Marlborough, K.G., His Majesty's Under Secretary of State for the Colonies. There were also present the Right Hon. Lord Stanmore, G.C.M.G., Field Marshal Sir Henry Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Sir Henry Bergne, K.C.B., Major-Gen. the Hon. Sir Reginald Talbot, K.C.B., Sir Montagu Ommanney, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., the Hon. Matthew White Ridley, M.P., Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Bart., M.P., Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Sir James Hay, K.C.M.G., Sir Ralph Moore, K.C.M.G., Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., Sir Henry K. Davson, W. F. Lawrence, Esq., M.P., Col. Sir J. Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., Col. J. Alexander Stewart, C.B., C.M.G., H. Bertram Cox, Esq., C.B., C. P. Lucas, Esq., C.B., T. J. Pittar, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., George Martineau, Esq., C.B., M. Yves Guyot, Arthur A. Pearson, Esq., C.M.G., C. Alexander Harris, Esq., C.M.G., J. S. O'Halloran, Esq., C.M.G., Admiral Stewart, Professor Hubert von Herkomer, R.A., Colonel Nourse, Lt.-Col. F. C. Trollope, Major Aspinall, D.S.O., Captain Voules, Dr. Lubbock, Owen Philipps, Esq. (Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.), H. H. Dobree, Esq. (Chairman of the Colonial Bank), Hon. W. Sloane Robertson, Charles Stonham, Esq., C.M.G., Mr. Edward Anderson, Mr. F. Appleby, Mr. W. N. Armour, Mr. Wm. E. Atkinson, Mr. Beilby Alston, Mr. Arthur Astle, Mr. H. William Bailey, Mr. G. Leslie Bannerman, Mr. H. T. Bailey, Mr. G. Beetham, Mr. Claude T. Berthon, Mr. H. W. Birks, Mr. James R. Boose, Mr. H. Clarence Bourne, Mr. Benjamin Brown, Mr. R. T. Brown, Mr. B. H. Burton, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. George Carrington, Dr. Rowe-Carter, Mr. John Chapple, Mr. J.W. Clark, Mr. Leslie Couper, Mr. Alfred Chapman, Mr. C. Kinloch Cooke, Mr. F. H. Congdon, Mr. John Cowan, Mr. C. J. Crosfield, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. Ganzoni, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. Louis Dreyfus, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. T. du Buisson, Mr. E. B. Ellis, Mr. Aug. F. Elmslie, Mr. J. B. Elmslie, Mr. A. G. Evans, Mr. Stephen Ewen, Mr. R. L. Forbes, Mr. W. Athel M. Goode, Mr. George Grant, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, Mr. B. R. Glover, Mr. F. B. Girdlestone, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. D. Q. Henriques, Mr. J. H. Harrison, Mr. Robert Harvey, Mr. R. A. Hankey, Mr. Lionel Harvey, Mr. George Hughes, Mr. Clement B. Harris, Mr. C. A. Hampton, Mr. G. C. Hampton, Mr. J. L. Hampton, Mr. Jules Hedeman, Mr. Herbert Jackson, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. Lawrence Jones, Mr. Llewellyn Jones, Mr. Wm. Alfred Jones, Mr. Robert Kerr, Mr. Edward Kynaston, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, Mr. R. P. Lyle, Mr. Henry Langridge, Mr. Reginald Lubbock, Mr. F. R. Leistikow, Mr.

John Laidlaw, Mr. Henry J. Lubbock, Mr. Hugh Lubbock, Mr. Alexander N. Lubbock, R.N., Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Mr. Elliot G. Louis, Mr. Chas. H. Lamb, Mr. A. M. Lee, Mr. L. A. Martin, Mr. J. S. Mackintosh, Mr. D. Mackintosh, Mr. John McNeil, Junr., Mr. F. H. D. Man, Mr. E. J. Marshall, Mr. G. Maconochie, Mr. T. C. Macnaghten, Mr. Andrew McOnie, Mr. Allan E. Messer, Mr. H. A. Nicholls, Mr. Henry S. Nicholl, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, Mr. George W. Neville, Mr. A. A. Paton, Mr. G. H. Pile, Mr. Edward Packard, Mr. Frank Preston, Mr. John Price, Mr. H. Previt , Mr. Charles S. Parker, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. S. Sandbach Parker, Mr. Augustus J. Pitman, Mr. Thomas Prentice, Mr. Herbert C. Porter, Mr. Percy Quilter, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. J. H. Stark, Mr. W. E. Stokes, Mr. Fred Scrutton, Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton, Mr. Alexander Smith, Mr. J. Walter Smith, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. Harold E. Snagge, Mr. Howard K. Franklin Smith, Mr. W. P. B. Shepheard, Mr. J. Bell-Smythe, Mr. G. R. Sandbach, Mr. Edwin Tate, Mr. Arthur Thompson, Mr. C. F. Torrey, Mr. Gordon Wm. Turner, Mr. W. A. Tennant, Mr. Arthur F. Turnbull, Mr. Chas. C. Tudway, Mr. W. H. Trollope, Mr. R. V. Vernon, Mr. C. E. Vesey, Mr. Hermann Voss, Mr. George Verity, Mr. William Ward, Mr. Henry J. Wenham, Mr. Alfred Williams, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. T. W. Wilkinson, Mr. H. M. Woodhouse, Mr. R. B. Woodhouse, Mr. T. B. Younger and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary of the West India Committee.

Report of the Speeches.

The menu having been disposed of in a remarkably short time—55 minutes to be exact—SIR JAMES FERGOUSON rose and said: The Secretary has handed me a number of letters and telegrams from those unable to be present, including Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, who expresses a hope that the Banquet may be a great success, Mr. Chamberlain, Lord Avebury, Lord Harris, Lord Hawke, Lord Knutsford, Lord Stamford, Sir Edward Grey, Sir Robert Herbert, Sir Hubert Jerningham, Sir Constantine Phipps, Sir Henry Primrose, Sir Walter Sendall, who is prevented at the last moment from attending, Sir A. C. Thornhill, Commander Coombs, R.N., Mr. Edward G. Barr and Mr. T. C. Garth, two of the oldest Members of the West India Committee, Mr. J. Ernest Tinne, Colonel B. Martindale, and the following Members of Parliament, the majority of whom are visiting Paris, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Lee, Mr. Charles McArthur, Mr. David MacIver, Mr. Platt-Higgins, Mr. James Reid, Mr. Louis Sinclair, Mr. Shaw Stewart, Sir Walter Thorburn, Sir William Tomlinson, Sir Howard Vincent, Col. Denny, and others.

From the Colonies a large number of expressions of sympathy with the objects of this Banquet have been received. His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, Administrator, writes to Sir Nevile Lubbock:—“The Dominica Agricultural Society sends you its cordial congratulations, and desires me to assure you of its deep sense of your strenuous efforts on behalf of West Indian industries. Many of your friends in this Island join in regretting that we cannot personally express to you, on the 25th November, our grateful thanks for all you have done, but we hope that the specimens of tropical fruit we are sending for the decoration of the tables will pleasantly remind you of an Island wherein your efforts on behalf of the Caribbean Colonies are sincerely appreciated.” From Barbados comes the following resolution adopted at a meeting on November 1st, and signed by the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne:—“The Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce of Barbados, through the Barbados branch of the West India Committee desire to thank Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., for his strenuous and unremitting efforts for over twenty-five years to procure the abolition of the Foreign Sugar Bounties, and to congratulate him on the result at last achieved. They trust he may live many years in good health and prosperity to enjoy the fruits of his labours.” And from Antigua the telegram, “Antigua congratulates

and thanks Sir Nevile Lubbock for his help in securing the abolition of bounties and the success of the Central Factory scheme."

THE CHAIRMAN then proposed "The King" which was duly honoured, the whole company rising and singing a verse of the National Anthem.

THE CHAIRMAN: "My Lords and Gentlemen, I now beg to propose to you the toast of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Alexandra, who always manifests the most tender sympathy with all the sufferings of her subjects, and who has endeared herself during the whole of her happy union to the whole of her people. I give you the health of the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." The toast was drunk with great cordiality.

THE CHAIRMAN: "My Lords and Gentlemen, the next toast which I propose for your acceptance is that of the Imperial Forces. The Navy and the Army have always been most popular institutions. The country knows how much it owes to them. It never grudges any sacrifices that are necessary to maintain them in efficiency, and it is most appreciative of the sufferings which the members of those forces have been always ready to undergo to do their duty. No doubt such a struggle as that in which we have been lately engaged has severely tried the efficiency of our institutions. It has shown us where they were weak, and the country is prepared to do what is necessary to strengthen their weak points (Cheers). But of this we may always be sure, that those who are entrusted with the command of His Majesty's forces will never spare themselves and will never call in vain upon the support of those whom they lead (loud cheers). We are honoured to-night by the presence of many gallant and distinguished officers, but there is one whom I shall ask to return thanks to this toast who is second to none in the affection entertained for him in the service to which he belongs, and by his countrymen (Cheers). His services have been many and varied, and wherever he has been he has gained the utmost regard of those over whom he ruled. I think I am not wrong in saying that Sir Henry Norman (cheers), when only a regimental lieutenant, was adjutant of the army in India at a most critical period, and that those responsible in this country pressed once upon his acceptance the greatest appointment in the gift of the Crown (Cheers). I am glad that he is here to-night and in such good health and strength after all his varied services. I give you the Imperial Forces coupled with the name of Field Marshal Sir Henry Norman." The toast was most enthusiastically received.

Sir H. Norman responds for the "Imperial Forces."

FIELD MARSHAL SIR HENRY NORMAN in responding said: "Sir James Fergusson, my Lord Duke, my Lords, and Gentlemen, I esteem it, of course, a very high honour indeed to have to respond to the toast of the Imperial Forces as now given in this great assembly. I feel that I am returning this on behalf of the Army and the Navy and various other forces, and that I am returning this for more than a million of men who deserve your good wishes. I speak with great diffidence with respect to the Navy, as I believe there is a gallant Admiral here present, but I have had a good deal of connection with the Navy in various parts of the world, and have served with them on land, and it is my belief that the Navy, both as regards personnel and material, was never more efficient than it is at the present time (Cheers). The officers and men are alike brave and skilful. It has so happened, however, that there has been no large fleet action since the battle of Navarino, which was 76 years ago, even if we can call that a very large fleet action, but the Navy has rendered constant service in all parts of the globe. I think that, on the whole, the Navy has rendered more service on land than on sea, because there has been no campaign or service during the last fifty years in which there has not been a large naval contingent. I have seen them operating with 68-pounders one thousand miles from the sea in India, and not only did they serve in the Mutiny, but we know they did excellent service in the Crimea: they have done good service over and over again in South Africa including the

late war, and they have done most excellent service in China including that most adventuresome march of Sir Edward Seymour, in the endeavour to relieve Peking (Cheers). But, as I have said, we have not seen any very large fleet action, and we can hardly know what would be the result of a great naval action in the future. I am bound to say, judging by the large proportion of vessels that get more or less disabled during peace manoeuvres, I think we may anticipate that if there is a great fleet action the victors will be in a very bad condition at the end of it, and not able to do very much for some time afterwards. We really do not know what will happen, but we quite well know that this will happen, that the officers and men of the King's Navy will do credit to themselves, and will not be the first to strike their flags (loud cheers).

With regard to the Army, in which I include all those various Auxiliary forces, the Militia, Volunteers, Yeomanry, and Colonial troops, and in which I certainly include the army which I was brought up by, the army of India.

They are not allowed to Rust for Want of Work.

We have heard a deal about peace manoeuvres of some armies. They do not seem to have had any fighting. That cannot be a complaint against the British or Indian armies. They are never without a war. We have only recently got over the Chitral war and the Tirah expedition and the great three years' war in South Africa, and already we have troops operating in Somaliland—rather a considerable force—which is perhaps the hottest part of the world, and the part which is least well supplied with water. On the other hand we have a force which has not commenced operations, but which is in the count, advancing in Thibet, and where the troops are living in a country the average height of which is 11,000 feet above the sea, and where fuel, which is so very much wanted, is hardly to be found. With regard to campaigns I do not think I need say anything. With regard to South Africa, probably I should be excused. I have been sitting nine months on a Commission to inquire into the South African war; I am pretty well filled with it. (Laughter). But if any of you continue to take an interest in that great war, I can recommend you those four volumes of many printed pages, which I suppose no one here has read. You may have read extracts, choice bits here and there, where generals have said things about each other, but I do not suppose any mortal man has read all these pages. Our troops certainly endured great hardships there. They fought with the greatest possible bravery and perseverance, and I am bound to say that the department concerned kept them supplied with provisions and ammunition. If any failure of provisions existed for a day or two it was owing to convoys being cut off, and to the extreme difficulty of bringing up anything to the front. There are many improvements in the air, some of which have been carried out already. I trust that all are improvements, but I do trust also as an old soldier that we shall not too hurriedly adopt everything that we found suited us or thought suited us in South Africa. We must recollect that

We must be Prepared to Fight

with disciplined armies, and the fighting in that case would be quite different from anything seen in South Africa, and we must not hastily introduce what we think are improvements which may possibly prove the reverse. I do not know that I need say anything more about the Army, but I could not sit down here in what is a body of West Indian persons interested in the West Indies, without just calling to your recollection that the Army and the Navy saw great and useful service in the West Indies, in point of fact, when we were a very small power indeed, about the end of the first half of the seventeenth century, we commenced operations in the West Indies, and from that time till about the early part of the last century we were almost constantly engaged in warfare of one kind or another on the sea and on the land. Of course, Rodney's victory we hope we still recollect, but there may be many

striking instances of heroism and perseverance both on the part of the Navy and the Army. Not only did they suffer much in action, but they suffered much from those pestilences, if I may call them so, which in those days prevailed to a great extent in the West Indies. I trust that Englishmen will always recollect that what at one time, at all events, were considered their most splendid possessions, the West Indies, were gained by the Navy and the Army. (Cheers).

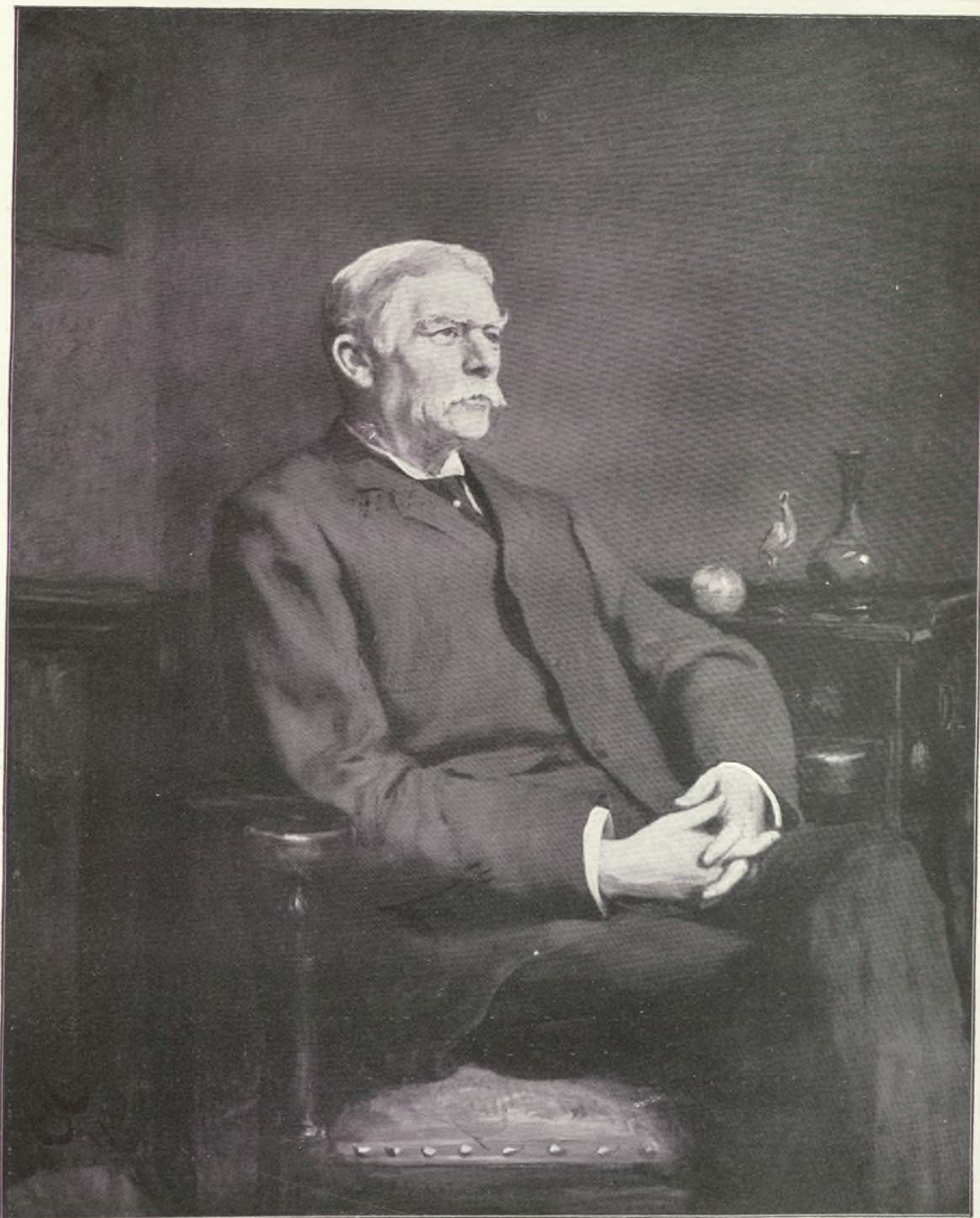
I am very glad of the opportunity of being here to-night to see honour done to Sir Nevile Lubbock. I am, perhaps, entitled to speak with some little authority as to his services, having been five years in Jamaica during the time of the disturbances in Trinidad which I was sent to see about, I was enabled to see every island in that part of the world; and subsequently as Chairman of the West Indian Commission I saw not only all the islands but that very large colony, British Guiana, and I think I may say that the services of Sir Nevile Lubbock and his interest in the West Indies deserve, as they are now receiving, your entire and your hearty acknowledgements. I desire to thank you for the way in which the toast has been received, and I thank Sir James Fergusson for the kindly terms in which he has spoken of myself. (Loud cheers).

"The Guests of the Evening."

THE CHAIRMAN: "My Lords and Gentlemen, I have endeavoured to be brief where brevity was possible, from a desire that I might not interfere with those to whom you will listen with pleasure I am sure, later on; but in the task now before me I must speak at some greater length, because it is the toast of the evening. (Cheers). We are here to-night at something like a celebration (Hear, hear), a celebration in which my friend on my right holds a predominant place, a victor after a long battle triumphing in the interests of his fellow countrymen. (Cheers). I have seen some phases in colonial administration. I am old enough to remember when the differential duties were abolished which gave an advantage to the West Indian Colonies, and I remember how it was foretold that the decline of the West Indies would succeed. There was in those days a school of politicians who were somewhat hard hearted. They did not mind what became of the British Colonies provided they could get things cheap in this country. We were rather like an old woman of whom I remember my grandfather used to tell a story, who when she was told there was a very bad season in the West Indies, and sugar would be scarce, replied, "Well, I am very sorry for Jamaica, but I get all my sugar from Dundee." (Laughter). And so there are some who would not care if the oldest colonies of the British Crown were to go under altogether, provided they could get the commodity that suited their trade best, below price. I remember again, when I went to Australia as Governor 35 years ago, that the Australian Colonies were smarting very much under some despatches that had come from England in the sense that if colonists did not like their position they were free to depart. It may be surprising to some who have seen the development of a very different principle, yet I was in Australia at that time, and I well remember it, because some papers fell into my hands the other day that reminded me of it. The ambition of the Colonies was to form a commercial union, but it was opposed by the Ministers of the Crown. Well, times have changed. (Cheers).

The Colonial Connection is Valued

and the attachment of the Colonies to the Mother Country is reciprocal. (Hear, hear). Well, the indifference, to say the least of it, that was shown to the West Indies, resulted, as was natural, in their decline. Though they had been extremely prosperous, and though at a time when this country was in a financial difficulty, a magnificent contribution was made by the West Indian Colonies to the public service (hear, hear), the time came when the West Indian industry languished, and when something much worse than the abolition of differential duties caused their industry to decline. When those duties were abolished the Bounty and the Cartel system had not been invented,



WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.]

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SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.,
 Chairman of the West India Committee,
 FROM THE PAINTING BY
 PROFESSOR HUBERT VON HERKOMER, R.A.,
 PRESENTED TO HIM IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EMINENT SERVICES
 ON BEHALF OF THE WEST INDIAN COLONIES
 NOVEMBER 25TH. 1903.

but by degrees that system reduced the price that could be realised for cane sugar to such an extent that it could not be produced at a profit. Well, some of those who were interested in the West Indies resolved that if possible the consciences and the sensibilities of their countrymen should be awakened, and that measures should be taken to redress this standing grievance, for what grievance could be greater than that by artificial means the produce of foreign countries should have been laid down—dumped down, as the slang of the day goes—on our shores, and that our oldest Colonies should languish and die. (Hear, hear). Well, prominent among those who set to work to procure the reversal of this system was our friend and guest of this evening. (Cheers). It is nearly forty years since Sir Nevile Lubbock first attended the West India Committee. He became Vice-Chairman in 1873, and, I think, Chairman in 1884, and during all these years his efforts have been assiduous and persevering to awaken the sense of the country to the injustice which was being done to our industry by this Bounty system, and to procure measures for its redress. Well, I am glad to say that at last his efforts have been successful. (Cheers). He has procured the formation of the largest deputation of Members of Parliament to wait upon a Minister; and the responsible Ministers at last, altering the policy that had for some years been blindly pursued, combining with the other nations of Europe, produced the result of a Conference which I hope is to put an end for ever to this iniquitous system (hear, hear), iniquitous, I mean, for us to acquiesce in; natural enough for those whose object it is to push their own industry.

But Sir Nevile Lubbock's efforts and services have not been confined to his public action. He has been prominent in pushing the most important industry in the West Indies. He instituted in Trinidad the system of central factories and also of cane farming which attained such great development (hear, hear). Now I have been told, to show the rapid development of this industry, that in the year 1879, one thousand, three hundred tons of farmer's canes were turned into

Sugar at the Usine St. Madeleine

and that this year 160,500 tons of farmers' canes have been worked in the colony. (Cheers). And this is no rich man's business, but it is a popular business, for there are 4443 East Indian and 4440 West Indian cane farmers. I had an opportunity two years ago of visiting the Usine St. Madeleine, and it really was a magnificent sight, for there were 7000 acres of cane, I was told, in sugar, and there were sixty miles and upwards of steam tramways running through the estate and bringing the sugar to the factory; a beautiful and it seemed to me a speedy means of gathering it up and treating it. I said to the manager, "They tell me that the machinery in this country is inadequate, but it seems to me that this is very modern and well developed." "It is absolutely obsolete," he said. (Laughter). But then the Americans are famous for throwing their machinery into the scrap heap and having new about every five years. However, it was sad to think that the sugar produced at such an expenditure of capital, and it seemed to me so skilfully, should be produced at a loss, as indeed it was the fact, and we know had it not been for the change of the law it would have been no longer possible to continue the industry. Now, I say it is greatly owing to my friend on my right that this great change in public opinion has been brought about (cheers); that Great Britain took a leading position at the Conference which has brought an end to the Sugar Bounties (hear, hear); and that legislation has been passed which shall avail to apply the proper punishment if again our industries should be attacked here by the importation of sugar by such combinations as we have had to complain of. Now, I am glad that the West India Committee have not only been honoured in the person of their Chairman by the favour of the Crown, but that the Deputy-Chairman of the Committee has been included in the list of honours conferred on His Majesty's Birthday. I am sure the Committee are proud that Sir Henry Davson should have been so honoured on that occasion (cheers). Although only, I may say, *ex-officio*, a member of this Committee, I may say that I have an

Hereditary Interest in the West Indies.

for mine is the fourth generation in which my family has held property in Jamaica, which I deeply regret to say I parted with and put the money into New Zealand (laughter), but I feel one of yourselves. I congratulate you on the occasion on which we are met, and I am proud indeed to have been in the chair when one who has done so much for the West Indies is being honoured in the presence of my friend (cheers), but as we say in the House of Commons, I shall conclude with a motion, that is to say, a toast, but in the first place I shall ask Sir Henry Davson to make a presentation.

SIR HENRY DAVSON: Sir James Fergusson, my Lords and Gentlemen, I make use of no mere figure of speech when I assure you that I feel it a very high privilege that it should have fallen to my lot to respond to the call of the Chairman. Firstly, however, I must thank him for the unexpected compliment he has been good enough to pay me personally. I assure you that I highly prize the very great honour that has been conferred upon me by our Gracious King, and I esteem it a very great compliment that Sir James Fergusson should have alluded to it in the way he has done, and that his remarks should have been so cordially responded to by all present here to-night (cheers).

Sir, I have been called upon to present the testimonial to Sir Nevile Lubbock, but before doing so I shall ask the Chairman's permission to preface the presentation by a few preliminary remarks. Of all the great achievements of this great country there is none that appeals to us so much as the acquisition and retention of those ancient dependencies of the Crown, known as the British West Indies (cheers), stamping on the flag that flies over them,

A Flag that we all are so Proud to Live Under,

the very emphatic word "Possession." Sir, we have met here this evening to record our high appreciation of one who has spent a great span of the most important stage of his life in endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of those same Colonies (hear, hear), bent on stamping on the same flag another word also beginning with a "P," "Prosperity."

It is impossible for me, Sir, in a short speech to recapitulate all that Sir Nevile Lubbock has done for the West Indies and British Guiana. What he has done publicly has already been referred to by the Chairman in more eloquent language than I can employ. What he has done privately, and it has been by far the most arduous part of his work, is only known to those who have had the opportunity of working with him behind the curtain. (Cheers). I shall therefore confine myself, at the risk of repetition, for the Chairman has already referred to it, to the crowning success of his labours, when he led our campaign against the Sugar Bounties. (Hear, hear). For a quarter of a century had the West Indies to contend against the heavy handicap which had been placed upon them by the Bounties of Foreign States, legitimately established in the first instance to protect and foster a new industry of their own; unfairly maintained in the later days with the avowed object of annihilating the sugar producing Colonies of this country by ousting them from that great dumping ground of the world, known on the map as Great Britain, known to us as something more; known to us as our own Motherland. (Cheers). So great was the struggle that we had to maintain, that at last it seemed to some of us that the hope which had inspired us throughout was no longer deferred, but dead. During the whole of that intense anxiety, an anxiety bordering on despair, it was Sir Nevile Lubbock's voice that cheered us, it was Sir Nevile Lubbock's skill and experience and indomitable pluck that led us on until the Conference at Brussels. (Cheers). The details of what transpired at that Conference are unknown to us, but this we do know, we know that Sir Nevile Lubbock was there as the expert adviser of the British delegates on behalf of the West Indies, accompanied by his able and trusted colleague, who represented another interest, Mr. George Martineau. (Cheers). We know also that the result of the Conference was the signing of a convention, and that convention gave us all that we ever fought for, all that we ever asked for, free trade in sugar. (Cheers).

Sir Nevile Lubbock, it now devolves on me to present you the offering of those who have combined to do you honour. The combination consists, not only of West India proprietors, but of bankers, merchants, ship owners, brokers, engineers, cane farmers, and of all others who are interested in the welfare of the West Indies. (Cheers.) Allow me in the first place, Sir, to present you with a life-like



Lady Lubbock.

portrait of yourself, executed by the greatest portrait painter of the day, Professor von Herkomer. (Cheers). Beneath the portrait is a tablet recording the occasion and the eminent services you have contributed to the West Indies. Allow me in the next place to present you with the silver centre-pieces and candelabra that accompany it, the handiwork of a master of his craft. Long, Sir Nevile, may you live to enjoy the possession of these well earned trophies, until in the ordinary course of life they are handed down, along with your own good name, to your posterity. (Cheers).

Sir, my pleasant task is not yet over. We are told on the highest possible authority that it is not good for man to be alone. (Hear, hear). We have discovered the reason, and Lady Lubbock is an illustration of our discovery. We know perfectly well, Sir that you could not have carried through the arduous work you have so successfully done in the same spirit and with the same energy, unless Lady Lubbock, to put it in a homely way, had taken such good care of you as she has done. (Cheers). We also know the keen interest that Lady Lubbock has taken in all your duties as the popular Chairman of the West India

Committee, and it is on account of this knowledge that I have been deputed to ask you to receive the bright jewel that I hold in my hand for presentation to Lady Lubbock, as a token of our respectful esteem. (Loud cheers).

The Toast was drunk with the utmost cordiality and enthusiasm, the gentlemen present rising to their feet, singing with much energy "For he's a jolly good fellow."

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, who on rising to respond was greeted with loud and prolonged cheers, said: Sir James Fergusson, Sir Henry Davson, my Lord Duke, my Lord, and gentlemen, I have in the first place to thank you, Sir James, for the very kind manner in which you have proposed the toast of my health, and to thank you all, gentlemen, for the very cordial manner in which you have received the toast. Sir Henry Davson, I have to thank you most warmly for the exceedingly kind manner in which you have, on behalf of my West Indian friends, made me the presentation of this magnificent testimonial which they have been good enough to give me to-night. If anything could add to the value of the testimonial in my eyes it would be the very kind things you have said of me, particularly coming, as they have done, from an old friend and a colleague such as yourself. Then, gentlemen, to you all, and to my West Indian friends, I really do not know how to express my great appreciation of your kindness and the great honour you have done me in presenting me

with this handsome testimonial to-night. I can assure you that it will always be most highly valued by myself and my family. With regard to the picture, you can understand that it will be highly appreciated, perhaps not so much because it is an excellent portrait of myself, perhaps not so much because it is a great work of art, but I think the more because it is

An Evidence of all the Kindness

I have so long experienced at your hands (Cheers). Gentlemen, not only do I thank you for your kindness in presenting me with the picture, but I can assure you that it has been very great pleasure for me to sit for that picture to so eminent an artist as Professor von Herkomer (Cheers). You can all understand that a portrait, such as that is, was not painted in an hour, and I had to spend many hours with Professor von Herkomer, and I can say that very pleasant hours they were. The Professor was good enough to be very complimentary to me. He told me that I should make an excellent portrait because I had got such a red face (Laughter). I highly appreciated the compliment, the explanation I thought was quite unnecessary (Renewed laughter). But I think the Professor began to have qualms before he finished his portrait, as to whether I should be satisfied that it was sufficiently good looking, and he told me a story that you will see the point of presently. He told me that on one occasion Sir John Millais was painting the portrait of an old lady, and when the portrait was completed he, with his usual courtesy, led the old lady up to see the portrait. When she did so she turned round upon him and said, "Oh, surely I am not so ugly as that!" "Oh, but indeed you are, ma'am," said Sir John. (Great laughter). Well, gentlemen, I do not mean for a moment to say but that with a few of those artistic touches of which Professor von Herkomer is such a master, he might not have made a better looking picture of me, but I need hardly say I dare not say a word in regard to that.

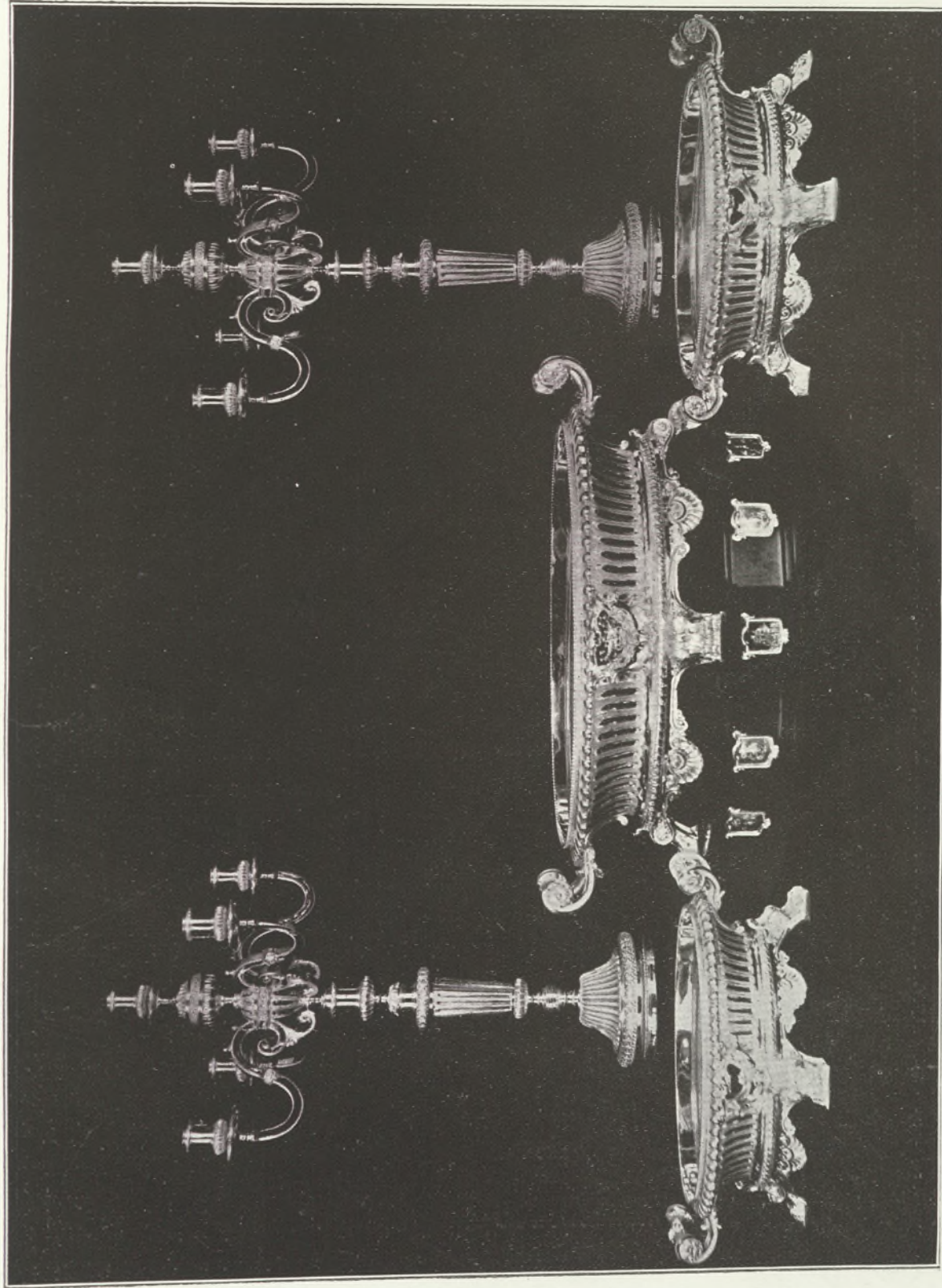
Now, gentlemen, not content with presenting me with this portrait, you have been good enough to present me with this very handsome service of plate. I need hardly say I shall never see that plate upon my dinner table without being reminded of all your kindness, and of the long and anxious hours which we have all gone through together. Then lastly, gentlemen, I am indeed touched by your kindness in thinking of my wife. On her behalf, as well as my own, I beg to thank you for the present you have made to her. I was given an inkling, which I suppose I ought not to have been given, that there was to be a present made to her, and I asked her what she would like me to say, and she said,

"Please tell them it is awfully nice of them."

I can only say that I wish to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I think if I were to speak all night I could not say more than that. But I hope that you will all understand from me that I do thank you most cordially and most sincerely, and that I shall value your present in the highest degree possible, as an evidence not only of your present kindness, but of all the long kindnesses that I have experienced for so many years past at your hands.

Gentlemen, this is an occasion on which we are met to celebrate the abolition of the Bounties (cheers), and I think, therefore, that it is only fitting that we should remember some of those who have helped us in fighting the great fight in which we have been engaged for so many years. The first name of course that will occur to you all is that of Mr. Chamberlain. (Loud cheers). Gentlemen, you all know how much we owe to Mr. Chamberlain in this particular matter, but we West Indians also are aware that we owe a great deal to Mr. Chamberlain in regard to his policy towards the West Indies beyond the mere fact of the Sugar Bounties. I think that after Mr. Chamberlain came to be Secretary of State for the Colonies, we very soon realised that in spite of the large amount of his time and attention that was necessarily taken up by more important Colonies, and particularly by the South African Colonies, because even then it was evident that trouble was brewing, we very soon realised that Mr. Chamberlain had no intention of losing sight of the West Indies. (Hear, hear). I think

Supplement to "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR," No. 111, Nov. 30th, 1903.



SILVER CENTREPIECES AND CANDELABRA,

PRESENTED TO

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G., CHAIRMAN OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EMINENT SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE WEST INDIA COLONIES.

NOVEMBER 25TH 1903

We very soon satisfied Mr. Chamberlain that all was not well with us.

He thereupon set to work to see what he could do, and the first thing he did was to appoint a Royal Commission to go out and visit the West Indies and report to him specially upon the sugar question, and upon any other questions which might have a bearing upon the welfare of the West Indies. As you all know, the Chairman of that Commission was our friend Sir Henry Norman (Cheers). Gentlemen, you know what the result of that Commission was. I believe that the result of it was that our Government decided that they would call together a Conference on the Sugar Bounty question. But it appeared that Belgium had already been making overtures for a Convention, and therefore our Government left the matter in the hands of Belgium, and Belgium convened the first Brussels Conference. I say the first, although there was only one theoretically, but actually there were two. Well, I think you all know that at the Conference nothing was done; everything fell through because our Government was a little wanting in backbone. (Hear, hear). Then, after that Conference, Bounties became worse than ever. Cartels came into force, and within about two years the West Indies, I may say, vulgarly speaking, were knocked into a cocked hat. But not only the West Indies, but every other sugar producing country, with two exceptions, were in the same position. The only two countries which were not affected were Austria and Germany. They could compete at £3 a ton below cost of production and still have a fair profit. Other countries which had not got Bounties or not such large Bounties, were not in a position to do that. Therefore Java, the West Indies, and Cuba, and all the large sugar producing countries were on their beam ends. Then the Government hardened their hearts. The second Brussels Conference met. Our Government put their foot down, and said unless something was done they would take the matter into their own hands. The thing was done. That was about the twentieth Conference, I think. Mr. Martineau will know that we had some twenty Conferences but that all failed because our Government would not say the word. At that Conference they said the word and the thing was done, and from the 1st September last, the Bounties have been abolished. (Cheers). Now, gentlemen, what I want to impress upon you is that we have got to thank Mr. Chamberlain for that. (Renewed cheers.)

I have alluded to the Royal Commission which

Mr. Chamberlain sent out to the West Indies,

and I have mentioned as you all know that our friend Sir Henry Norman was the Chairman of that Commission. Now, gentlemen, we all know what Royal Commissions usually mean. They usually mean that when the Government has got rather an awkward matter that they want to shelve they hand it over to a Royal Commission and most Royal Commissioners think they have done their duty by their country when they have compiled a report in which they make the evidence put before them chime in with the theories of the parties to which they belong. But that was not the case of the West Indian Commission. Sir Henry Norman went out to the West Indies and he took the greatest pains to ascertain what were the facts of the case and he had the honesty and courage to report truthfully when he came back upon those facts. I think we are much indebted to Sir Henry Norman for what he did on that Commission (Cheers).

Then we have three gentlemen here to-night who were our delegates at the Brussels Conference. Sir Henry Bergne, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Pittar. I very deeply regret that we have not a fourth, Mr. Ozanne: I received a very kind letter from him expressing his great regret that he could not attend here to-night, as he was detained in Guernsey on business and could not possibly get away. But our thanks are due to Sir Henry Bergne, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Pittar for the good work that they did for us at Brussels (Cheers). I was there during the whole of the time; I was present at all the Conferences, therefore I can speak with some knowledge when I say I think we are all very much indebted to those

three gentlemen. I am very glad to add that Sir Henry Bergne and Mr. Pearson are still our delegates on the permanent Commission at Brussels whose duty it is to see that the Convention is carried out. I need only say that I am perfectly satisfied that our interests are quite safe in their hands (Cheers).

Then, gentlemen, there are a good many Members of Parliament whom we have to thank for their kindness in assisting us in many ways. I may allude to our Chairman to-night, Sir James Fergusson, who has always been ready to assist us (Cheers). I should like to mention Mr. Lawrence who, as you know, has acted as Chairman of several Members of Parliament who were good enough to form themselves into a Committee to watch our question. I refer to Colonel Denny, Mr. James Reid, Mr. A. Wylie, Mr. C. McArthur, and Mr. D. V. McIver. They appointed Mr. Lawrence as their Chairman and I think we are very much indebted to them. I should also like to mention the name of Sir Cuthbert Quilter. And there is one other name I wish to mention. Those of you who understand what was passing in Parliament will understand who I mean—I mean Colonel Milward. Colonel Milward took a great deal of trouble for us, and I am sure we must deeply regret that he did not live to see the result of his work.

Then, gentlemen, we must not forget the House of Lords. It still exists (laughter), and we have here not only Lord Stanmore, to whom I have alluded, but also the Duke of Marlborough; in the first place we all wish to thank him for his presence to-night, but in the second place we all wish to thank him for the very able speech which he made in the House of Lords on our question (Cheers). There is one other gentleman that I should like to allude to. He is not an Englishman but he has done us very great service on this question; I allude to M. Yves Guyot. M. Yves Guyot did not approach this question from an English point of view; he approached it from a French point of view. It appear to him to be a monstrous thing that the French taxpayers should be contributing £4,000,000 sterling a year to the French Exchequer the great bulk of which went into the pockets of some 200 or 300 *fabricants* in the northern districts. M. Yves Guyot assisted the French Government I believe materially in awakening public feeling in France. As you all know he is a most able writer and by the publication of articles he did rouse such an amount of feeling in France as enabled the Government to deal with the question and

Put an end to their Bounties.

I was a little behind the scenes at that time, and therefore I know a great deal more than you can possibly do of the good work M. Yves Guyot did. Not content with his writings he exercised his influence over the French Government, he visited most of the European capitals to smooth down little difficulties which arose here and there, and he did so with great success. Not only are we exceedingly pleased to see him to-night, but for my own part I beg to thank him most cordially for the great trouble he has taken to come over from Paris to attend this dinner. (Cheers.)

Then, gentlemen, amongst our own body there are a few names I should like to mention. It is impossible to mention everybody, so many have done good work and good service, but first of all I should like to mention Sir Henry Davson, who as we all know helped us materially. Then there is Mr. Foster M. Alleyne, who 20 years ago was our Treasurer, and Mr. Shephard (Hear, hear). With regard to Mr. Shephard I should like to say this—I think that Mr. Shephard deserves the credit of having been the first to explain what the legal interpretation of a favoured-nation-clause was as bearing upon the question of Bounty. We all know that Mr. Shephard wrote an opinion on that question. I think it was some 20 years ago. That opinion was signed by Mr. Sheldon Amos and by himself. At that time the Law Officers of the Crown did not share that opinion as being sound, but they have since done so, and what is more important still I think we may say that all the European Governments have accepted that opinion as sound, and I say that for this reason that

countervailing duties have been in existence in the United States for some years, and have been in existence in India for at any rate the last two years, and although the question has been raised it has never been very seriously pressed by any European Government, so I think Mr. Shephard deserves the credit of having been the first to put the proper legal interpretation upon the most-favoured-nation clause and I am sure he deserves every credit for it. (Cheers.)

There are some other gentlemen whose names I must mention; Mr. Czarnikow, who I very much regret cannot be here to-night owing to a very severe cold, Mr. Edwin Tate, and Mr. L. A. Martin, who with the other Refiners have worked with us so loyally, our staunch old friend Mr. Kynaston, and Mr. Beeton the energetic Secretary of the Anti-Bounty League.

And now, gentlemen, we come to a very old friend of ours. You all know when you go to the opera the "primo tenore" is put at the bottom in large type at the end of the list of performers. I have kept our "primo tenore" for the last. It is

Our Friend Mr. George Martineau.

You all know how much we owe to him. For some 30 years or more he has been incessantly writing pamphlets, letters to the papers, attending conferences, and more than that he is, I believe, the only man in this country who has kept himself really absolutely in touch with all the numerous and complicated phases which the Bounties in each country have been going through during that time. Gentlemen, I think we owe a great deal to Mr. Martineau, and for my own part I cannot help thinking sometimes that the little stone which Mr. Martineau and I set rolling 30 years ago has become the head stone of the corner. I constantly see the Sugar Bounty abolition being alluded to as now as a matter upon which there can hardly be any difference of opinion, but that is a very late idea that has come over different statesmen. I am very glad it has come to them at last but we have had a long fight to bring it home to their minds, and I think you owe it very much to Mr. Martineau that we have succeeded in doing so. (Cheers.)

Now, Gentlemen, I have dwelt a long time with our friends and by rights I ought to say something about our opponents. I wish to be very short, but I may say that I noticed the other day a small but mysterious communication in *The Times*. It was not very clear what was intended, but I read it to mean that there was some danger of bounty-fed jam coming into this country, and the attention of the public was called to the fact that Mr. Balfour had undertaken in the event of bounty-fed jam coming to this country that steps must at once be taken to put a stop to the importation. I do not wish to say anything about that. It was very amusing to me to find these gentlemen, who were so strongly in favour of Bounty fed sugar because it made it cheaper to the consumer, when it comes to bounty-fed jam are of a very different opinion. (Laughter.)

Well now, Gentlemen, I am sure you will all agree with me that this is not an occasion to give you a lecture upon the West Indies, but I feel perfectly certain of this, that if I did not say anything about other industries my friend Sir Alfred Jones would complain bitterly that I have talked about nothing but sugar. Now, you all know that there has been

A very large Fruit Industry in Jamaica.

That industry was a very prosperous one, and I am very glad to find that it seems to be spreading gradually to some of the other islands. I was informed that two mails ago the Royal Mail steamer brought home from Trinidad the largest cargo of bananas and oranges that she had ever done. Gentlemen, you have had upon the table to-night evidence of the fruit Dominica can produce. For my own part I should wish to give my most hearty thanks to Dominica for so kindly thinking of this Banquet to-night and sending us all this beautiful fruit. (Cheers.) With regard to the Jamaica fruit industry I think we must all feel the deepest regret that it should have had such a set back as it has

in consequence of the terrible hurricane which passed over Jamaica a short time ago, but so recuperative are the powers of the tropics, that I venture to think and to hope that in 12 months we shall see the fruit industry as prosperous as ever, and that the effects of the hurricane will be forgotten. (Hear, hear.) You also know they have a very large and lucrative cocoa industry in Grenada and Trinidad. It is a very prosperous industry and there is every likelihood of its continuing to be prosperous. I am glad to say that is spreading to some of the other islands, notably Dominica.

Then there is a new industry as to which attempts are being made; that is the cotton industry. I am glad to know that we have here to-night Mr. Paton, Chairman of the West India Section of the British Cotton Growing Association, and I think that gentleman will be glad to know that many of us are making experiments in the growth of cotton, and no doubt that if these experiments are successful the cultivation will be increased. I have been very sorry to see that in Barbados, Antigua and Montserrat there have been great devastations by caterpillars. There seems to be a reasonable prospect however, that that is a difficulty that will be got over. We are ourselves trying cotton on a small scale, and if it is successful we shall increase very considerably the following crop.

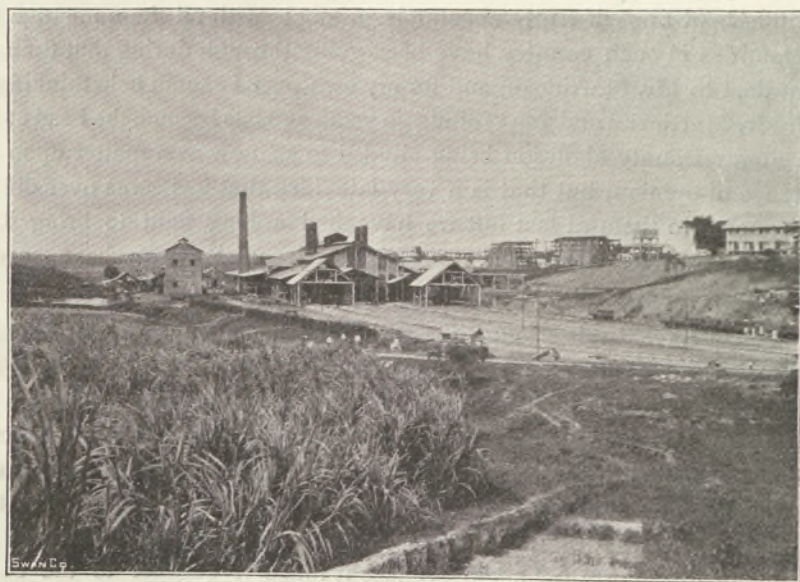


Photo by ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

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The Usine St. Madeleine, Trinidad.

Founded by Sir Nevile Lubbock in 1872.

Then, Gentlemen, I must say a few words about the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and Professor Harrison, of British Guiana. (Hear, hear.) They are doing wonderful work for us in examining an enormous amount of seedling cane—there must have been some tens of thousands of seedling canes that have passed through their hands—the Professor has been very successful in Demerara. We are exceedingly obliged to those gentlemen for the exceedingly persevering manner in which they are following up the possibility of some improvement in our sugar cane. I am afraid that we cannot as yet say that we have attained an all round cane that is better than the Bourbon, but we do know this that as regards the power of resisting disease and of fighting against unpropitious seasons, the seedling canes are stronger and more robust.

Supplement to "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR," No. 111, Nov. 30th, 1903.



THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE BANQUET

TO

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.,

WHITEHALL, ROOMS, NOVEMBER 25TH, 1903.

523

Now, I do not like to sit down without saying a few words about the Colonial Office. (Hear, hear.) Naturally you all know that we must have a great deal to do with the Colonial Office. There are a number of questions which arise and which necessitate our going to the Colonial Office. We all deeply regret the loss of Mr. Chamberlain at the Colonial Office. We had the greatest confidence in him, and I venture to hope and believe that Mr. Lyttleton will carry out the policy which Mr. Chamberlain has inaugurated. (Cheers.) With regard to Mr. Lyttleton, although he is new to Ministerial duties he has already shown what he can do on Committees and Royal Commissions, and I think I may say that we have the greatest confidence in him. But as you know, gentlemen, it is not with the Secretary of State that we have most to do. Most of our questions are questions of detail, and it is with Mr. Lucas, who represents the West Indian Department at the Colonial Office, that we have mostly to do. Now, gentlemen, in my experience, which is a pretty long one, I may say that I have always received the greatest courtesy from officials, and therefore it is no particular merit in Mr. Lucas if I say we always experience the greatest courtesy at his hands. I wish to say a little more than that. I constantly have to see Mr. Lucas and I may say that I never see him without being impressed with his anxiety to arrive at the truth. Whether I agree with him or not—and naturally from the number of questions I see him on I do not always agree with him—I always leave him thoroughly satisfied that his desire is to be just to all the interests concerned. Nothing can be higher praise to Mr. Lucas than that.

I have kept you a very long time, but before I sit down I wish to propose to you a Toast, and that is, the prosperity of the West Indies. (Cheers.) I may perhaps remind you that our prosperity largely depends upon ourselves. And I cannot help thinking that in times past we have suffered from there being a want of co-operation between the different Colonies and even between different gentlemen in the same Colony. Now, gentlemen, perhaps you will think I am prejudiced as the Chairman of the West India Committee, but

The West India Committee offers you a means of Co-operation.

You will find that Mr. Aspinall, our popular and indefatigable Secretary, will provide every possible facility for becoming members of the Committee, and I must say seriously that I believe it would be to the interests of the West Indies that that Committee should be largely strengthened. It has always been the wish of the Committee to work harmoniously with the Colonial Office. I venture to think and believe that we have succeeded in doing so for many years past, and I believe that we will continue to do so for many years to come. I give you the prosperity of the West Indies coupled with the name of the Duke of Marlborough (Cheers). The Toast was duly honoured.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: Mr. Chairman, My Lords, and Gentlemen, I feel at this late hour of the evening and after the eloquent speech we have listened to from Sir Nevile Lubbock, it would be improper on my part if I were to detain you except for a very short time in reply to the Toast of Prosperity to the West Indies. Gentlemen, your Chairman, at the beginning of the speeches this evening alluded to the fact that several Members of Parliament had been invited and had gone over to be the guests of the French Republic. I also had the honour to be invited in that party, but I was also invited to be present here this evening, and I think I may say without any disrespect either to the French Government or to our distinguished French friend who is here this evening that I felt that it would be a source of greater pleasure to me to be with you here and to participate in this most interesting evening and in the presentation which you have given Sir Nevile Lubbock. (Cheers). There is also another reason, gentlemen, why I am pleased to be here this evening. I have the honour to be the Under Secretary at the Colonial Office (hear, hear), and I know, I think it is for a century or a century and a half, that the Colonial Office have been in constant communication with the West India Committee. And I think I may say further that during the time that your President, Sir Nevile

Lubbock, has occupied the post that he holds, the relationship between the Colonial Office and the West India Committee has never been more cordial, more in harmony, and more in friendship altogether than it has been during those years. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, I think I may say, may I not, that during the nineteenth century all our Colonies have developed and prospered in a most remarkable degree. This prosperity has been the source of the greatest satisfaction and joy to every Englishman, but I do not know that in saying this I can altogether include the West Indies. Their prosperity at times has been great; at other times it has not been so, and indeed during the last ten or twenty years I think it is no exaggeration to say you can hardly call the condition and the state of the industries in the West Indies as entirely prosperous. Well, Gentlemen, what are the causes of this? I think they are two fold. On the one hand they are causes over which we have no control. (Hear, hear.). Now, we have no control over such untoward and unfortunate events as an eruption in St. Vincent; we cannot possibly control the hurricanes that have taken place in the years 1898 and 1899, and only recently this year in Jamaica. We have to regard them as

Unfortunate Occurrences which the West Indies are subjected to,
and alas! we ourselves can do very little to prevent them. But whenever these unfortunate occurrences do take place bringing a great deal of misery and loss of wealth to the inhabitants of the West Indies we find that immediately the very first people who come forward and are prepared to help them are the West India Committee (Cheers), and I think I am right in saying that in spite of the hurricane in Jamaica which has recently taken place, my friend Sir Alfred Jones has still maintained his line of ships without any interruption. (Hear, hear.) So much for those things over which we have no control. Gentlemen, what about those events over which we have some control? What sort of relationship do you think should exist between the Colonial Office and the West Indies in these matters? I think it should be something similar to a pair of scissors; each part of the scissors goes its own way; occasionally the parts go in opposite directions, but they always punish anything that comes between them. (Cheers.) And I think this is true of the relationship of the Colonial Office with the West Indies. We have tried—I will not say punished, that would not be perhaps the correct term—to remove the difficulties which have come between us and the West Indies. As an illustration, Sir Nevile Lubbock has pointed out that now we have succeeded at last in removing the Bounty system which has prevailed in Europe; the system of Bounty-fed sugar which has gone on I think for over 25 years, which every successive Government in England had done their best to get quit of, but had never been able to succeed, and it is only in the present time when, to use the words of Sir Nevile Lubbock, the Government stiffened their backs that we have been able to have a Conference to get these most undesirable Sugar Bounties done away with. Now, Gentlemen, I say that our opponents—the opponents to the Sugar Convention—are still making reflections upon it. They do not seem to be very happy. I see they are still putting forward this conundrum—it is practically a conundrum. They say that if the price of sugar goes up as a consequence of the Convention it is indeed very {hard upon the consumers in England that they should have to pay a dearer price for their sugar in order to benefit the West Indies. If the price of sugar does not go up,

How do you propose to Benefit the West Indies at all?

Well, Gentlemen, I admit this is a conundrum, but like many other conundrums I think it is possible to be solved. We say we do not believe that the price of sugar will go up as a result of the Sugar Convention above the average price of sugar during the last ten years. (Hear, hear.) In fact I think I am right in saying that the price of sugar at the present time is 1s. less per cwt. than the average price of sugar for the last five years. Gentlemen, I am glad to think to-night that on this occasion when so many West Indian gentlemen are here that we have been able to eat for the first time in our coffee some non-bounty fed sugar. (Hear, hear.) I think (holding up a small piece of sugar) I must

take away with me this little relic. (Laughter.) There is this other consideration attached to the Sugar Convention: everybody who is growing sugar in the West Indies now knows for certain that this unfair competition that existed in the past has been effectually removed. If I may use a sporting and pugilistic expression, they know that the Queensbury rules will be observed, that the ring is a fair one and that the fight will be conducted on just and fair and open lines. (Cheers.)

Sir Nevile Lubbock referred to other industries in the West Indies, and I hope you will allow me before I sit down just to remind you—you know it only too well—that there are other things we can grow there besides sugar. We can do I believe a great deal in the production of that most necessary article for the British manufacturers—cotton. I believe I am right in saying—I hope you will correct me if I am wrong—that in the beginning of the eighteenth century the West Indies supplied an enormous quantity of cotton to the British market—some millions of bales per annum. And I think that during the American Civil War they did the same also. If they were able to do that then why should they not be able to do it to-day? When Lancashire requires all the raw material she possibly can get why should we not do all we can to develop in the West Indies, in those tracts of country which are uncultivated, a growth of cotton for the Lancashire market. (Cheers.) I know there are several distinguished cotton people here this evening. They will tell you that the shortage of cotton for Lancashire this year amounted to something like half a million bales of cotton. (Hear, hear.) They have got to get that somewhere; if they fail to get it it means that their manufacturing industries must deteriorate, and eventually the work that they are now doing will pass into the hands of foreign countries.

And there is another matter in connection with this Lancashire industry. It has become more and more a specialised industry. They require the best kind of cotton that can possibly be grown, and as I understand it, there is no better place in the world where the long staple seed cotton can be grown than the West Indian Islands themselves. I had a letter the other day from Sir Gerald Strickland, whom I dare say many of you know well, and he told me they were doing all they could for the development of the cotton industry in the islands over which he governed, and that he hoped in the future he would make this industry a success, and he told me further, that in Montserrat sea island cotton had been sold for £14. Well, gentlemen, I believe

It does not cost more than £4 an acre to grow Cotton,

and if you can make £14 an acre I think there is a fair field and a good opportunity for somebody to make an honest and profitable livelihood. I think there is an almost historic prejudice against the growth of cotton in the West Indies. Probably in the past people may have lost large sums of money by it, but we believe the conditions of to-day are not those of former times. We have, now in the West Indies the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which did not exist before: we have Sir Daniel Morris at the head of it, who is prepared to give his advice and experience to those who are interested. We have admirable fast lines of steamers, which formerly did not exist, and last but not least, we have the British Cotton Growing Association. With these different factors which are existent to-day and which were not apparent in former years, I see no reason why in conjunction with the production of sugar, the growth of cotton should not be again re-established in the West Indies, and that the combination of these two industries together may in the future restore to the people of the West Indies their prosperity and their old success, and that those years of depression and anxiety may now be removed, and that once more among all the King's dominions we may look forward to the West Indies being as successful, as prosperous, and as joyous in the future as at times they have been in the past. (Loud cheers).

SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER, Bart., M.P.: Sir James Fergusson, my Lords and Gentlemen, I do not know why I have been selected for the honour of proposing such an important toast as that of our

guests, except perhaps it may be I was once fortunate enough to make a very enjoyable trip to the West Indies in company with the guest of this evening, and I am very glad to have been able to have been one of the Members of Parliament who have not gone to France, in order to be here to express my sense of the great services that I am certain, from my own experience, he has rendered to the West Indies. Sir Nevile Lubbock and previous speakers have, I think, alluded to almost all those distinguished men among our guests whose names were mentioned to me, and therefore it is not for me to repeat anything in their favour. But there is one gentleman's name which has not been mentioned, which I think will be received with acclamation by all this company present, and whose position enables him to be of the utmost service to the West India Committee, I allude to that distinguished servant of the Crown, the Permanent Under Secretary of the Colonial Office. (Cheers).

There is another gentlemen whose name has been mentioned, but as he comes from another country I hope I shall be permitted to mention it again for I am sure it will meet with a hearty reception also, Monsieur Yves Guyot, best known to most of us from his connection with that distinguished newspaper, the *Sidcle*. Although a pronounced free trader himself, he has been a determined opponent of the Sugar Bounties, and those Bounties against which such a resolute war has been waged, are, in his opinion, utterly incompatible with the doctrines of free trade. (Cheers). And besides that, we remember with pleasure that M. Yves Guyot was one of the few distinguished Frenchmen who took the side of this country in the great war from which we so recently emerged. (Cheers). It needed no little courage at a time when the tide set strongly the other way, but now I am rejoiced to think that the great majority of his countrymen share his views. (Hear, hear). And I am sure I can tell him, speaking for this distinguished assembly, that the *rapprochement* which has recently taken place between these two countries is viewed with great favour by everybody here present. (Cheers). And as a representative of France we are pleased to tender him our respectful salutations; we will give him the most hearty welcome, and will ask him to respond to this toast of our Guests in his native tongue, and to make some small amends to those Members of the House of Commons who are not over in France at the present moment, endeavouring to increase the *entente cordiale* by

Amusing themselves on the Boulevards.

(Laughter). I beg to give you the health of our guests, coupled with the name of Monsieur Yves Guyot. The Toast was received with the utmost enthusiasm, the band playing a verse of "The Marseillaise."

MONSIEUR YVES GUYOT responded in French as follows: Monsieur Le President, Sir Nevile Lubbock, Milords et Messieurs, J'ai été très sensible à l'honneur que vous m'avez fait en m'invitant au banquet que le West India Committee offre ce soir à Sir Nevile Lubbock. En raison de circonstances que je n'ai pas besoin de rappeler ici, Sir Nevile Lubbock a bien voulu rappeler que, nous avons collaboré a une oeuvre commune, la conférence de Bruxelles, et si elle doit être favorable à la West India, elle a cet heureux privilège de l'être aussi à la France, à l'Allemagne, à l'Autriche Hongrie, à la Belgique à la Hollande qu'elle a affranchies de lourdes charges et qu'elle a dégagées d'une politique économique qui autrement n'aurait pas eu d'issue. Aujourd'hui cette oeuvre est accomplie. J'assiste ce soir à ce banquet, au moment même où de nombreux membres du parlement d'Angleterre sont reçus à Paris par leurs collegues français, qui l'eût dit? Qui l'eût cru? il y a seulement deux années.

Mais depuis, de grands événements ce sont accomplis. Le voyage en France du Roi, votre "great ambassador" et la cordiale reception que M. Loubet a reçu en'Angleterre, a dissipé tous les nuages. Aucun parti politique ne peut plus avoir dans mon pays l'anglophobie comme plateforme. Non seulement des rapports économiques etendus associent les deux nations à beaucoup d'intérêts communs, mais depuis plus de deux siècles elles ont collabore intimement par leurs genies scientifiques et litteraires à toutes les grandes oeuvres qui ont contribue au progrès intellectuel et moral de l'humanite.

Toutes les difficultés peuvent être résolues avec la bonne volonté de s'entendre, et de chaque cote du "channel" tout le monde l'éprouve.

Il y a plus, les West India ont prouvé un profond sentiment de solidarité quand survint la catastrophe de la Martinique. Soyez bien persuadés que mes compatriotes se souviennent que ce furent elles qui envoyèrent les premiers secours à les victimes. Au nom des Invités je remercie Sir Cuthbert Quilter de la bienvenue qu'il leur souhaite, et je m'associe à la santé portée à Sir Nevile Lubbock, et je souhaite longue et grande prospérité aux West Indies. (Cheers).

SIR ALFRED JONES.: My Lord Duke, my Lords and Gentlemen, a great deal has been said to-day, or this evening, about the West Indies. Well, one thing must have occurred to most of us and that is that we all appear very well off to-night. If we are well off I think we do well to admit that our position and our condition altogether is due to the interest of the Colonial Office, from Mr. Chamberlain down, which has set the country to reflect. It is a very sad thing to think that Sir Nevile Lubbock has been going so many years to the Colonial Office, and only when Mr. Chamberlain got there he got what he wanted. I am delighted to support in any way the past kindly interest that the Colonial Office took in all Colonial matters, but I might go a little further and tell people that if you want to make money—stay outside. They can make a very good bargain there both for the Colonies and the country generally, and I do not know that we always get perhaps what we are entitled to have from them, but it is only fair to say that when the misfortune occurred in Jamaica the Colonial Office sent for me and said, "Now what can we do to help them?" Now, that inspired me with a feeling that I would not take their help and that we would continue the services we do. We are losing a lot of money. Some people say that we are doing very well. What

I want to impress upon upon the West Indian

people is this, that in the past you have devoted your attention to one or two specialities. The result has been that when the one went wrong you had nothing to fall back on. Now, what we have to find out is what can the West Indies produce that they have not produced in the past. Go for sugar in every way you know; thank the Government for what they have done; you will get the sugar by and by, and by and by we will get it to carry. This West Indian trade is important and it must be gratifying to the British people to see prosperity again returning to the West Indies. The West India Committee has been 150 years in existence. I am rather a young member but I admire them for what they have done and the splendid help they gave to Jamaica. The West Indies want more attention and they want to attract the American tourist a little bit more and get as many as they can. I am the President of the British Cotton Growing Association and we are very deeply indebted to the Duke of Marlborough for coming down to Manchester. The Lancashire people are talking of raising a million by subscriptions of £1. to grow cotton in the Colonies. The Colonies can produce as much cotton as Lancashire wants, and have some to sell to America. We have got in Africa enormous territories. The West Indies may grow all the cotton they can, but they will not grow all the cotton we want for ourselves and to supply America. I am pleased to be here to-night to propose the health of our Chairman. I was associated with him many years ago in trying to work reforms in Africa. Well, he helped us a good deal, and now I see present here to-night the Governor of one of those West African Colonies, I refer to Sir Ralph Moore, who for ten years has been Governor of Southern Nigeria.

The British People should learn to stick more together;

and to be more generous to their own people. I do not blame the foreigner in any way for getting the best he can for what he has got, but I do blame the English people for not making the best

of what they have got. I am proposing the health of the Chairman. A man with such a career as his requires no words from me for what he is or who he is. He is Sir James Fergusson. We all wish him long life and happiness. I am delighted to see him here to-night, and he could not be here on any better occasion than the giving of this well deserved testimonial to Sir Nevile Lubbock. (Cheers.)

The toast was drunk with the utmost cordiality, the company joining in singing "For he's a jolly good fellow."

THE CHAIRMAN in reply said, My Lords, and Gentlemen, I am exceedingly grateful to you for your kind recognition of my humble services in the Chair. I am very glad that the toast has been proposed by one so enterprising and patriotic as Sir Alfred Jones, who is actively engaged in doing his best at great personal sacrifices to develop the British industries abroad in friendly rivalry in one part of the world, with that good old West Indian Company, the Royal Mail, with which I am immediately connected. I hope between us that we shall do something for the West Indies. I am glad to think that Sir Alfred Jones' endeavours are not confined to the West Indies but that he is doing his best to encourage the industries in West Africa which are much wanted in the city of Manchester and the great district around it. It was said by His Grace beside me that Lancashire was 500,000 bales short of its proper supply this year. No one knows better than I, one of the members for Manchester, how sorely a short supply of cotton affects the great industries there. Well, I am glad to think that while America consumes more and more of its own products, other countries in West Africa and in the West Indies are making efforts to develop the growth of cotton. In Egypt the supply will be multiplied many-fold by the magnificent works of irrigation which have been just erected and I know that the Transvaal is a country where cotton is indigenous and where it only wants enterprise to develop it, so I hope we shall be able to supplement the short supply from America in coming years from other parts of the world (hear hear.)

I endeavoured, in the duties incumbent upon me earlier in the evening, not to anticipate what would be more properly said by others. It was not because I did not feel deep interest in many of the subjects that have been so well treated on that I did not enlarge upon them; it was more fitting that the Chairman should prompt others than that he should anticipate in dealing with the subjects. I am one now whose time is running out and who is happy to see the rising talent that will be so useful to the country, and in none more than in the hereditary talent on both sides of his family, inherited by the noble Duke on my side. I thank you, my Lords and Gentlemen, for the honour you have done me, and especially the Committee for having given me the privilege of taking the Chair on this occasion on which we have met to do honour to my friend beside me who has been so great a benefactor to the West Indies.

The proceedings characterised throughout by the greatest harmony and good feeling, were afterwards brought to a close.

Sir Nevile Lubbock's Thanks to the West Indies.

We publish the following letter from Sir Nevile Lubbock in the West India Committee Circular as the surest means of bringing it to the notice of the many subscribers to the testimonial to our Chairman, who were prevented from attending the recent Banquet.

20, EASTCHEAP, E.C.

November 27th, 1903.

MY DEAR ASPINALL,

Although at the dinner on Wednesday night I expressed my great thanks

to my West Indian friends for the great kindness and honor they have done me in presenting me with such a magnificent Testimonial, yet I feel that there may be many whom my speech may not reach. I therefore venture to write to ask you to be so good as to send a copy of this letter to the subscribers to the Fund.

I need hardly say how gratifying it has been to me to find that the small services I have endeavoured to render to the West Indies have been so generously appreciated, and I wish to convey my most hearty thanks to those who have given me such a handsome testimony of their kindness.

Yours very truly,

N. LUBBOCK.

A Presentation to Mr. Martineau.



The Cup presented to Mr. Martineau, C.B.

success. Mr. Edwin Tate was supported by Mr. Charles Crossfield as Chairman of the Lancashire Association and by Mr. Robert Kerr as Chairman of the Clyde Association. Mr. Martineau in replying said that he would value the cup as a token of the good will of the Sugar Refiners with whom he had always worked in perfect harmony. He expressed the belief that when the effect of the Brussels

A presentation to Mr. George Martineau, C.B., was made on the same day by the Sugar Refiners of Great Britain at a meeting presided over by Mr. Edwin Tate, Chairman of the Sugar Refiners Association.

The presentation consisted of a silver gilt cup bearing the following inscription:—

PRESENTED
TO
GEORGE MARTINEAU, Esq., C.B.
BY THE
SUGAR REFINERS OF GREAT BRITAIN, IN RECOGNITION
OF HIS LONG AND ARDUOUS SERVICES IN CONNECTION
WITH THE ABOLITION OF THE BOUNTIES ON SUGAR,
Nov. 1903.

Mr. Edwin Tate in making the presentation alluded to the fact that for more than 30 years Mr. Martineau had worked for the abolition of bounties and that there was nobody who was so conversant with all the details of the negotiations which had taken place during that long period. He spoke of the deep debt of gratitude which the sugar refiners owed Mr. Martineau for the time and ability which he had devoted to the object he had in view and which had now been crowned with

Conference was felt, which would probably take some considerable time, there would again be a satisfactory margin for sugar refining in the United Kingdom. A further presentation of a silver bowl was then made to Mr. Martin, bearing the following inscription.

PRESENTED
TO
LIONEL A. MARTIN
BY THE
SUGAR REFINERS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AS A
MARK OF THEIR APPRECIATION OF HIS VALUABLE SERVICES
AS HONORARY SECRETARY OF THIS ASSOCIATION,
Nov. 25th, 1903.

The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864-1903.

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

The names of Sir Nevile Lubbock and Mr. George Martineau, will be for many generations gratefully remembered by both masters and men in all branches of our Imperial sugar industry. This is not the mere language of panegyric: their work for nigh forty years is recorded in a library of Blue Books on the Bounty question: therein it will be found that all that was technically intricate and most contentious was unravelled and solved by their ability and acumen. That both are still with us, and able to witness the successful settlement of the Sugar Bounty question, is a matter for general congratulation.

All industries alike benefit by the vindication of a sound economic theory: it was a mere accident that our sugar industry became the first victim of foreign protectionists, and had to bear the burthen of public agitation, it might have been cotton, iron, chemicals, or any other one of our great industries.

That it should have taken forty years to solve the sugar bounties question is so incredible in the case of a great commercial nation such as we claim to be, that some explanation seems needed. The distinction between the science of economics and the art of government or politics was not observed by responsible officials, and much confusion and misapprehension was the consequence. Science differs from an art: the language of science, writes Mill is, 'This is,' or 'This is not,' 'This does,' or 'This does not, happen.' The language of Art is, 'Do this, Avoid that.' The economist deals with a science the subject matter of which is Wealth. The Statesman professes the art of government. If in matters of industry and commerce the object or policy of a Statesman be declared, the Economist, as such, determines deductively the method by which that object or policy may be achieved: his responsibility ends when that of the Statesman begins.

The Anti-Bounty Convention of 1864.

When the Government of this country declared, by its adhesion to the anti-bounty Sugar Convention of 1864, that its settled policy was the international abolition of all export bounties on sugar, the economist had no difficulty in indicating the effects of Bounties and the methods to be adopted to abolish or neutralise them. And yet this Convention, after a duration of ten years, expired without having been once operative for the purpose it was entered into. For that untoward result our Government was solely to blame. As one of the contracting Powers we declined, when invited by the other signatory Powers, to adopt the only means which would have made the Convention effective.

The Lords Commissioners of H.M. Treasury, in response to a Memorandum of the West India Committee, entered into a full resumé of the whole question, and the following extract from the official

communication of the 31st July, 1874, discloses the reason why the Sugar Convention was not made effective: it will be seen that the reason was political and not economic.

“ My Lords would further observe that Her Majesty's Government retain their conviction that the Convention was founded on principles of equity and sound commercial policy, and was framed, not in the particular interest of one or other of the several contracting countries to the detriment of the rest, but in order to promote the general advantage of all, and to do justice alike to the manufacturers and to the consumers in each.

This country would, no doubt, have been entitled, in view of the failure of the French Government to execute the Convention, to meet the system of virtual bounties maintained in favour of French refiners by a retaliatory or countervailing system in favour of her own. But such a course would have been at variance with her established policy in commercial matters, and Her Majesty's successive advisers have declined to recommend its adoption.”

Thus the only result of this Anti-Bounty Convention was a declaration by our Government that foreign protectionists might with perfect safety proceed to attack and destroy our great colonial and home sugar industries, and thus encouraged they proceeded to do it.

The Economics of the Question.

The economics of the question were clear from the very first: they were summed up by the present writer in a letter to the *Spectator* early in 1875, he wrote as follows:—

“ State interference in any form with the natural channels of industry in this country is contrary to the cardinal principles of our free trade policy; it matters not whether the interference comes from our own or a foreign State. A bounty on exportation is, if I may use the term, ‘aggressive protection’ practised by one country against a rival industry in another, a form of protection which, according to Bentham, ‘prohibits A from producing superior articles for the purpose of helping B to get rid of his inferior articles.’ But how is this country to prevent a foreign State from thus tampering with the natural channels of our industry? there are only two ways: (1) Meet bounty with bounty, State aid with State aid, aggressive protection by aggressive protection. (2) Neutralise the injurious operation of the bounty by intercepting it through the revenue for the taxpayers generally, instead of letting it fall into the pockets of a limited class, viz., the consumers of the State-aided commodity. The objection to the first mode is that we should inflict upon our revenue a loss equal to that sustained by the foreign revenue; the objection to the second mode is that we should deprive the consumer of the bounty which enabled him to obtain his commodity at less than the natural price of free-trade competition.

“ I think, however, upon examination, so far as principles of free-trade apply, a countervailing duty is the proper way to neutralise a bounty, inasmuch as it pockets for our revenue the foreign ‘tribute,’ reinstates the rival industries upon the fair level of their natural advantages, and secures to the consumer his full right to have prices regulated by fair free-trade competition, although it may deprive him of the temporary bribe for which he was expected to barter his free-trade inheritance.” W.P.B.S.

In 1875, the attack on our sugar industries was developed, and academic discussion, which had then done its work by declaring the economic effects of export bounties and the obvious remedy, was soon to be superseded by public agitation.

The Magnitude of our Sugar Industry.

The measure of an industry is the effective demand for its products: that demand determines the direction of capital into industrial work and wages: the nation's share in that work and wages becomes of the highest interest to all classes of producers. Let it be noted how our share stood before bounties and after bounties in 1873-78, when the public agitation may be said to have commenced. Of the total imports of sugar into the United Kingdom, the respective shares of the cane sugar industries were in 1863, before the bounties, 95 per cent. and of the Continental beet sugar industries five per cent. After the bounties the respective shares were in 1873, (cane) 74 per cent. (beet) 26 per cent.; and in 1878, (cane) 63 per cent., (beet) 37 per cent. As regards the cane sugar, British Colonies shared with the foreign tropics in the above percentages: and the complementary home industry of these tropical cane sugar industries was that of British refining.

A tendency so alarming to the future of our sugar industries as was exhibited in 1873-78 by the declining percentage of their share and inversely the increasing percentage of the share of their bounty-aided rivals on the Continent could not fail to stimulate the agitation. It was sufficient to validate with illustrative reality the economic conclusion that the bounty-aided zone of production on the Continent would in some given time supersede the unprotected tropical zones, both British and foreign, as the source of our sugar supply.

The Wrong to Labour.

The interests of British labour were in jeopardy; their work and wages were being taken from them by Continental protectionists: our policy of *laissez-faire* was proving ineffective against the 'aggressive protection' of foreign Governments. In 1875, pamphlets from the pens of the present writer, and Sir Nevile, then Mr., Lubbock, and a paper by Mr. Martineau before the Social Science Congress at Brighton were forthcoming. And in 1876, the late Professor Leone Levi dealt with the question in a paper before the Society of Arts; in the discussion which followed, Mr. Martineau and the present writer took part. In 1878 a paper on the "Economic Operation of the Foreign Sugar Bounties" was read by the present writer before the Social Science Congress at Cheltenham. From Bristol came a pathetic appeal to the Lords of the Treasury by Messrs. Finzel & Sons, the great refiners, and others for some action against bounties. But the appeal was in vain, and the great "Counterslip" refinery in Bristol succumbed; its workpeople were thrown out of employ, their homes were broken up; some tried to find other means of livelihood, a few succeeded, but the majority were lowered into the abyss of poverty and destitution.

"All ye abandon hope who enter here," seemed at that date and for many years after, the appropriate motto for the commercial department of the Foreign Office.

The Public Agitation—First Stage.

Samuel Peters, who was formerly in the Royal Navy and subsequently for many years in Finzel's Refinery, together with other Bristol workmen, started a public agitation, and in June, 1878, organized an important labour conference of three days' duration, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, under the Presidency of the late Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P. A resolution in favour of intercepting bounties by countervailing duties was passed and presented to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by a deputation of the workmen accompanied by the late Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., Sampson Lloyd, Esq., M.P., C. T. Ritchie, Esq., M.P., and others who sympathised with the workmen's movement. In July, 1878, a deputation of the workmen proceeded to Paris and were received by M. Leon Say at the Louvre Hotel, and subsequently by M. Leon Gambetta. The late Mr. Gladstone gave the workmen a most encouraging reply to their appeal to him. Public meetings were held

at the Great Assembly Hall, London, Mr. Ritchie, M.P., presiding: at Bristol, the Mayor presiding: at Greenock, under the presidency of the borough member; and at Glasgow under the presidency of the senior member for the city. Resolutions in favour of the abolition of the bounties by treaty, and pending such abolition, their neutralisation by countervailing duties, were passed.

These and many other public meetings led to the appointment of the Select Committee on the Sugar Industries in 1879. With the Report of this Committee the first stage in the anti-bounty agitation had been reached. The witnesses before that Committee were under severe examination and cross examination, and to Mr. Martineau the Committee was indebted for his clear exposition of the intricate technical details under which the bounties were being developed. The evidence of the late Mr. Thomas Daniel Hill, (Chairman), Sir Nevile Lubbock, (Deputy Chairman), the late Mr. Quintin Hogg, and other members of the West India Committee placed before the Committee the danger to be anticipated to the West Indies from this pernicious system. Mr. George Martineau in his evidence illustrated the economic but obvious deduction, that a complementary industry depended on the difference in price between its raw material and its finished product. He proved that it was upon this differential margin that the bounties operated and that under the bounty régime our refining industry, whether prices were high or low, tended to become profitless. The Committee's Report verified the existence and the danger of the bounties, and justified the economic validity of countervailing duties, but stated that our Foreign Office considered that the most-favoured-nation Article in our Treaties precluded their adoption. Except diplomatic representations to, and occasional Conferences with Foreign Powers, nothing resulted from this Report.

Public Agitation—Second Stage, 1880-1889.

The Late Lord Pembroke's London Convention.

In order to combine all the various interests, colonial, home, and labour on one platform of agitation, the National Anti-Bounty League was inaugurated at a meeting at the Westminster Palace Hotel on the 28th September, 1880, the late Sir George Henry Chambers and Sir Nevile Lubbock in succession presiding. An Executive Council, representing all interests, colonial, home, and labour, was appointed. Three members of the Bar were the honorary secretaries, viz., Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, the late Mr. Challis, and the present writer. The Articles of Constitution were very precisely framed, so as to deal only with the export bounties and their neutralization by countervailing duties. Such precision was at that time necessary, as the "Fair Trade" and "Reciprocity" movements were then stirring; but the Council of the Anti-Bounty League deemed them too general and too costly for their resources, as well as somewhat premature, having regard to the then existing state of public opinion, to be associated with the specific and limited object of the League.

The League at once commenced to hold open public meetings at various towns and cities from Aberdeen to Plymouth. Resolutions in favour of positive action against Bounties were carried. These aroused a vigorous opposition to the League by the Board of Trade. Long and argumentative communications were received from the then officials. For some years the members of the Council were engaged in public agitation, speaking at great public meetings, and answering the arguments and refuting the erroneous generalisations based on the statistics of the Board of Trade. The work was ceaseless, and only those who have engaged in such a public agitation can realise how absorbing and laborious such work is, as well as how full of anxiety it was for those who were thus associated together for the defence of their industrial life. The late Col. Phineas Cowan and Quintin Hogg, Esq. were among the most vigorous and able speakers against this Bounty system.

In 1885 the Royal Commission on the Depression of Trade and Industry was appointed, and among the Commissioners was Sir (then Mr.) Nevile Lubbock. Evidence was given by the late Sir George Henry Chambers who represented the West India Committee, and by Mr. J. E. Tinne, on behalf of the West India Association of Liverpool as to the disastrous effect of the bounties on the West Indian Sugar Industry, and by George Martineau, Esq., James Duncan, Esq., and other refiners as to the continued injury to the Refining Industry arising from the bounties.

One of the largest deputations ever received by a Prime Minister was the one received by Lord Salisbury at the Foreign Office in August: representatives of all the interests were present in support of the memorial by the Workmen's Association showing that the bounties were diverting the legitimate employment for labour in the Sugar Industries from British to foreign workmen. Lord Salisbury replied fully, pointing out that "If it was the will of the people of this country that the principles which were involved in the idea of reciprocity and countervailing duties and so forth were absolutely inadmissible . . . then any evils bounties do would continue, and it was not to be expected that any negotiations or any power the Foreign Office could exercise would stop the evil."

In 1886 a deputation of the Refiners was received by the then President of the Board of Trade (the late Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P.), and his reply to the Deputation was deemed so inconclusive that the Refiners' and West India Committees sent in a Memorial to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer (the Right Hon. Sir William G. G. Vernon Harcourt, M.P.), in favour of the immediate imposition of an import duty of two shillings per cwt. on all foreign Beet-root sugar.

In 1887 the Trades' Unions, aroused by the injury done to labour by the foreign bounties, determined to exert all their power for the suppression of the system. Each of the Trades took the matter up and the whole question was thoroughly debated for some months, and as a result a Deputation of the whole of the Trades' Unions waited on Lord Salisbury to insist on steps being taken, consistent with free trade, to secure the abolition of bounties. The organised Trades did not let the question drop, and in 1888 Mr. George Shipton informed Lord Pirbright (then Baron H. de Worms, M.P.) who was President of the International Conference in London of 1887-8, that the London Trades' Council had received from more than fifty of the largest Trades' Unions, from Aberdeen and Dundee in the North, to Bristol, Cardiff, and Swansea in the South, embracing nearly every industry in the country, resolutions urging as a penal clause in the then proposed Sugar Convention, the total prohibition of all bounty-aided sugars.

Lord Pirbright's Convention contained the penal clause demanded by the Trades' Unions, it was as follows: "From the date of the present Convention coming into force, all raw sugar, refined sugar, molasses, or glucose, coming from any countries, provinces beyond the seas, colonies or foreign possessions, maintaining the system of open or disguised bounties on the manufacture or exportation of sugar shall be excluded from the territories of the high contracting Powers."

To the late Lord Pirbright and the great Trades' Unions of this country must be attributed the credit of securing a penal clause as simple as it was effective. Moreover the penalty of total prohibition had already, as the Trades' Unions were aware, received legislative sanction in the Merchandise Marks Act of 1887.

The long continued agitation had succeeded in providing a weapon with which the foreign protectionists might be brought to bay. But their adherents in this country roused themselves to a final effort to baffle this free trade solution. In 1889 the London Liberal Union held a meeting in St. James' Hall on the 14th of May, and carried a resolution condemning the Convention: an amendment by Mr. Ben Tillett was lost. But on the same day another meeting at the Burlington Hall, under the

presidency of Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., carried a resolution in favour of the Convention. Both these meetings were reported in the *Times* and other papers of the following day.

A Bill to give effect to the Sugar Convention was brought in by Baron de Worms and read a first time, but it was not proceeded with.

The second stage in this long continued agitation was thus terminated by the acceptance of absolute prohibition as the principle of the penal clause. The necessity for further public agitation seemed at an end, and the Trades' Unions and Workmen retired, having gained their object. The Government, now possessed of a weapon, were expected to make use of it to bring about a final abolition of the whole bounty system.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

West India Committee Minutes of 1779.

It has always been the custom of the West India Committee to recognise in a substantial manner, services rendered to the West Indian Colonies and in connection with the successful Banquet of November 25th, it may be of interest to recall from the old minute books of the Committee, a Banquet to Admiral Keppel which was ordered but never took place. A minute dated March 30th, 1779, runs as follows:

"The Chairman acquainted the meeting that the intended entertainment for Admiral Keppel cost Fifty guineas, Mr. Laforest having represented that he had paid Mr. Negri, a confectioner Twenty guineas, for what had been prepared from to Desart, and Mr. Laforest being called in, was informed that they thought Mr. Negri's charges very high."

These were the circumstances; after an engagement with the French Fleet under Admiral d'Orvilliers on August 27th, 1778, off the French coast a charge was preferred against Admiral Keppel for refusing to deny certain charges of cowardice which had been brought against one of his subordinate Admirals. Admiral Keppel was triumphantly acquitted on February 11th, 1779, and his acquittal gave rise to great rejoicing and it should be added a scene of considerable disorder in the City and Pall Mall. He was invited to Banquet by the West India Committee and on February 22nd addressed the following reply to Mr. Beeston Long the then Chairman:—

SIR,—The Honour intended me by the Society of the West India Planters and Merchants in their invitation to Dinner with them in the City, I shall ever esteem with much gratitude, as a mark of their very kind attention to me, and I felt at the time of the invitation, the greatest satisfaction from it, but the experience of what happened on Saturday night, from the extraordinary concourse of people as I returned from dinner in the City (which the Committee of Aldermen, and Common Council of London, have done me the honour to give me), has led me to be apprehensive that the honour of another public Dinner at this time in the City, may be attended with the like consequences.

I cannot be but proud of the demonstrations of joy so generously expressed and especially in this Metropolis, yet I should feel myself much reprehensible if I afford a pretence to any one to say that I encouraged excesses at a late hour of night, which tend to alarm and disturb the quiet of the town, and the more so, as those excesses have been attended with real prejudice to the health and property of many persons, and I can truly say that I did all in my power to prevent the least instance of it: these considerations, I must own operate so much upon my mind, as to have determined me, to beg sir, that you will in my name, present my most grateful thanks to the gentlemen, intreating their permission to decline accepting their most obliging and kind invitation at this time, I trust you will be persuaded of the true cause which weighs with me, to the relinquishing what would be to me the highest gratification.

And I am Sir,

With great regard, &c.

A. KEPPEL.

The Minor Industries of the West Indies.

It is often held up as a reproach to Colonists that the West Indies, apart from scenery, are in reality very far from the ideal islands of the novelist where all the best gifts of a bountiful Providence are produced in abundance, and where the necessities and luxuries of life spring up at the slightest bidding of the tillers of the soil. And there is some measure of justification in the charge, for though the gifts are there, *the bidding* is oftentimes sadly lacking. To be more explicit, during the dark years that have passed over the West Indies, the staple industry of sugar has fought its struggle for existence, the cocoa industry of Trinidad and Grenada and the lime-juice industry of Montserrat have lived a life of competence, if not of affluence, while Jamaica has given birth to a banana trade, which may surely look to a prosperous career. But what of the rest? What of the other products which should belong to these parts, and take their place in the export lists and revenue returns? Truth compels one to own that what already existed gradually grew more enfeebled, and what were once expected, have, save in the rice fields of Guiana, never seen the light.

It would be interesting to discuss the economic reasons which may account for the absence of these minor industries, to point out that their depression was coincident with the depression of the staple and that the sufferings of the larger proprietors were reproduced in the hopeless apathy of the peasants, but space forbids such abstract theorising. Let me merely suggest that the first signs of a revival of sugar called forth an answering note in the renewal of interest in other commodities and let me deduce, if I may, from these premises the conclusion that the prosperity of the lesser is bound up with the welfare of the greater and that the more industries there are in a colony, the more must each individual industry flourish.

The establishment by Mr. Chamberlain of a Department of Agriculture in the West Indies, must be regarded as the first step towards the propagation of "minor industrialism," and the labours of Sir Daniel Morris in so sedulously fostering the knowledge of cultivation form a splendid sequel to this act. Nor would any history of the movement be complete without reference to the work of Sir Alfred Jones in Jamaica, where, even if one must exclude bananas from the minor list, we must welcome the introduction of tourist traffic, the improvement in live-stock, and the development of cotton as fairly coming into this category.

The last named indeed promises to pass rapidly into the higher scale of industries and the readiness with which landowners have taken up the planting of cotton and the generous support of the British Cotton Growing Association seem to indicate that the time will soon come when the West Indies are once more recognised as a cotton producing centre. Nor can one resist touching on the wider aspect of this, in that they will thus largely assist in the solution of imperial trading, by destroying the monopoly which an outside country holds over the home market to its detriment and distress. It is difficult to give data as to the quantity of cotton now growing in the islands, but it may be put at 2000 acres. Estate proprietors are planting on a large scale, the people follow, perhaps more slowly in a small and cautious way, but whether the ultimate development is to be on the estate system of the Southern States of America or in the proprietary holdings desired in West Africa I may not now discuss. Let it suffice to state that cotton is a commodity of which the demand must inevitably increasingly exceed the supply, and that the average price should have an upward rather than a downward tendency. On the other hand I would sound a note of warning that the present demand is for the moment a famine one and that the price of the day cannot be regarded as a permanency. Another

article which bears a similarity to the above, in that its value must always incline upward, is rubber. Here Trinidad again takes the lead and here the indefatigable Mr. Hart has striven to establish a lucrative industry in the island. Rubber, to me at any rate, seems the simplest form of investment, for the trouble of growing is little compared with other products; yet the law of compensation none the less exists, for the time of growth is longer, and the return on capital is thus postponed.

An industry which receives far less attention than it deserves, even in Jamaica and Trinidad, is that of cocoanuts, for the numerous uses to which the coconut can be turned—the exportation of the nut, the expression of the oil, the production of the copra, etc.—are all of a possibly profitable nature. Coconut gathering is as little trouble as coconut planting and yet how little is done! Perhaps all think like the black lady, who said to me this year, “If everyone in the village grows coconuts, there will be no one to buy them all!” It might have ruined one’s reputation for veracity to have stated how many gallons of coconut oil came annually to the West Indies from the East, yet nevertheless the fact remains.

Space again forbids one’s touching on the many other industries which are yet to be developed, but a striking letter recently written by Sir Alexander Swettenham, the energetic Governor of British Guiana, tells the sad tale of the many articles which are imported into that colony at great expense, yet which could be grown as well and more cheaply on the spot.

And yet one hesitates to condemn those who have so far neglected the sources of income which have lain so close to their hand, for the individual is powerless to improve his lot unless directed in the way he ought to go. Hence one welcomes the work of the Agricultural Department, one welcomes the agricultural education which should never have been sacrificed to a more classical curriculum, one welcomes the local agricultural shows; so too one hopes to see the establishment of co-operative societies for local sale, of agricultural banks for deserving workers and of ready transport facilities to markets both near and far. Not that I would suggest that an easy means to wealth is thereby produced, for whoever must depend on the soil and weather for his livelihood, whether he be fighting floods or drought, the fungus of the sugar cane, the caterpillar of the cotton tree or the beetle of the coconut, can hope at the best only for a living profit, and must have pluck and perseverance if he would succeed; and those who hold out golden hopes as to the ease with which minor industries may fling back fortunes, must be condemned as in no sense conferring good upon the people.

Before closing I would enlarge on a point already referred to, namely that of markets. At present the peasant will not grow commodities because the local merchant will not buy them; the local merchant will not buy them because the English consignee will not accept them, and the consignee will not accept them because the home market will not absorb them. The truth of this is evident and covers the production of all articles from sugar to shaddocks, from cocoa to cassareep; and yet there is little use in attending to the growth if one does not also attend to the sale. For even in sugar there is much to be done in the development of a demand, that is, in teaching that the product of the West Indies is distinct from the inferior production of the Continent, while those who in the past have sounded the London market, as the writer has done, with samples of fruits and preserves, of flours, meals and starches, of fibres, clays and oils, know how hopeless it is for the individual worker to succeed. Hence the suggestion lately thrown out by the West India Committee that a Produce Association should be founded in the home country to create a market and stimulate a demand for all West Indian products must surely be deserving of support. Here may those, who, by the development of the sugar industry are assisting in the development of the Colonies, join with those who feel that their call is rather to the production of other fruits of the earth; and here perhaps it may be perceived

by those who, either ignorantly or wilfully, have opposed one industry in order to try and benefit others that the interests of all must be directed to a single purpose, to make the West Indies an integral and composite factor in the fulfilment of the ideal of an intra-imperial British trade.

EDWARD. R. DAVSON.

Impressions of the Banquet on November 25th.

BY A LADY ONLOOKER.

Before the speeches had begun, we had leisure to admire the striking portrait of Sir Nevile Lubbock, and the handsome testimonial of plate which was to be presented to him later on. We also greatly admired the new and artistic flag of the West India Committee, and the other flags which draped the hall and gave a patriotic appearance to the interesting scene. Our mouths watered for some of the West Indian fruit, so generously sent from Dominica, which, tempting as it looked, was unfortunately out of our reach.

The Toast Master caused us much amusement with his big pompous voice. After drinking to the King's health, smoking starting in earnest, and the room rapidly assumed the appearance of a London fog. Everybody seemed most enthusiastic; the Toasts were accompanied by loud applause, especially that of the guest of the evening, Sir Nevile Lubbock. He must have felt touched and proud at the warm feeling and enthusiasm with which "For he's a jolly good fellow" was sung. Sir Henry Davson made a splendid speech, long and interesting, yet never for a moment tedious, and completely held our attention. He also favoured us with a glimpse of the lovely diamond crescent which was intended for Lady Lubbock. The happy face of Monsieur Yves Guyot showed thorough enjoyment of his surroundings, and everyone listened so intently to his charming speech in French, that one would almost have supposed that they all understood it.

It was very interesting to see so many men of distinction seated at the head table; former Governors of the West Indian Islands whose names are so familiar to us; veterans like Sir Henry Norman and Sir James Fergusson, carried our thoughts back to the history of the Indian Mutiny and indeed to the Crimean War, and our attention was especially attracted to Professor Hubert von Herkomer, the artist who has produced such an excellent portrait of Sir Nevile Lubbock. It was interesting also to see the Duke of Marlborough, and the cheers which greeted the slightest allusion to the name of Mr. Chamberlain made us wish that he too was at this West Indian gathering. The scene was a brilliant one and to have been present at such a historical West Indian function will always be a happy recollection to me.

W. A. R.



ERRATA.—By an unfortunate oversight the date of November 30th appears on the Supplements, instead of December 2nd.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Ent. Stationers Hall.]

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 1903.

No. 112.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
The West Indian Mail Contracts	145	Proposed West Indian Produce Association	154
The West India Committee	146	Dominica Fruit	154
Mr. Chamberlain and Jamaica... ..	147	Cacao in the Samoan Archipelago	155
The Tariff Reform League	147	Coal Discovery in Honduras	155
The Rum Surtax	147	The West Indian in London	155
The Rodney Memorial, Spanish Town	148	Notes of Interest	156
The Sugar Bounties Agitation	149	West Indian Securities	157
The Consumption of Sugar in France... ..	150	The Homeward Mail	157
Colonial Produce at Liverpool	150	Weather Telegrams	159
Administration of the Jamaica Relief Fund	150	Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad	159
The Cotton Industry	151	The Mails	159
An Opportunity for Capitalists... ..	153	The Produce Markets Summary	160

FULL PAGE ILLUSTRATION: THE RODNEY MEMORIAL, SPANISH TOWN.

The West Indian Mail Contracts.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, November 26th, the Hon. W. S. Robertson, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. E. L. Marshall and the Secretary were appointed a Sub-Committee to consider and report as to what modifications it may be desirable to make in the West Indian Mail Services in view of the expiration of the contracts between His Majesty's Government and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and Messrs. Pickford and Black, in June, 1905. Meetings were held on November 27th and December 1st, and a report was laid before a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee on December 3rd, and adopted unanimously. A copy was sent to Mr. Lyttleton on the same day. The report runs as follows:—

The West India Committee, having regard to the prospects of a rapidly expanding trade between Canada and the West Indies, are of opinion that it is very desirable that a service between those parts of the Empire should be continued, and they recommend that the Treasury and the Canadian Government be approached with a view to obtaining the necessary subsidy.

In advertising for tenders for such a Canadian service on the lines of that now existing, due regard should be paid to the advisability of insisting that:—

(1) The time tables should be more rigidly adhered to, and so arranged that the steamers should visit the Islands in alternate weeks to those of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—an object aimed at in the existing contract but never satisfactorily attained.

(2) Greater carrying capacity should be provided—it having been a constant source of complaint that on the homeward journey the steamers are full before they reach the last islands of call—and provision made for extra steamers during crop time, with an occasional boat to Montreal.

(3) Efficient cold storage accommodation and increased facilities for the conveyance of fruit should be provided.

(4) Nevis should be included in the itinerary as a Port of Call—it being felt that inter-colonial trade would be thereby stimulated and that its inclusion would remove a genuine grievance.

Regarding the general West Indian Mail Service, the West India Committee are of opinion that:—

(1) The itinerary of the Contract, dated September 1st, 1900, *as amended*, should be adhered to—the ocean steamers calling at Trinidad on the outward and homeward journey.

(2) The speed of the ocean steamers should be increased. To this the possible objection presents itself that the steamers would arrive in Barbados on Sunday, but this could be obviated by the Mail steamers leaving Southampton on Thursday instead of Wednesday as at present, the homeward steamer leaving Barbados on Saturday as heretofore, arriving at Plymouth one day earlier than at present.

(3) That efficient and increased cold storage accommodation and also increased facilities for the conveyance of fruit should be provided both in the ocean and the inter-colonial steamers.

(4) The rates of passage money should be adjusted in such a manner as to remove the present anomaly of a passenger to Trinidad having to pay a higher fare than a passenger to Jamaica by the same steamer, though the journey in the latter case is several days longer.

(5) The rates of passage money should include the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers and their baggage.

(6) The time tables should be more rigidly adhered to and the arrival of steamers late at night in Trinidad—a frequent cause for complaint—thereby obviated.

(7) Cargo shipped by the inter-colonial steamers for the ocean steamers should not be detained at Barbados.

The West India Committee.

We may remind our readers that by virtue of Rule IV subscriptions from new members elected during the present month will when payable, not be renewable until January 1st, 1905. We append the names of new members of the West India Committee who were elected on November 26th and December 3rd.

November 26th.

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO.	Allan E. Messer, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
MRS. E. ALLEYNE	T. J. Wilkinson, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
R. H. OTTO, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
FRANCIS L. VERLEY, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
HIS HONOUR H. HESKETH BELL, C.M.G.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
Captain J. S. CLARKE, Barbados	Jos. Connell, Esq., Junr.	T. W. Wilkinson, Esq.
NEVILLE DAWSON, Esq.	Sir Henry K. Davson	Edward R. Davson, Esq.
C. S. FARQUHARSON, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	Cyril Gurney, Esq.
MESSRS. TROWER & SONS	Edward Anderson, Esq.	Edward Kynaston, Esq.

December 3rd.

AUDLEY C. MILES, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Colonel Trollope.
MESSRS. JOSEPH APPLEBY & SONS, Ltd.	W. Alfred Jones, Esq.	R. Rutherford, Esq.
E. P. BIDWELL, Esq.	Messrs. W. J. & H. Thompson	T. Du Buisson, Esq.
CHARLES SCHIFF, Esq.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Spencer H. Curtis, Esq.

At a meeting on Thursday, November 26th, Mr. Charles S. Parker, of Messrs. Sandbach Parker & Co. and Mr. H. A. Trotter were unanimously elected Members of the Executive Committee. Mr. Parker is chiefly interested in British Guiana, and by the appointment of Mr. Trotter our connection with Jamaica and Grenada will be materially strengthened. In other directions we are steadily extending

our sphere, and it will be of interest to those who avail themselves of the advantages of Coolie labour to know that Mr. Robert W. S. Mitchell, C.M.G., has been appointed our Hon. Correspondent in Calcutta. Mr. Mitchell, whose Colonial Services began in Trinidad in 1858, is now Emigration Agent for British Guiana in Calcutta. In 1872 he received the thanks of H. M. Royal Commission for special services rendered during their enquiry into the treatment of Indian immigrants in Mauritius. Mr. Mitchell's experiences have been long and varied, and his services cannot fail to prove of great value to the Committee.

Mr. Chamberlain and Jamaica.

We have received and forwarded to Jamaica the following acknowledgment from Mr. Chamberlain of the resolution passed by the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Merchants' Exchange on October 29th, the text of which appeared in the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 110, page 98:—

SIR,

December 3rd, 1903.

I am directed by Mr. Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ult. and enclosure with thanks, and to say that he greatly appreciates the kind resolution passed by the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, and takes the opportunity to thank them for all the assistance they gave him during the period that he had the honour of holding the office of Secretary of State.

Yours obediently,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Esq.

J. WILSON.

The Tariff Reform League.

Mr. John Stroyan, M.P. for West Perthshire, whose name is well known in connection with our South African Colonies, was on November 25th unanimously elected Chairman of the Colonial Section of the Tariff Reform League, and now that the Committee has been fully formed and the Chairman appointed a policy of activity will be embarked upon. The Colonial Section will provide many notable speakers, including Mr. John Stroyan, M.P., Sir John Cockburn, Sir Westby Percival, Mr. W. J. Ellis of New Zealand and others, at Dulwich and Lewisham in view of the forthcoming bye-elections. It will be a cause for satisfaction to our friends in the West Indies—especially in Jamaica, with which Colony he is more particularly identified—to learn that Mr. E. A. de Pass has been elected a member of the Colonial Committee.

The Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad have signified their approval of the representation of the West India Committee upon the Tariff Reform League in the following resolutions passed on November 9th and 13th respectively.

"The Agricultural Society of Trinidad learns with satisfaction that Sir Nevile Lubbock, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. J. Rippon, and Mr. A. E. Aspinall have been officially nominated to represent the West India Committee upon the Colonial Committee of the Tariff Reform League, and heartily approves of the efforts being made to advocate the examination of the Tariff with the view to its employment to consolidate the Empire and to defend the industries of the United Kingdom."

"That this Chamber desires to support the objects of the Tariff Reform League, viz.:—'advocate the examination of the Tariff with a view to its employment to consolidate the resources of the Empire and to defend the industries of the United Kingdom'; and records its approval of the appointment of Sir Nevile Lubbock, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. J. Rippon, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall upon the Colonial Committee of the League."

The Rum Surtax.

In reading the following correspondence which has passed between the West India Committee and the Treasury regarding the above subject, it should be borne in mind that in addition to the 10/4 duty imposed by the Finance Act, 1902 part 1, section 5, there is also -/6 imposed by the Finance Act

of 1900, part 1, section 7, and continued from 1903 until August 1904, and -/6 due to Local Taxation Account by the 1890 Act, making a total of 11/4.

The West India Committee to the Treasury.

October 16th, 1903.

SIR,

I am desired by my Committee respectfully to draw your attention to the Finance Act, 1902, 2 Ed. 7, part 1, section 5, in which it is stated "As from the 17th day of June, 1902, the Customs Duty of 10/4 on imported spirits imposed by section 7 of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1881, shall as respects spirits other than rum and brandy be 10/5, and the allowances of 2d. and 4d. payable in respect of spirits under section 3 of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1815, and section 6 of the Finance Act, 1895, shall be respectively 3d. and 5d."

I am to ask you if you will be pleased to inform them of the reason for the alteration of the allowance on export from 2d. to 3d. in the 1902 Finance Act, and also why there is a difference between the amount of the allowance on spirits exported, and the countervailing duty on spirits manufactured abroad.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

The Treasury to the West India Committee.

Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, S.W.

29th October, 1903.

SIR,

With further reference to your letter of the 16th instant, I am desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to inform you that the allowances on export of British spirits were raised in 1902 from 2d. on plain spirits and 4d. on compounded spirits to 3d. and 5d. respectively, partly because of the imposition of the Duty on Grain, which constitutes the principal material from which Spirits are produced, and partly, indeed mainly, because it was held that the Distillers had shown that, apart from the Duty on Grain, the previous allowances were insufficient to compensate them for the increased cost of production due to the Excise restrictions under which they are compelled to work.

For this reason no change was made in the allowances when the Grain Duty was repealed by the Finance Act of 1903.

The Surtax of 5d. per gallon on imported spirits is fixed at an equivalence with the allowance on British compounded spirits, and not with that on British plain spirits, because, speaking generally, imported spirits compare in character with British compounded and rectified spirits rather than with plain spirits. This is true also in respect of rum and brandy, but in a somewhat less degree than in respect of other classes of imported spirits, and in consequence the Surtax on Rum and Brandy was in 1902 left at 4d. per gallon, a figure at which it still remains.

I am, dear Sir, your obedient Servant,

GEORGE H. DUCKWORTH.

The Rodney Memorial, Spanish Town.

The subject of our illustration this week is the stately Rodney Memorial, which graces Spanish Town, the erstwhile capital of Jamaica. A temple with a cupola and lanthorn supported on open arches, connected with the neighbouring buildings by a semi-circular colonnade on either side, shelters the statue of Rodney, by the elder Bacon, and forms a striking memorial of his victory over De Grasse, off Dominica, April 12th, 1782. The statue is flanked by two handsome bronze cannon, founded at Douai in 1748 by one Jean Maritz, taken from the "Ville de Paris," one called "La Precipice" and the other "La Modeste," bearing the following inscription:—

"Ultima ratio regum
Pluribus nec impar,
Louis Charles de Bourbon
Comte d'Eu
Duc d'Aumale."

When Spanish Town—the San Jago de la Vega of the Spanish, founded in 1523—ceased to be the capital of Jamaica, in 1872, the statue of Rodney was removed to Kingston, the new seat of Government, but such an outcry was raised by the inhabitants of Spanish Town, that it had to be replaced in its former resting place.

Supplement to "THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR," No. 112, Dec. 8th, 1903.

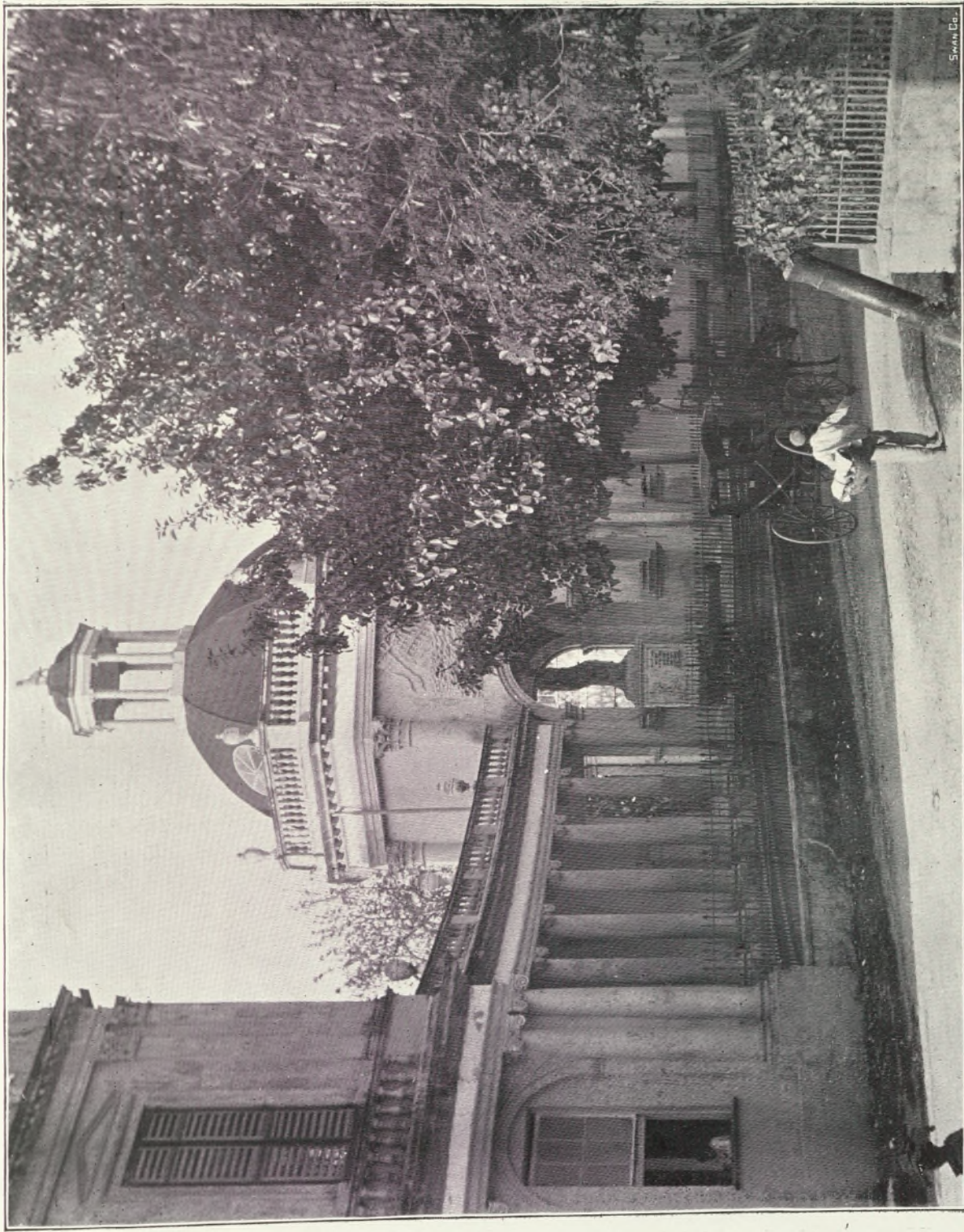


Photo by ALBERTUS E. ASPINGAL.

Copyright.

THE STATELY RODNEY MEMORIAL,
SPANISH TOWN, JAMAICA.

543

The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864-1903.*

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

The Third and Final Stage, 1889-1903.

Prohibition of Bounties by Act of Parliament.

"Free Trade," writes Professor Cairnes in 'Some Leading Principles of Political Economy,' is content to turn natural laws to the best account: it does not seek to transcend them; and in agreement with this great authority the late Mr. Gladstone wrote to the late Samuel Peters, the organizer of the Workmen's Anti-Bounty movement, "I cannot regard with favour any cheapness which is produced by the concealed subsidies of foreign states." But in 1889, although Lord Pirbright had secured the International Agreement already referred to for the abolition of bounties under the penalty of absolute prohibition—a penalty sanctioned by the Imperial Parliament in the Merchandise Marks Act of 1887—yet, so much opposition to the necessary Bill to give effect to the Convention was shewn, that Lord Pirbright, although the Bill was supported by Mr. Goschen, was not permitted by Lord Salisbury's Government to proceed with it in the House of Commons.

In the course of the public discussion which ensued, the late Lord Farrer (then Sir Thomas Farrer) was an uncompromising advocate of the policy of "laissez faire." But the late Duke of Argyll in a letter to the *Times* on the 5th June, 1889, and in subsequent letters, shewed that no principle of Free Trade was endangered by an international agreement to abolish bounties: on the contrary, that the "the misconception, the misstatement, and the misapplication of a great principle was not only an obnoxious but a most mischievous thing. Such in his opinion were those denunciations of the Sugar Convention which pretended to condemn it as contravening the doctrines of free trade." . . . "If mere cheapness, whatever be its cause and whatever be its incidents, was held up as the one sole aim and object of economic action—then adverse intellectual convictions would be as powerful against free trade as adverse special interests."

During the year 1889, the desultory attempts to put life into the Convention were gradually abandoned, and to the dismay and disgust of the Trades' Unions the only result of their efforts to put an end to the bounties had, through what one of their leading officers termed the "immoral cowardice of the Tory government" only served to reassure the foreign protectionists that they might safely ride rough-shod over the sugar industries of Great Britain and her Colonies. Early in 1890, Lord Pirbright received a large and representative deputation at Liverpool, and his speech in reply was marked throughout by a bitter sense of disappointment at the way in which he had been abandoned and the interests committed to his charge sacrificed. In the following year the West India Committee tried in vain to get Lord Salisbury to re-open negotiations for another conference: he declined, as well he might, to allow this country again to take the initiative. Equally barren in result towards the desired abolition were the remaining years of Lord Salisbury's administration. Passing on through Mr. Gladstone's and Lord Rosebery's administrations all that can be said is that the continental protectionists were making the best use of the liberty accorded to them of attacking an undefended and defenceless British Industry. The Marquis of Ripon, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, positively declined to receive a deputation from the British Colony of Antigua on the subject.

A crisis in the West Indies was fast approaching when in July, 1895, Mr. Chamberlain came into office on Lord Salisbury's accession to power as Secretary of State for the Colonies. When Mr. Chamberlain was in office during Mr. Gladstone's administration in 1880 as President of the

* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 111.

Board of Trade, he had been presented with one view of the bounty question: he had then become acquainted with everything which could be urged in favour of the policy of "laissez-faire." The other side of the question was now to come before him. He was the minister responsible for the Colonies as such he soon discerned that the sugar bounty system of the Continent must be dealt with on some other lines than that of "laissez-faire," and from that day the bounty system was doomed. He had immense difficulties to contend with because the long acquiescence of this country had created vested interests in this form of protection with vast sums of money at their command and the treasuries of continental Europe controlled for their support.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Consumption of Sugar in France.

The Committee of Senators and Deputies interested in the manufacture of alcohol, recently waited upon the French Minister of Finance, and submitted to him various suggestions for developing the consumption of sugar, and the use of alcohol rendered unfit for consumption. The deputation, we learn from the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* laid particular stress on the use of sugar for brewing, the exemption from duty of sugar used for feeding stock, and various questions as to rendering alcohol unfit for consumption. The Minister replied that he was inclined to favour the suggestions made, and that enquiry was being made as to how they might be rendered compatible with the necessity of preventing fraud.

Colonial Produce at Liverpool.

An Exhibition of Colonial Products is to be held in the St. George's Hall, Liverpool, on January 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th, next. Never, perhaps, in the history of this country has the question of Colonial reciprocity loomed more largely, and the time has arrived when the necessity of binding our Colonies to the Motherland appeals more strongly than ever before to the minds of the average citizen of Great Britain. It seems to be a matter beyond dispute that we have in our Colonies all the elements for making Great Britain self contained, and it is with a view to emphasise this point that the Exhibition is to be held. Sir Alfred Jones is the President, and Mr. Harry E. Jones and Mr. Albert Douglass, the joint managers, to whom all enquiries should be addressed at 26, Union Street, Liverpool. Many of our Members will doubtless avail themselves of exhibiting their produce at Liverpool, as they did at the Royal Exchange Colonial Exhibition in London.

The Administration of the Jamaica Relief Fund.

We give below a statement of receipts and disbursements by the Secretary of the Jamaica Hurricane Relief Committee, in connection with the Fund raised by the West India Committee for the relief of the sufferers from the hurricane in Jamaica of August last. This statement, which has been forwarded to us by His Excellency, Sir Augustus Hemming, Governor of Jamaica, is signed by Mr. B. J. Burton, Secretary of the Hurricane Relief Committee, who points out that on the closing of the General Fund, details of the allotments will be obtained from the parishes, and forwarded if desired. The additional sums sent in after the Fund was closed have been carried on to the credit of the General Fund.

547

The Jamaica Hurricane Relief Committee in account with the
West India Committee, London.

Dr.		£ s. d.	Aug. 22 to Oct. 26,		Cr.
1903.			1903.		£ s. d.
Aug. 22	To this amount, ad- vised by Colonial Bank	£1010 0 0	By Purchase of foodstuffs, freight, &c., to relieve ur- gent distress	£149 13 5	
" 28	" ..	1000 0 0	" Purchase of building mate- rials to repair houses of sufferers	81 12 5	
Sept. 2	" ..	2000 0 0			231 5 10
" 17	" ..	990 0 0	" Purchase of seed, corn, potatoes, peas, &c., to assist small cultivators...		335 13 9
" 19	" ..	1000 0 0	" Cash allotments to parishes to aid small cultivators, for re-housing sufferers, and restoring fields:—		
Oct. 26	" ..	261 19 7	St. Ann	550 0 0	
		6261 19 7	St. Thomas	800 0 0	
			St. Mary	1200 0 0	
			St. James	400 0 0	
			Portland	1100 0 0	
			St. Andrew	500 0 0	
			Trelawney	800 0 0	
			St. Catherine	345 0 0	
				5695 0 0	
		<u>£6261 19 7</u>			<u>£6261 19 7</u>

The Cotton Industry.

As will be seen from the extracts from letters of our hon. correspondents, which will be found on pages 157—8, the situation with regard to the Cotton industry was more favourable when the Mail left. The caterpillars had almost entirely disappeared. The planters have faced that pest most pluckily and it is satisfactory to learn that it has led to no abandonment of cultivation, the acreage under Cotton remaining practically the same, with prospects of a considerable increase next year. The current number of the *Agricultural News* contains several articles of interest pertaining to the Cotton Industry.

Among these is a communication from Mr. A. J. Jordan, the Agricultural Instructor of Montserrat who estimates that there are about 10,000 acres of land suited to the growth of Sea Island Cotton in Montserrat, which with a three years rotation would enable planters to have 3,300 acres annually in cotton. About 700 acres have already been planted in this Island and preparations are already being made to increase the area next season.

Sir Daniel Morris and Mr. Bovell appear to have gathered a large amount of valuable information during their recent visit to Carolina and Georgia and this will be made available to those interested in cotton growing in the West Indies as soon as possible. The general impression gained is that the soil in many parts of the West Indies is richer than the soils where Sea Island cotton is

cultivated in South Carolina and Georgia, and that the labour in St. Vincent, Barbados, Antigua and St. Kitts is more reliable than in South Carolina and Georgia.

Meanwhile the British Cotton Growing Association continues its labours. The annual report of this enterprising organisation contains the following references to the Cotton Industry in the West Indies.

"Many years ago our principal supplies of cotton came from the West Indies, but the cultivation of cotton was gradually supplanted by sugar. Now attention has again been turned to cotton, and the question is being taken up most energetically, and this revival is receiving every stimulus from the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies. Your Committee have had a very large amount of correspondence, both with individual planters and with Government officials. Sir D. Morris, the Imperial Director of Agriculture, is taking the deepest interest in the question, and has personally visited most of the Islands and also British Guiana, delivering addresses and advising the farmers to go largely into cotton. Accompanied by Mr. J. R. Bovell, he is now in the United States, making a special study of American methods of cultivation.

"Some excellent cotton has already been grown of Sea Island quality, and also of good stapled Uplands, and the Association has disposed of several consignments at very good prices, viz., Sea Island at 10½d. to 1s., and Uplands at 7½d., and there is little doubt that some of the very best cotton can be grown here. Your Committee decided to make a special grant of £400, and further advances have been made since. In addition, large quantities of seed gins and presses are being supplied by the Association. Your Committee are also considering the advisability of sending out one or more agents to arrange for the ginning, baling and marketing of the cotton, as most encouraging reports have been received, notably from Barbados and the Leeward Islands; and there is no doubt that a considerable acreage will be shortly put under cotton. British Guiana and British Honduras also offer suitable fields for cotton growing, and efforts are being made for planting on a large scale. One drawback is the cost of transport, as there is no direct line from the West Indies to Liverpool, but this will no doubt be remedied when a sufficient quantity of cotton is grown.

"Owing to the impoverished condition of the landowners who can hardly afford to wait without some return until their cotton is marketed, it may be necessary for the Association to arrange some system of advances on the growing crops. A conference was recently held at the Colonial Office, under the Presidency of the Duke of Marlborough, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, when the whole question was fully discussed. Several of the West Indian Governors were present, and the Association were represented by the President and Secretary. The question is at present engaging the serious attention of your Committee.

At an important meeting at Manchester on December 2nd, it was pointed out that, in view of the recurring shortages in the supply of cotton during recent years, and the consequent loss and suffering to the whole of the industrial community, it was absolutely necessary that no time should be lost in extending the cultivation of cotton throughout the British Empire, and expressed the view that it was imperative that the attention of the Government should be drawn to the importance and urgency of the question, Sir A. L. Jones said that in twelve months they would have very large supplies of cotton coming from South Africa and the West Indies. Mr. J. A. Hutton, said the supply of raw cotton had not increased to the growing needs of the world. The United States crop did not increase proportionately to the increased demand, and they could not look to America for any great addition to their supply in the immediate future.

In his speech at the Banquet on November 25th, the Duke of Marlborough was reported as referring to the West Indies supplying the British Market with some millions of bales of cotton per annum, this was an obvious mistake for "millions of pounds."

Mr. John E. Atkins the able Secretary of the British Cotton Growing Association informs us that several bales of Barbados cotton have been sold during the past week at 13½d. and 12½d. per lb., and for Montserrat at 12½ per lb., and adds that if more care were taken with the preparation of the cotton a higher price still could be reached. This is satisfactory, but Planters must not forget that the present high range of prices, due to the shortage of cotton, cannot continue indefinitely. Still, the margin of profit is a substantial one and cannot be wiped off in a moment.

An Opportunity for Capitalists. (Communicated.)

The Island of Nevis is perhaps the least known of the West Indies to which the advantages of steam communication have been extended, and yet there are internal evidences of pristine grandeur in the shape of still massive ruins of once historic mansions which recall the fact that in her halcyon days Nevis could boast herself the possessor of the largest white population among the lesser Antilles. There is no reason why this former condition of prosperity should not be in some measure restored if only the necessary capital could be attracted to develop the latent resources of the Island. The soil is fertile and capable of growing in the higher elevations (which are at present almost entirely uncultivated) cocoa, coffee, vanilla and such like, whilst even at the present moment a cotton industry is being started in the districts nearer the sea-coast. The climate also is salubrious to a degree; in the early part of the last century Nevis was the recognised health resort of the West Indies. Sufferers from gout, rheumatism and kindred complaints especially, deriving almost instantaneous relief from a course



The dismantled Bath House Hotel, Nevis.

of the hot baths which effected some almost miraculous but perfectly authenticated cures. I enclose a photograph of the old Bath House Hotel which will give your readers some idea of the extent and general magnitude of the building. I feel confident that were either the old hotel restored or a new edifice erected in the neighbourhood of the Thermal Springs which are but a stone's throw from the chief town (Charlestown) at which passengers disembark from the steamer, it would far better repay those in search of renewed health to visit this Island than to go in for the so-called cures at the various Continental health resorts where so many thousands of British money are annually expended to the aggrandizement of the foreign proprietors of those establishments. Nevis is only a fortnight's run from Southampton by Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamer and is well worth a visit; and who would not gladly escape the habitual inclemency of an English winter to revel in the genial climate, and bask beneath the azure skies of the sunny islet of the West.

C. A. S.

The proposed West Indian Produce Association.

Adverting to our letter on the above subject in our *Circular* No. 110, page 101, and to Mr. Edward R. Davson's admirable article on the Minor Industries of the West Indies, which appeared in our Special Edition (No 111, page 142), it gives us satisfaction to be able to announce that we have received a letter from the Under Secretary of State, to the effect that "Mr. Lyttelton has noted with much interest this endeavour to promote trade between the West Indian Colonies and this Country and he will be glad to learn in due course of such further action as may be taken in the matter."

Dominica Fruit.

A notable feature of the Banquet on November 25th last was the presence on the table of tropical fruits from Dominica which were collected and packed by the Dominica Agricultural Society as the Colony's contribution to the testimonial to Sir Nevile Lubbock. The general effect was distinctly pleasing, and it was curious to observe that while the characteristic note of English and temperate fruit is mainly red, that of the tropical fruit is with one or two exceptions entirely yellow. The relief on this occasion was afforded by the pine-apples, which as far as could be judged were a great success. The appearance of the fruit left nothing to be desired, each pine being of uniform size, symmetrical in shape and with "crowns" as well developed as the best that come from St. Michael's. Some, however, were rather dry. The most noticeable variety was the Maipuri with its diminutive crown, and large well defined eyes. If people would only abandon the superstition that a pine should have a crown the same height as the fruit, this variety should meet with a ready demand, as those I have tried are by far the most flavoured.

The packing medium (chips, shavings) was entirely satisfactory. Its springy texture leaves the fruit well protected, and allows of a free current of air through the crate, thus carrying off the superfluous moisture,

The oranges, lemons, limes and grape-fruit were apparently in perfect condition, and had just arrived at the proper stage of ripeness, the day they were unpacked. The Dominica oranges are quite the best that comes from the West Indies, and when the growing crop of Jaffas and Washington Navels come to maturity this fruit should form an important item in the island's exports. Of the limes, lemons, and grape-fruit it suffices to say that they were the finest specimens ever seen, and with expanding markets and improved conditions of transport, they should actively compete with the supplies of citrous fruits which now come to this country from the Mediterranean. It remains to be seen whether an organisation can be formed of sufficient influence to bring about this desirable competition.

Of this group perhaps the lemons are the most interesting as they are a product not usually associated with the tropics. If such fine fruit can be grown and shipped before the Sicilian crop, there is obviously an exceptional opening for a most remunerative trade, which will do much inductively to encourage the demand for fresh limes.

Touching the other delicacies which figured on the occasion under notice, the shaddocks were the subject of much favourable comment, and seemed to be well patronised by those at table. The papaws cut up well, and were in no way adversely affected by their long journey.

The carambolas were a bit of a curiosity, and the one I tasted had a peculiar acid flavour, recalling that of the carberry which is often met with in our gardens.

The avocado pears were rather disappointing, for they were all in a state of collapse, and had unfortunately turned into unrecognisable pulp. The ten mangosteens sent by D. H. Cyril Nicholls arrived in first rate condition and were much sought after. The consignment of Dominica fruit may therefore be considered most successful, and the energy and foresight of the Dominicans, to say nothing of their generosity, has been most favourably commented on.

D. M.

Cacao in the Samoan Archipelago.

Mr. Harold Hamel Smith has communicated to the *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale* for November an interesting article on Cacao in the Samoan Archipelago. Mr. Henri Jumelle in his work on the Cacao tree which was published in 1900, said that some planters were optimistic regarding Cacao in Samoa while others raised as an objection the scarcity of labour, the volcanic nature of the soil and the prevalence of rats. Mr. Smith points out that all these conditions hold also in the West Indies. The soil is volcanic in Trinidad, Grenada and Dominica; and Trinidad beside rats has also squirrels to contend with, in spite of which that Island sends to the London market increasing quantities of Cacao. Everyone in Samoa attaches the greatest importance to the rising Cacao industry, and apprehensive of the danger of the introduction of Cacao diseases which ravage some of the principal producing centres the authorities have thought it necessary to prohibit the importation of seed, rendering it thereby impossible to introduce new varieties and thus improve the quality of the crop. It is thought by some, however, that this prohibition will prove useless, and in any case it applies only to the German Islands. These however include Upolu and the capital Apia. Tutuila being under the United States is not subject to this prohibition.

The first Cacao trees in Samoa came from Java. Cacao is cultivated as largely at Upolu the chief Island as at Savai the largest Island of the Archipelago. The total area planted in Cacao is estimated at rather over 2,000 acres of which half will come into bearing in a year or eighteen months time and the rest a year later. It is impossible to say what the production will be in five or ten years time as plantations are constantly being laid out.

Coal Discovery in Honduras.

A recent report by the United States Consul at Tegucigalpa, states that a discovery of a large bed of coal has been made in the mountains of the Department of Yoro, in Honduras. Expert examination and test of several samples of the coal taken from or near the surface establish the claim that it cokes with excellent result, but coal taken from a depth of two feet or more exhibited much better qualities, being firm and lustrous. It is therefore believed that at a depth of 50 to 100 feet the deposits should be found to possess all the requisites of first-class coal.

The results of the examination, adds the Consul, seem to warrant the opening of these mines. As there are no other coal fields of value in that part of the continent, the exploitation of this property should carry with it profitable returns, as well as inaugurate a new industry in a region now but sparsely populated. The projected railways, and such lines as are now in operation both in Honduras and the adjoining Republics, would receive direct impetus through the opening of these coal fields.

In this connection it may be noted that steps are being taken to appoint an Hon. Correspondent of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE in British Honduras.

The West Indian in London.

There is no question about it, the Banquet to Sir Nevile Lubbock was an unqualified success but as a special number of the *Circular* has been devoted to chronicling the event, much further allusion to it is unnecessary. Still one cannot help remarking upon the spirit of good fellowship that was rife throughout the whole entertainment, and it is this *esprit de corps* that holds us together in our more serious business which proves so invaluable in promoting the welfare of the Colony, an end to which all are striving so unceasingly.—The increased interest taken of late years by the Mother Country in the West Indian possessions must be regarded with the greatest satisfaction. Hardly a day passes now on which some subject of importance relating to these Islands is not discussed in the daily Press; whereas in former days there was a tendency to leave them in the anomalous position, taking into

consideration their tropical situation, of "out in the cold."—With the deaths of Sir J. Blundell Maple and Prince Soltykoff occurring in the same week, the English Turf loses two of its staunchest supporters. Racing as they did for pure love of sport, and not regarding the thoroughbred as a mere gambling instrument, their influence in the racing world was a salutary one, and the gap made by their disappearance will be hard to fill. Although Prince Soltykoff bore arms against us in support of his own nation in the Crimea, he came to this country very soon after peace was proclaimed and he threw in his lot with it practically to the day of his death.—"Grain or Chaff"? is the title of an autobiography of Mr. Chichele Plowden which has recently been published by T. Fisher Unwin. Mr. Plowden is the well known Police Magistrate of Marylebone Police Court, whose witticisms while dispensing justice constantly infuse a touch of humour into the somewhat gloomy reading of the Police Reports. This same light touch is appreciable in the work in question, and the reminiscences of one who has had so vast an opportunity of studying human nature in so many phases cannot fail to be interesting. There must be still many West Indians who can recollect the author as private secretary to an aforesaid Governor of Jamaica.—During the past fortnight a slightly healthier tone has pervaded the Kaffir market in the Stock Exchange. This improvement was no doubt due to the Rand Labour Commission showing a majority in favour of imported Chinese labour. The upward tendency, however, was only temporary; and shareholders who are anxiously waiting the long expected boom must curb their impatience till John Chinaman makes his actual appearance in South African territory.—On December 1st our Most Gracious Queen celebrated her birthday, and to those who noticed her stately carriage and youthful appearance in the procession on the occasion of the recent visit of the King and Queen of Italy, it seems hardly credible that she can be entering on her sixtieth year. —By the time this number of the *Circular* reaches its oversea supporters, Christmas will be with us. On a retrospect of the year that is now so near its close the Committee cannot but congratulate themselves on the success of their efforts, which after so long a struggle have affected the Abolition of Bounties. That the Christmas of our readers may be happy and that the forthcoming year may be prosperous for them is the heartfelt wish of

THE WEST INDIAN IN LONDON.

Notes of Interest.

OUR SPECIAL NUMBER. The Special Number of the *West India Committee Circular*, (No. 111) dealing with the Banquet and Presentation to Sir Nevile Lubbock, has met with a most gratifying reception and is already almost out of print. Copies are however still obtainable at 6d. each.

BARBADOS PROPRIETORS. A largely attended meeting of Barbados Proprietors was held at the West India Committee Rooms yesterday. The resolution adopted on September 28th last, regarding the £80,000 grant in aid (1902) was re-affirmed. A report of the meeting will appear in next issue of the *Circular*.

THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR JOURNAL. *The International Sugar Journal* for December, Vol. V., No. 6. Aittrincham, Manchester, contains articles of great interest on "Maceration of Bagasse," "The Choice of Normal Weights in Saccharimetry," etc., etc. Further articles from the pen of Mr. H. C. Prinser Geerligs, the well-known Java Sugar Expert will shortly make their appearance in this admirable publication.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB. Sir Henry K. Davson is to be the guest of the West Indian Club at a dinner on Wednesday next, December 9th. The chair will be taken by Sir Walter Sendall, G.C.M.G., and the arrangements are in the hands of Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. S. Parker, and Mr. A. E. Messer, from whom, or Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Hon. Secretary, further particulars can be obtained.

THE GRATEFUL RUM TRADE. Mr. Frederick Henry Dumas Man has been the recipient of a handsome piece of plate from the Rum trade as a mark of their appreciation of the tact and ability, displayed by him, in so conspicuous a degree, in the recent negotiations with the London and India Joint Docks Committee, to secure more favourable terms in respect of the charges leviable upon imported rums. The memorial accompanying the gift was signed by the following firms, Messrs.

Alfred Lamb and Son, Messrs. John J. Anderson and Co., Ltd., Messrs. H. C. J. Feist, Messrs. Portal Dingwall and Norris, Messrs. Thos. Lowndes and Co., Messrs. C. W. Eves and Co., Ltd., Messrs. Brown, Rosenheim and Co., Messrs. Spackman and Dent, Messrs. H. C. Fulcher and Sons, Ltd., Messrs. Henry Faber and Co., Messrs. Twiss and Browning, Messrs. Lancaster and Bull, and Messrs. Reinachs, Nephew and Co.

West Indian Securities.

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on September 3rd). 2½ % Consols, 88½ xD.

				Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Div.	Price.
Antigua ...	4 %	inscribed Stock, 100, 1919-44	103					
Barbados ...	3½ %	" " " 1925-42	99	Stock. Imperial Direct West India				
British Guiana...	4 %	" " " 1935	110	Mail Service Debentures	100	4½ %		85-89
Grenada...	4 %	" " " 1917-42	100	West India & Panama Tel. Company ...	10	Nil.		76 9/16
Jamaica ...	4 %	" " " 1934	106	Direct West India Cable Co. Debentures	100	4½ %		99-102
St. Lucia ...	4 %	" " " 1919-44	102	New Colonial Co. Pref.	5	5 %		24-34
Trinidad ...	4 %	" " " 1917-42	102	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company...	100	6 %		91-96
Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Div.	Price.				
20 Colonial Bank ...		6	6 %	4½-5	Stock. Demerara Railway Co. ...	100	Nil.	15-20
100 Royal Mail Steam Pckt. Co.		60	Nil.	24-26				

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Orinoco" anchored off Plymouth at 1.35 p.m. on Thursday, December 3rd, and the mails were delivered in London by the first post on the following day. Captain Davies, the Commander of the "Orinoco" reports that from Barbados to the Azores he experienced a very heavy head swell and seas and then strong N.W. winds. Hard squalls and heavy swell and sea kept down the speed of the ship, thereby causing the late arrival at Plymouth. The "Orinoco" left Barbados twelve hours late. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Maria" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, November 14th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "Orinoco."

Antigua.—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, November 18th. The weather had been far too dry for the time of the year, and in consequence a certain amount of "arrow" was making itself apparent in the cane fields. At the time of writing, however, the weather seemed rather more unsettled, with occasional light showers. The canes throughout the island were green and healthy looking, but were generally backward, especially in the windward districts, where they were very backward, owing to the poor, irregular season. Crops would be late, and unless they got good rains from then on to the end of the year it would be below the average perhaps also. Mr. George M. Stuart, of Messrs. Henckell, Du Buisson & Co., and Mr. Scott Herriot, of the Mirlees Watson Co., of Glasgow, were in Antigua in connection with the erection of the larger central factory. Mr. Herriot had been "prospecting" for a suitable site, but just where he had decided upon as most favourable, was not known to the writer. The cotton crop looked promising in some places and "patchy" in others, no doubt they would find out a lot about growing it to better advantage with longer experience. The caterpillar seemed to be out of season. The onion crop had been coming on very fairly, but more rain was needed for the transplanting.

Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, November 20th. Following the example of recent years, but quite contrary to what used to be the case formerly, November promised to be a very dry month. The writer was fortunate to get a nice rain of 2.28 inches at Porters, from an overhead cloud on November 6th, and since then had had nearly an inch more from various showers, but the majority of Estates had marked hardly 1.50 for the month to date, and not nearly that in the north part of the island. It was to be hoped that they would have some copious showers soon. The canes were forward and vigorous, and the display of arrows was marvellous. The caterpillars seemed to have disappeared from the cotton fields, but it was difficult to estimate what damage they had done. He did not expect that the gathering would come up to what had been anticipated. The onions were progressing, but were not yet ripe. There had been a meeting at the Planters' Hall on November 13th, which was largely attended, to discuss the ultimate disposal of the £80,000 grant. November 9th being Mail day, the Bank holiday and King's Birthday were kept on the 16th, when the Governor gave a dinner to the chief officials and heads of departments.

British Guiana.—A Summerson, Esq., November 18th. A meeting of the Combined Court took place on the 6th inst. (*The Demerara Daily Chronicle* and *The Argosy* give details of what took place.—A. E. A.) The Governor, with the Bishop and Mr. McTurk had gone on a visit to the Rupuruni district on the Brazilian frontier, and were expected to be away about six weeks. Mr. Ashmore, who returned that Mail, would act as Deputy-Governor while His Excellency was away. After an interruption of about three weeks, telegraphic communication with Trinidad had been restored on the 13th inst. The sugar market had been on the downward move the whole fortnight, and that week collapsed altogether: buyers would not give more than 1.85 on that day. The rains reported in his last letter did not continue. They had a few light showers during the early part of the fortnight, but it had since been dry, and canes to be cut in May and June were feeling the effects of this. The coolie ship "Clyde," which sailed from Calcutta on the 29th July last, was in command of Captain W. S. Smith, and Dr. J. Hazard, surgeon superintendent, in charge of 642 East Indian immigrants on board. The "Clyde" took from Calcutta 389 men, 171 women, 22 boys, 35 girls, 8 male infants, and 15 female infants: that was a total of 640. Five men died at sea and one female infant; six male infants and six female infants were born: but three of the former and one of the latter died, so that the classification of the immigrants who arrived is: 384 men, 171 women, 35 girls, 11 male and 19 female infants, giving a total of 642 as stated, equal to 594½ statute adults.

Dominica.—E. A. Agar, Esq., November 19th. The Hon. S. R. Pemberton had again been appointed Acting Puisne Judge, and the Hon. F. B. B. Shand, Acting Assistant Attorney General in the former's place. The coasting steamer "Yare" had been taken off for a few weeks to be repaired, and was much missed by the residents on the windward coast. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. had put on the "Exe" from Grenada, in her stead, but she was too small for work except on the leeward side; they were, however, grateful to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. for putting on the "Exe." A movement was on foot for forming a local branch of the West India Committee in Dominica. His Honour the Administrator gave a ball at Government House on the 11th November, in honour of the King's Birthday. As every one who could possibly manage it came into Roseau for this annual function, there was no better time for noticing the increasing number of settlers. On this occasion, the increase was most noticeable. The weather during the fortnight had been very wet.

Jamaica.—An important conference was held at the Jamaica Institute on November 12th, with reference to cotton cultivation. The Governor presided, and Sir Daniel Morris made an important speech. (A report appears in the *Gleaner* and the *Daily Telegraph* of November 13th, which can be seen at the Committee Rooms.—A. E. A.) It was expected that the quarantine restrictions against Trinidad would be removed at an early date. Jamaica oranges were fetching a good price in New York, but fruit was very scarce.

Montserrat.—Conrad Watson, Esq., November 18th. His Excellency Sir Gerald Strickland arrived on the 5th inst., and the following day addressed a meeting of those interested in the cultivation of cotton. His Excellency made an offer to obtain for, and advance to cotton growers up to £2 per acre on cultivation, in amounts of about 10/- at a time according to work done, provided proper security was given. Good showers of rain had fallen during the fortnight.

Nevis.—Hon. C. Arthur Shand, November 14th. At a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on the 12th inst., a resolution was unanimously passed regretting Mr. Chamberlain's enforced retirement from the Cabinet, and expressing the hope that he would be restored to political power with the full consciousness that he had practically demonstrated the advantage which was likely to be derived by the adoption of his fiscal policy. He was glad to be able to report that the Society referred to above had not up to the present displayed any diminishing energy, and the meetings were quite representative. The cotton industry had had a hard battle to fight with the numerous insect pests that had endeavoured to fasten on to its vitals, but he was thankful to say that excepting in the cases of one or two small peasant growers, not an acre that had been sown had up to that time been abandoned, and the greatest credit was due for this result to the growers, seeing that any appreciable diminution in the area planted would have had a most disastrous effect on the future of the industry. The writer only hoped that the results of the venture might lead those who had acted as pioneers in extending their cotton cultivation next year, and in enlisting fresh recruits.

St. Vincent.—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., November 20th. Much indignation had been caused amongst the better class of people by the action of the authorities with regard to Georgetown, the second town in importance to Kingstown, which had practically been abandoned by the Government by the removal of the Magistrate's Office and Post Office, and the closing of the Port as a port of entry.

Trinidad.—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick and Edgar Tripp, Esq., November 20th. The Agricultural Society on the 10th inst, and the Chamber of Commerce passed resolutions expressing approval of the appointments made of representatives of your Committee to the Colonial Committee of the Tariff Reform League. The Chamber of Commerce had under consideration at its last meeting several matters of importance to the colony, among others the statements made by Mr. McVeagh at the Hague Tribunal; the proposed scheme for a floating dock; the proposal to issue Government Currency Notes; and Messrs. Coode and Matthew's harbour scheme. Mr. Ernest A. Northcote, for many years Puisne Judge in Jamaica had been appointed Chief Justice. The weather continued too dry, the sugar estates being well ad-

vanced and in the height of the flowering season were not suffering much, but the cocoa planters were complaining. At the beginning of this month many estates commenced picking, but had to stop: the pods would not ripen owing to the continued dryness. Some seasonable showers were necessary, and if these happened the estates ought to be in full picking about the 15th December. On account of the weather prices had strengthened during the fortnight, and nearly all the cocoa available for sale, about 200/300 bags of "Estate" cocoa changed hands at from \$14.25 to \$15 according to quality, for the United States market. At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on November 13th, the following resolution regarding the stamp duties was adopted:—"That in view of additional taxation in other directions imposed or about to be imposed in Port of Spain, this Chamber is of opinion that the stamp tax which falls with special severity upon the commercial community, and which was introduced and agreed to on grounds since proved to be erroneous, might fairly be remitted."

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), December 7th. "Seasonable weather."
British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), December 4th. "Weather very dry, rain much wanted."

Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
British Guiana—	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Jan. 1 to Nov. 17, 1903	89,597	118,362	—	18,901	4991	3509	72,602	8079
" " 18, 1902	91,011	97,533	—	22,901	3360	1215	87,576	10,615
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
April 1 to Oct. 31, 1903	8073	16,120	18,736	878,184	13,068,460	45,754	7,363,203	42,201,250
" Nov. 1, 1902	12,498	8583	40,332	1,509,609	15,783,336	86,093	9,786,136	38,449,767
Trinidad—	Bags & Brls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.	Tres.	Brls.
Jan. 1 to Nov. 18, 1903	382,357	26,512,070	42,120	1143	11,349,317	3573	178	166
" " 18, 1902	449,774	28,423,490	39,840	1259	11,328,756	3408	141	236
								Asphalt.
								Tons.
								167,501
								142,029

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Orinoco," December 3rd, 1903—**Barbados**.—Mr. Buquet. **Demerara**.—Mr. H. Cooke, Mr. Sugars, Dr. J. Hazard, Mr. J. Muban, Mr. S. D. Dolphin, Mr. W. A. Browne, Mr. C. M. Burgess. **Jamaica**.—Mr. H. S. Hammond, Mr. A. W. Taylor, Miss Organ, Mr. E. Addar. **Trinidad**.—Mr. W. B. Harrison, Mr. G. Mellor, Mr. Aked, Mr. J. Fenton, Mr. A. Ghani, Mr. A. Karin. **Antigua**.—Mr. W. Scott-Herriott, Mr. K. Parry. **Grenada**.—Major A. C. S. Bayley.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Atrato," December 9th, 1903—**Barbados**.—Miss E. Holt, Miss Mather, Miss Da Costa, Miss Templeton, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. P. Frankland, Capt. Ferris, R.N., Mr. A. Benwell, Capt. E. Pusey, R.N., Mrs. Bourner, Miss Bennett, Mrs. Gwyther, Mr. E. Wilding, Mr. C. Hopkins, Mr. J. A. Irwin, Mr. C. G. Bois, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton, Mr. and Mrs. Sankey, Mr. and Mrs. Thorne. **Demerara**.—Mr. L. Henry, Mr. H. Gurney, Mrs. G. Marshall, Mr. R. A. Barclay, Mr. J. Clayton. **Jamaica**.—Miss C. Lighton, Mrs. Lowe, Dr. and Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Wickham, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Smith, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. C. P. Scholes, Mr. M. Lyon, Mr. H. C. R. Saunders, Dr. A. Bastian, Mrs. Rapsey, Mr. J. M. Carvalho, Mr. and Mrs. Friese, Capt. and Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Elliott, Miss Chandler, Mr. E. Nash, Mr. W. Lawrence, Mr. E. Pinzo, Miss E. Levy. **Trinidad**.—Miss Lynch, Mr. J. de Gannes, Mr. R. de Gannes, Mr. J. A. Rapsey, Mr. E. Coryat, Mr. W. J. Fuller, the two Misses Maloney. **Antigua**.—Mr. W. J. Douglas, Mr. E. Jarvis, Hon. E. A. Foster. **Dominica**.—Mr. E. L. and Miss Agar. **Grenada**.—Miss Rosa Lewis, Mr. H. Ross.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," December 23rd, 1903—**Jamaica**.—Captain J. Mackenzie, Mrs. Borella, Miss Neist, Mr. E. Ker-Scymer. **Trinidad**.—Mr. and Mrs. Borroughes. **Dominica**.—Miss Duffield. **St. Lucia**.—Mr. and Mr. Wells Durrant.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Maria," Nov. 25th, 1903:—Lieut. H. Stewart Harrison, R.N., Mr. E. Moore, Mr. R. Nosworthy, Mr. A. Saint, Mr. A. A. H. W. Wedderburn, Mr. H. J. Woodhouse, Mr. James Kennedy, Mr. Frank Richardson.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Antonio," Dec. 5th, 1903.—Mr. J. F. Abraham, Miss L. Jones-Bateman, Mr. A. Mrs. and Miss Blackie, Mr. E. F. Broughton, Mr. N. Byerly, Mr. A. W. L. Clark, Miss Croft, Miss C. K. Croft, Mr. K. Deveson, Ven. Archdeacon Downer, Mr. F. S. Ferens, Mrs. and Miss Forster, Mr. R. Hay, Mr. Fisher-Jones, Miss Josephine Leighton, Mr. McMonies, Mr. C. E. Maples, Mr. J. Maples, Miss G. Nevatt, Miss S. E. Nevatt, Mr. Neubille, Mr. and Mrs. Norris, Mr. J. J. dePombo, Mr. P. Rattray, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Reed, Miss Robertson, Miss E. Robertson, Mr. Allan Robinson, Mr. James R. Sloan, Miss M. G. Sloan, Mr. Otto Sottberg, Mr. Thomas, Mr. N. Thompson, Mr. T. A. Brydae, Mr. R. B. Godfree, Mr. W. H. Norrae, Mr. E. W. Richardson, Corpl. Howell, Mr. and Mrs. Pitt.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," December 19th, 1903.—Mr. J. S. Downing, Rev. Ellis Fray, Dr. L. Clifford, Mr. and Mr. Lamb, Master and Miss Lamb, Rev. W. Pratt, Mr. J. J. Spencer.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—M. Licht has made no alteration in the total estimate of the present beet-root crops, which he leaves at 5,850,000 Tons, against 5,560,000 Tons last season, or say an excess of 290,000 Tons, which by now has all been probably consumed on the Continent in filling up gaps caused by the reduced internal tax created on the 1st September last. Impartial observers are of opinion that the crop figure of 5,850,000 Tons may possibly not be reached, and every deduction of 50/100,000 Tons goes at least some way towards reducing the glut of sugar forced on the world during the currency of the lately abolished Bounty and Cartel systems, and for this we may as well be thankful. In M. Licht's last figures it will be seen he has slightly increased the estimates from "admitted" countries, the total under this head being 4,240,000 Tons, against 3,960,000 Tons last year, and which excess, as has above been stated, is no doubt by now consumed. Three elements in viewing the future of sugar are of first importance, viz., price, consumption on the Continent under the reduced duties, and the probable sowings for season 1904/5. The first item admits of no doubt about its being below the cost of production, and if it so remains next spring, the third question of sowings will be influenced thereby. The second problem of increased consumption can only be solved by time, but it is fair to assume that it will continue to display more or less expanding proportions, which will be very useful as time goes on. The increasing growth of Cane sugar and the heavy undigested stocks will to a certain extent block the way to any immediate improvement in prices, but so sensational is the market for speculative bargains in 88 % Beet, which to a large extent regulate quotations of all sugar, that next spring, if sowings are in reality curtailed, prices would quickly respond to the reduction, when all would at once be well. For this, too, we must be content to wait. The Market, with constant fractional fluctuations, remains much the same as last Mail, viz.:—Dec., 8s. 4½d.; Jan./Mar. 8s. 6¾d.; April/June, 8s. 9½d.; and Aug., 8s. 11¾d.; with Oct./Dec., 1904, 9s. 1½d., all free on board Hamburg.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	Tons.
Europe	1,980,000	1,850,000	1,600,000	1,270,000	1,220,000	
United States	100,000	180,000	130,000	70,000	210,000	..
Cuba	120,000	70,000	30,000	—	10,000	..
Cargoes afloat	90,000	60,000	20,000	40,000	80,000	..
Total	2,290,000	2,160,000	1,780,000	1,380,000	1,520,000	
Comparative prices of 88 % for 5 years:—	8s. 4½d.	8s. 4¾d.	7s. 1½d.	9s. 8¾d.	9s. 1d.	

Crystallised Sugar.—There has been a steady demand for "yellows" from 15s. 6d. to 16s.; with moderate quantities of fine Sugar 16s. 3d. to 16s. 6d., and inferior grades, 15s. 3d.; the value of average qualities being 15s. 9d. For a cargo of 96 % centrifugals, possibly 9s. 4½d. could now be obtained from Cane Refiners.

Molasses Sugar—Badly wanted, values ranging from 11s. 6d. to 15s. **Muscovado.**—Out of season and quotations nominal. A cargo of 89 test would command about 8s. 3d. in bond on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan. 1903.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	Tons.
Imports to date	22,000	57,000	43,000	38,000	
Deliveries	38,000	40,000	38,000	37,000	..
Stocks	12,000	29,000	14,000	6,000	..

Rum.—Is without any improvement, and there is scarcely any business passing. The value of fair Demerara is 9d.; Standard Marks of fair Home Trade Jamaica 1s. 9d.; with 7d. to 10d. for Cuba Rum.

London Figures to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	Puns.
Imports Jamaica	8600	13,300	10,500	10,000	
Demerara	9500	15,500	14,700	11,100	..
Stocks Jamaica	10,100	11,700	9000	8800	..
Demerara	6000	6400	4000	3500	..
Total of all kinds:— Stocks	26,113	28,376	..	Deficiency, 2,463 Puns.	

Cocoa.—A very dull tone continues to prevail in this Market, and prices of West Indian mark a decline of 1s. to 2s. for the fortnight. The present nominal values are: Trinidad fair collected, 63s., Estate Marks, 64s. to 70s.; Grenada fair, 53s., fermented, 58s. to 62s.; fair Native Cocoa from other Islands being worth about 51s., with fermented 53s. to 58s. Fermented African can be bought at about 56s. on full landed terms delivered at the usual United Kingdom Ports.

Stocks in London:—1903, 52,000; 1902, 61,000; 1901, 83,000; 1900, 92,000 Bags.

Coffee has an improving tendency and Santos for this month's delivery is now quoted 32s. 6d., or an advance of about 7s. 6d. from the recent lowest point. **Rutmegs.**—Easier. Sales of West India 62's at 2s. 4d.; 77's at 1s. 10d.; 85's at 1s. 7d.; 100's at 11d.; 120's at 9½d.; 130's at 8d.; 140's at 5½d.; and in shell, 7d. **Nace**—Steady. Fair to good pale, 2s. 4d., 2s. 6d.; reddish, 2s. 1d., 2s. 2d., with broken 1s. 10d., 1s. 11d. **Pepper.**—Lower, fair having sold at 3½d., and good at 4d. **Ginger.**—Irregular. Jamaica, fair, bright small sold at 48s., 50s.; good ordinary 41s., 43s.; common 36s., 38s. **Cotton.**—Large speculative operations in America render reliable quotations almost impossible. December delivery about 6½d., and fair West India nominally 6½d. **Arrowroot.**—Dull. Some moderate lots of fair manufacturing have been sold at 1½d., a price which is difficult to obtain, with better quality 1½d.

London Figures to 30th Nov. 1903.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	Brls.
Imports	13,937	17,375	18,311	24,797	
Deliveries	13,024	12,044	19,679	19,007	..
Stocks	13,164	13,050	6832	8321	..

Lime Juice.—Slow, unchanged. Nominal, value 10d. to 1s. 1d. per gallon;—Concentrated, about £12 15s. per cask of 108 gallons; Distilled Oil, steady at 1s. 5d. per lb.; Hand Pressed, very slow and difficult of sale, value about 2s. 6d. per lb.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Ent. Stationers Hall.]

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 1903.

No. 113.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Seasonable Greetings	161	Imperial Department of Agriculture	168
The Tariff Reform Movement	161	To Honour Sir Henry Davson	169
Cuban Reciprocity Bill	163	M. Yves Guyot and the West Indies	170
The Sugar Bounties Agitation— <i>continued</i>	163	The West Indian in London	171
A Barbados Meeting	164	Notes of Interest	172
The Quarantine Conference	164	West Indian Securities	173
English Harbour, Antigua	164	The Homeward Mail	173
New Members of the West India Committee	165	Weather Telegrams	175
Jamaica Oranges	166	Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad	175
Colonial Reports—Trinidad and Tobago	166	The Mails	175
“ “ Grenada	168	The Produce Markets Summary	176

FULL PAGE ILLUSTRATION: THE DESERTED DOCKYARD, ENGLISH HARBOUR, ANTIGUA.

Seasonable Greetings.

Once more it becomes our agreeable duty to wish our Members the Compliments of the Season. When last we had this pleasure our Christmas message was conveyed in a Circular containing eight pages only: but now we greet 219 Members more than last year in a Circular double the size of that issued in December, 1902. The reason for this gratifying state of affairs is to be found in the loyal co-operation of our Members, who by bringing forward fresh candidates for election to the West India Committee have enabled us more than to fulfil the hopes of expansion which we have so frequently expressed in these columns. From a single sheet, the *West India Committee Circular* has developed into a sixteen page paper; from a single room in Billiter Square we have moved to spacious premises in Seething Lane, which have become the rendezvous of West Indians in this country. Upon the work of the Committee during the past year we need not dwell at present, suffice it to say that when the annual report is presented early in the New Year, we venture to think it will be found to be a record of a year's work of exceptional utility. But we have by no means reached the limits of our expansion as yet, and if our Members stand by us in the future as they have in the past, and each individual Member of the Committee will endeavour to enrol at least one new Member during the New Year, who knows what further advantages we may not be able to offer to our Members in the coming year? If they will endeavour to do this, a task which should not prove a difficult one, they will feel that they are materially helping to bring about that co-operation which it has ever been our object to attain, and are doing their best to further the objects of the Committee: "The promotion of the welfare of our West Indian Colonies."

The Tariff Reform Movement.

Since last we went to press, the prospects of Mr. Chamberlain's ultimate success have been materially enhanced by the substantial majorities by which Major Coates and Dr. Rutherford Harris were returned to Parliament on the 17th inst., at the bye-elections at Lewisham and Dulwich respectively. Before the poll, the Duke of Devonshire issued a manifesto, to the effect that no Free Food Unionist should give his support to a Tariff Reform Candidate. This amounted, practically, to a declaration of war, but the Duke now finds himself on the horns of an awkward dilemma; for

the result of the elections tends to show that either the Free Food Unionists are a negligible quantity, or that they deliberately disobeyed his orders.

On December 16th Mr. Chamberlain resumed his campaign by addressing an immense meeting at Leeds. The important feature of his speech upon this occasion was his announcement that a body of economic and business experts from all parts of the Empire would at once be formed to draft a schedule of Tariff Reform. We extract from the *Times* the following summary of his speech upon this occasion.

He observed that most of his critics answered one another, and some of them even answered themselves. It was true that they included some ex-Chancellors of the Exchequer; but even Mr. Ritchie was not entitled to more authority than was to be derived from the fact that he had been for a few months under the influence of the permanent officials of the Treasury. Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to argue that free trade was not an inspired doctrine. The great mistake in Cobden's policy was that it had not led foreign nations to follow our example. These nations had protected themselves and shut us out, and were using the strength thus obtained to invade our markets. After dwelling on the symptoms of decay in our foreign trade, he asked why we should not deal with them because the orators on the other side believed in our unparalleled prosperity, and were therefore content with a policy of doing nothing. The country, they were told, was prospering, but the amount of business done in the Clearing-house was not the true test of a nation's prosperity. The test was the condition of labour, and it was a fact that the peril lay in the future. When our industries were all destroyed, should we find a refuge in jam and pickles? Other nations were making tariffs to shut us out; let us make a tariff. Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to outline the plan which had been decided upon by the Tariff Reform League. They were forming a non-political commission of experts to consider the condition of our trade and the remedies to be found for it. It would comprise leading representatives of every principal industry, representatives of India, of the Crown Colonies, and of the great self-governing Colonies. After hearing witnesses from every trade, it was going to frame a model tariff which they could put before the country and on which the country could express its opinion. But there was a greater question behind—that of the future of the Empire. They had before them the possibility of establishing a commercial bond, and posterity would never forgive them if they lost the chance of securing what was a national need, and not a party policy. The Free Food League had swallowed retaliation with wry faces; they were ready to deal with dumping and unfair competition, but they would have nothing to do with drawing the bonds of the Empire together. Recent events had shown that they were not a powerful party, and that even an encyclical from the Duke of Devonshire did not possess pontifical authority. Mr. Chamberlain closed by declaring that he was for splendid isolation—not that of an individual weakened with years, but of a family standing together through good and ill. That might be a dream, but they had the power of making it a reality. Mr. Chamberlain afterwards addressed an overflow meeting.

It was subsequently announced that the following had already accepted Mr. Chamberlain's invitation to serve on the Tariff Commission to which he referred in his speech. Mr. Charles Allen, Mr. Charles Booth, F.R.S., Mr. Richard Burbidge, Sir Vincent Caillard, Mr. J. J. Candlish, the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P., Mr. J. Howard Colls, Mr. William Henry Grenfell, M.P., Mr. F. Leverton Harris, M.P., Sir Alexander Henderson, Bart., M.P., Sir Alfred Hickman, Bart., M.P., Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., Mr. Arthur Keen, Sir W. T. Lewis, Bart., Mr. A. W. Maconochie, M.P., Mr. W. H. Mitchell, Mr. Alfred Mosely, C.M.G., Sir Andrew Noble, Bart., K.C.B., the Hon. Charles Parsons, F.R.S., Sir Walter Peace, K.C.M.G., Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, Sir Charles Tennant, Bart., Mr. S. J. Waring, junr., Mr. John Arthur Corah, Mr. J. Henry Birchenough, Mr. R. H. Reade, D.L., and Sir J. Turney.

The Cuban Reciprocity Bill.

The Cuban Reciprocity Bill passed the Senate on the 16th instant and will become law almost immediately. It becomes, therefore, of the utmost importance to West Indians to develop other markets than that of the United States. In this connection it is satisfactory to note the increase of trade with Canada, while additional weight will be lent to our request to the Colonial Office that in considering the question of the new contract for the Canadian Mail Service greater carrying capacity should be provided and provision made for extra steamers during crop time. Mr. John Farr, writing to us from New York on December 4th, said that on the announcement of the date for the discussion in the Senate on the Cuban Reciprocity Bill, and for the past week or so, a heavy business had been done both in old and new crop sugars from Cuba, prices ranging from $3\frac{5}{8}$ cents duty paid to $2\frac{7}{8}$ cents C. & F. for .96 test, or equal to 3.57 duty paid. "At the regular rate of duty this means an equivalent of 1.91 to 1.94 C. & F. for West Indian sugars, or a decline of about $\frac{1}{4}$ -cent from the prices paid earlier in the season. There has, however, been quite an active demand for Demerara and Java sugars for arrival in December, and about 26,000 tons of Demeraras have been sold to the United States and Canada at $2\frac{1}{16}$ cents to 2 cents C. & F., and about 25,000 Javas at about $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents C. & F. This confirms my opinion that when there is an absence of pressure from Cuba, the prices of other sugars will depend on the supply and demand, for at $2\frac{1}{16}$ cents C. & F., the price at which the bulk of the Demerara sugars were sold, they practically sold on the parity at which Beet sugars could have been imported, and within $\frac{3}{16}$ -cent of the price paid for Cuba sugars for shipment, so that so far as this crop is concerned, the Treaty has not made very much difference. It is thought that when Cuba is in full swing, prices will decline to $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents duty paid for .96 test, which will be unfortunate for the Island crops."

The Sugar Bounties Agitation, 1864—1903.*

A RETROSPECT: BY W.P.B.S.

The Third and Final Stage, 1889—1903—*continued.*

On Mr. Chamberlain's accession to office as Secretary of State for the Colonies, representations from Governors and petitions from public bodies in our West Indian Colonies made clear the condition of distress among all classes owing to the long continued crisis in the sugar industry. Unless a serious political and social catastrophe was to overwhelm the West Indies, some prompt action against the cause of all the difficulty was imperative. Government by party and on party lines has its advantages, but in matters requiring judicial impartiality, existing methods of party government tend to hinder and confuse the solution of questions which in matters of commerce and industry, ought to be decided on with as little delay as possible after the facts have been ascertained. And yet in spite of official statements of responsible Governors of the West Indian Colonies, to the effect that the unfair competition of bounty-aided sugar from the continent of Europe was causing the distress then prevalent; and although all such statements were a complete corroboration of the findings as to facts, inferences, and deductions of the Select Committee of the House of Commons of 1879; yet a persistent and disputatious party opposition, associated with the Cobden Club's interpretation of free-trade, an interpretation long dominant in the official sphere of the Board of Trade, so divided public opinion, that the Government hesitated to submit measures to Parliament in order to terminate the bounty system by an act of the Imperial legislature.

Not only from the West Indies were complaints forthcoming: our sugar industries in India, Mauritius, Queensland, and other places were directly affected, and only special circumstances averted the intensity of the crisis being felt there to the same degree as in the West Indies. In December 1895, at the Colonial Institute under the presidency of Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, K.C.M.G., Mr. Justice Condé Williams of Mauritius, read an exhaustive and interesting paper on "The Future of our

* Continued from "The West India Committee Circular," No. 112.

Sugar Producing Colonies": the author expressed his opinion that the future of cane sugar would be one of assured prosperity when it was freed from the subsidized competition of what was after all a very inferior rival. He urged in the meantime that the cane sugar interests should do their utmost to promote a public taste for pure cane sugar.

The public seem at times to forget that the growth or the decline of any national industry has effects upon large circles outside those actually engaged in the particular industry: that the profits made in any one industrial group, constitute the incomes of other industrial groups and of members of the professional, art, literary and artisan classes. As the West Indies, the inalienable heritage of the people of this country, began to decline under this foreign exaction, so areas of their tropical wealth became useless to our own people: the industrial workers suffer first; and as they, unsupported, give way, the public loss follows:—When the industry is destroyed, the nation's loss is complete.

The agitation kept this aspect before the public. Still there was discussion and no decision: no measures: "laissez-faire" reigning supreme. Then to close finally all discussion, Mr. Chamberlain, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, secured the appointment of a Royal Commission.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

A Barbados Meeting.

As we briefly announced in last Circular, a Meeting of Barbados Proprietors was held at the West India Committee Rooms, on Monday, December 7th. Sir Nevile Lubbock occupied the Chair and there was a representative attendance, those present including:—Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. Eversley, Mr. T. W. Wilkinson, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, The Rev. R. Hart, Mr. H. Jackson, Mr. Haynes, Mr. James Inniss, Col. W. A. Collings, Col. A. H. Nourse, Lt.-Col. F. C. Trollope, a representative of Mr. T. C. Garth, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

A considerable discussion took place regarding the £80,000 Grant-in-Aid, 1902, in view of a resolution recently adopted by the Agricultural Society in Barbados, and the following resolution adopted by the West India Committee on September 28th was then re-affirmed:—"It appearing that the sum voted by the Imperial Parliament on July 31st 1902 to the West Indies, was as a Free Grant for the express purpose of enabling the sugar plantations to tide over the emergency period during which the abolition of bounties was suspended by the Brussels Convention, and that the sum of £80,000 was appropriated to Barbados for this purpose":—

Resolved.—"That the Government of Barbados be appealed to in favour of the passing of an Act, distributing the grant of £80,000 between the plantations under cultivation for the sugar crops of 1902, and that it is suggested as a fair ratio of distribution, that the average of the crops for 1900, 1901, and 1902, the basis adopted in British Guiana and other Colonies be taken, and further that the distributive share to which each plantation is entitled, should be shown by certificates issued in such form as to be negotiable."

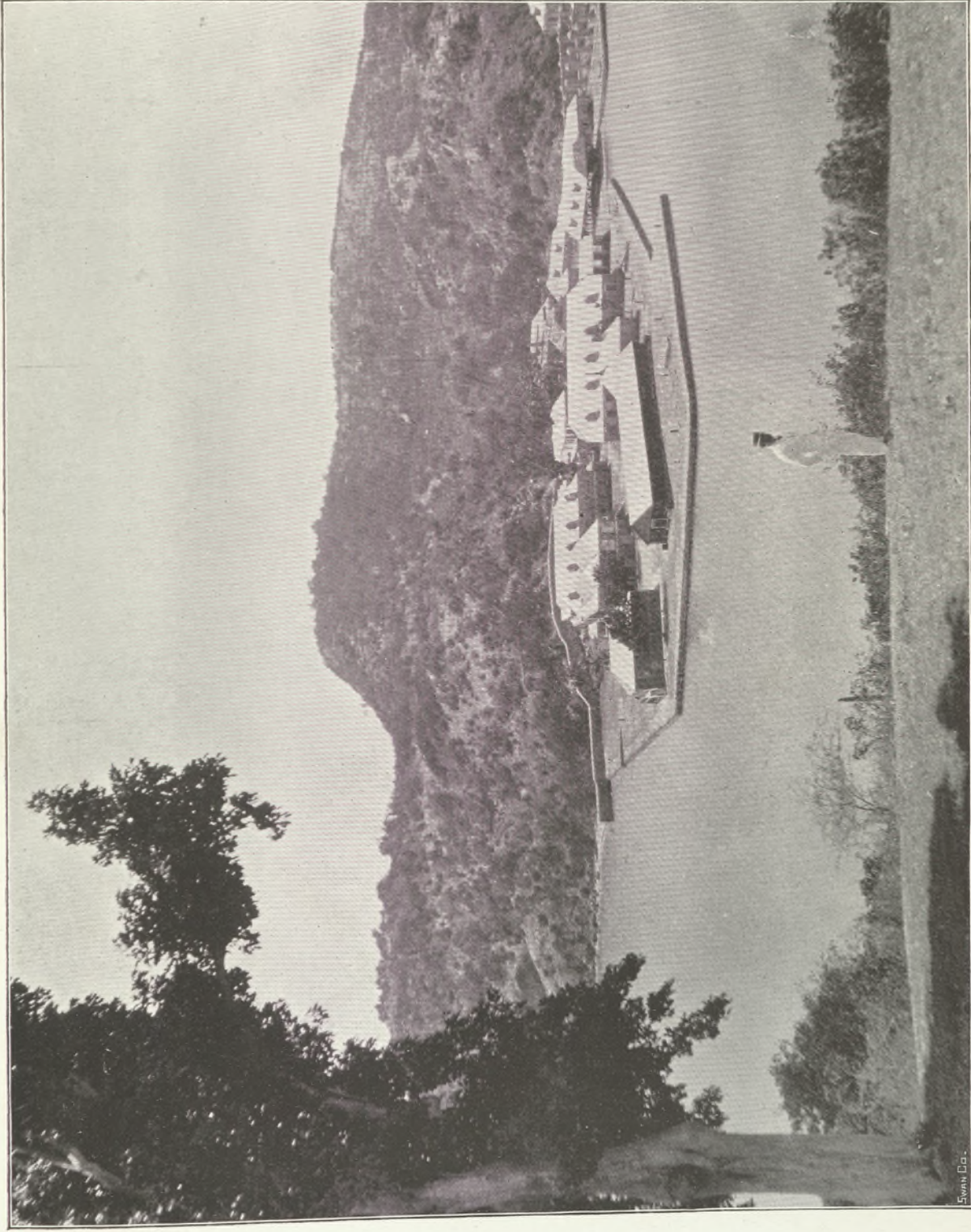
The Quarantine Conference.

We learn from the Colonial Office that arrangements are now almost complete for the Conference to be held regarding Quarantine Matters in the West Indies. The Conference will meet in Barbados, in April next, and a representative of the Local Government Board will shortly go out and visit all the West Indian Colonies, with a view to preparing for the Meetings.

English Harbour, Antigua.

In the Minutes of a Meeting of the West India Committee held on August 23rd, 1805, Sir Richard Neave, Bart. in the chair, the following entry appears:—

Resolved: That the prompt determination of Lord Nelson to quit the Mediterranean in search of the French fleet; his sagacity in judging of and ascertaining their course; his bold and unwearied pursuit of the combined



SWIN Co.

Photo by ALGERSON E. ASPINALL.

[Copyright.]

THE DESERTED DOCKYARD,
ENGLISH HARBOUR, ANTIGUA.

French and Spanish squadrons to the West Indies and back again to Europe; have been very instrumental to the safety of the West India Islands in general, and well deserve the grateful acknowledgments of every individual connected with those Colonies.

Resolved: That a Deputation from the Committee of Merchants of London trading to the West Indies, be appointed to wait upon Vice-Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, to express these their sentiments, and to offer him their unfeigned thanks.

And the following gentlemen were named as a Deputation accordingly: The Chairman (Sir Richard Neave, Bart.), Mr. Beeston Long, Mr. Samuel Long, Mr. Manning, Mr. Blackman, Mr. Samuel Turner.

At a further Meeting held on October 18th, 1805, Mr. Beeston Long presiding, the Chairman reported that the Deputation appointed at the Meeting on the 23rd August last, had waited upon Lord Nelson with the Resolutions of that Meeting, and that the following letter had since been received from Lord Nelson by Sir Richard Neave.

Sir.

London, August 28th, 1805.

"I beg leave to express to you and the Committee of West India Merchants the great satisfaction which I feel in their appreciation of my conduct. It was, I conceived, perfectly clear that the combined squadrons were gone to the West Indies, and therefore it became my duty to follow them.

But I assure you from the state of defence in which our large islands are placed, with the number of regular troops, numerous, well disciplined and zealous militia, I was confident not any troops which their combined squadron could carry, would make any impression upon any of our large islands before a very superior force would arrive for their relief.

I have the honour to remain, Sir and Gentlemen,

With the highest respect,

Sir Richard Neave, Bart.,

Your most obliged and obedient Servant,

and the Committee of West India Merchants."

NELSON AND BRONTE.

In connection with these Resolutions and letter from Lord Nelson the illustration which we give of English Harbour, Antigua, will be of special interest; for it was there that Lord Nelson refitted his ships during his memorable pursuit of Villeneuve to the West Indies and back. How different the dockyard must have looked in those days, with its bustling activity! Now it is deserted and desolate, and for many years past even the Royal Mail steamers have forsaken English Harbour for St. John's. Our view is taken from Clarence House, a substantial residence erected by English masons for the Duke of Clarence—afterwards William IV—when he was Admiral in command of the West Indian station, and now the country residence of the Governor of the Leeward Islands. The house is perched on the hillside, from which one looks down on the red roofs of the yellow dockyard buildings which stand out on a promontory with zig-zag edges sharply cutting the deep blue waters of this land-locked harbour.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on December 10th, Sir Henry K. Davson presiding, the following gentlemen were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

NAME.	PROPOSER.	SECONDER.
CHARLES LOW WALKER, Esq. (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass, Esq.	W. Goodwin, Esq.
ALBERT C. SHILLINGFORD, Esq. (Dominica)	Hon H. A. A. Nicholls, M.D., C.M.G.	E. L. Marshall, Esq.
CARL WIETING, Esq. (British Guiana)	Sir Henry K. Davson.	Edward R. Davson, Esq.

Full particulars regarding the Committee, and forms of application for Membership may be obtained from the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. We have at present on our list of candidates for election 28 names.

Mr. Charles Adamson Smith has been appointed and has consented to act as our Hon. Correspondent in St. Kitts.

Jamaica Oranges.

It must have struck everyone what a large number of Jamaica oranges have appeared in the fruit shops this season. In an incredibly short space of time the public have been educated up to the fact that beauty is only skin deep, and that the ruddy oranges of Spain can in no way compare for sweetness and luscious taste with the pale variety from Jamaica. Regarding the orange trade of the year, the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* for November says that "The orange trade this year has been good, and we have observed far more careful methods used, and more generally than in years gone. In Boston and New York markets we saw Jamaica oranges opened up in excellent eating condition. It is becoming known there, what we know here, that our oranges may be quite green and yet be full and juicy. The further hanging on the trees necessary to yellow them, also mellows the flavour, and makes them sweeter and sweeter, until along about February and March, after a spell of dry sunny weather, they become rather too sweet for northern tastes. We are eating every day full green oranges which are not at all too acid, but quite sweet enough for our taste, and they are sweeter than the first Spanish oranges which arrive in British markets sometime in November, yet which are quite yellow. It is a pity all the same that our oranges do not colour up quickly, for a good colour is very attractive, but if the markets understand and will take what we have, that is at least comforting. Shipping full green oranges is of course quite a different thing from the shipments of hard unripe fruit that have often been carried on. It is gratifying to know that the Navel oranges appearing at shows so far have shown a deep rich colour, just what we desire."

Colonial Reports—Trinidad and Tobago.

It is satisfactory to find that the Colonial Reports for 1902-3 are making an earlier appearance than those for 1901-2, of whose belated appearance there was good cause for complaint. The Report of Mr. W. M. Gordon, the Acting Colonial Secretary of Trinidad, on the Blue Book of that Colony for 1902-3, No. 407 (for the summary of report for 1901-2, No. 382, see *West India Committee Circular* No. 93) is now before us. The following table shows the totals of Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:-

	Revenue.	Expenditure.		
1898 ...	£615,371	£640,952	£25,581	Deficit.
1899 ...	681,339	672,590*	8,749	Surplus.
1900 ...	698,939	659,079*	39,860	Surplus.
1901-2 ...	712,294	731,160	18,866	Deficit.
1902 3 ...	788,404	737,045	51,359	Surplus.

We append a table showing the value of the principal exports and the total value of exports, exclusive of bullion and specie, for the past five years.

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901-2.	1902-3.
Sugar ...	£602,045	£715,428	£552,158	£453,304	£414,396
Cocoa ...	812,272	898,389	978,632	953,287	1,078,498
Asphalt ...	113,829	152,046	177,460	159,044	170,563
Total Exports	2,189,731	2,419,475	2,547,673	2,435,318	2,437,843

* Sums of £73,561 and £37,801 spent in 1899-1900 on account of unissued balance of the authorised loan have been deducted.

The following extract from the Annual Report of the Collector of Customs sums up the general position of the trade of the Colony during the year, in its relation to the external and exceptional circumstances which undoubtedly influenced it:—

"Trade during the last financial year enjoyed an unprecedented degree of prosperity, which is to be explained by reference not only to the steady development of the Colony itself, but to a combination of other circumstances. The dislocation of administration in Venezuela reduced to a minimum restrictions upon our exports to that country, and in some notable respects upon its imports to Trinidad. The visits of a quite unusual number of warships of several nations during the year also gave a stimulus to business. The existence of small-pox in Barbados led the Royal Mail Company to make this Colony their headquarters for a time, and brought to us by this and other channels much of the trade of other islands. The excess of imports was, therefore, to a great extent reflected in increased exports. How far this expansion may prove temporary time alone will show, but though some of its sources have been removed, contraction is at yet perceptible to a very slight extent; and the gratifying fact is manifest that our over-sea trade has permanently outgrown our provision for handling it."

During the year 2348 Indian immigrants were introduced, the majority of whom are reported by the Protector of Immigrants to be much superior in physique to those received for some years back; 750 immigrants were returned to India by the "Mersey," taking with them earnings amounting to £9222. The Government Savings Bank Returns show a total sum of £102,629 to the 5646 East Indian depositors, or an average of £18 3s. 6½d. per head, on the 31st December, 1902. In addition to this, small sums amounting to £2416 were remitted to India during the year by 853 immigrants, while a large amount of money belonging to East Indians is believed to be invested in the Colony in cane farming and rice planting.

The year 1902-3 ended, as it had begun, in sadness. On the 23rd of March a deplorable riot took place, during which the Government buildings, a fine block known as the Red House, in which were situated all the principal offices, with exception of those of the Treasury, Audit, Customs, Public Works, and Immigration Departments, were destroyed by fire, all records, except those contained in the fire-proof vaults of the Registrar-General, being consumed. The prompt assistance rendered by Captain C. Hope Robertson, R.N., C.M.G., in landing strong contingents from His Majesty's ships "Pallas" and "Rocket," which were fortunately at anchor in the harbour, prevented further disorder, guards being immediately placed at the Banks, Treasury, and other places, and public confidence restored. The grateful thanks of the community are due to Captain Robertson. In striking contrast to the depressing events with which the year began and ended, the financial condition of the Colony, and the steady growth of its material prosperity, afford evidence of its natural resources and of the energy and industry of its inhabitants.

A new industry was started during the year by the establishment of the works constructed by a Canadian Syndicate for the extraction of petroleum or "pitch" oil, as it is locally termed, at Guaya-guayare, in connection with which a large sum of money has been invested in laying down machinery, and which promises to be a successful undertaking. Another industry, that of the mining of manjack, or glance pitch, has also been prosecuted with considerable success at Marbella and Vistabella in Naparima, 566 tons having been exported during the year.

Tobago, which in 1899 was made a Ward of Trinidad, shows satisfactory progress. This, according to a report by the Warden, is to be attributed mainly to the plying of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co's contract steamer "Spey" round the Island, and to the facilities offered by her regular visits and by the services of the "Produce Agent" who accompanies her, for the ready disposal of stock and vegetables.

Regarding the recent epidemic, Mr. Gordon says: "During the year an eruptive fever of a mild character made its appearance in Port-of-Spain, which was diagnosed by the medical officers as chicken-pox, or varioloid varicella, the cases coming, it is believed, from the towns of Yrapa and Guiria in Venezuela. In the early part of the present year (January, 1903), the disease began to show symptoms of becoming epidemic. The neighbouring Colony of Barbados, which had maintained through-

out that the disease was small-pox, sent a Special Commissioner to Trinidad to report on the nature of the epidemic, and he reported it to be small-pox, and in the month of December the Colony was quarantined by St. Thomas, followed later by similar action by the other West Indian Colonies. It may be mentioned that the number of deaths up to the present date (26th September, 1903) has been 28 out of a total of 5120 cases, a proportion of under '6 per cent., or six per 1000."

Grenada.

The Report of Mr. Edward Drayton, the Administrator of Grenada, on the Blue Book for 1902, No. 404 (for the summary of report for 1901, No. 376, see *Circular* 88, page 3) records the steady progress which is being made by that prosperous Colony. The financial position is shown by the following comparative table of revenue and expenditure for five years :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
1898	£62,875	£57,612	£5263 <i>Surplus.</i>
1899	68,757	59,359	9398 "
1900	70,363	62,718	7645 "
1901-2	70,075	65,490	4585 "
1902-3	72,803	68,669	4134 "

From the details of the Revenue, it appears that satisfactory increases are shown under nearly every head except customs, which shows a falling off. The following table shows the value of the principal articles of export for the past five years :—

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Cocoa	£227,655	£234,611	£269,931	£265,979	£268,211
Spices	22,107	21,761	30,153	26,714	25,522
Cotton and cotton seed...	3134	2641	4622	4905	4069
Live stock	1211	1088	1133	1147	1082

The record for the year 1902 is one of continued progress.

For a summary of other Colonial Reports for 1902-3 we would refer readers to the following *West India Committee Circulars*. St. Vincent, *Circular* 110, page 106; Barbados, *Circular* 108, page 72.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The homeward Mail has brought us a budget of most useful publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which include: *The Agricultural News*, Vol. II, No. 43, price 1d. This contains a report of the recent Conference held in Jamaica on November 12th between the sugar planters and Sir Daniel Morris. A summary of a paper read at the Commercial Hall, Barbados, on December 4th, by Sir Daniel Morris and Mr. J. R. Bovell, regarding the improvement of Barbados molasses and other articles of general interest, the compilation of which reflects credit on Mr. W. R. Buttenshaw, the Editor. *Sugar Cane Experiments in the Leeward Islands*, Part I, price 6d. This is the report of Mr. Francis Watts, the indefatigable Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist, on experiments with varieties of sugar cane, &c., with appendices of chemical selection of sugar cane. *Seedling and other Canes in the Leeward Islands*, 1902-1903, pamphlet series, No. 27, price 2d. From this it appears that both at Antigua and St. Kitts, seedling cane B. 208 again heads the list in this year's series of experiments. Among plant canes at St. Kitts, the Caledonian Queen this year has practically the same amount of sugar. Mr. Watts remarks of B. 208: 'This cane therefore commends itself highly to planters in these islands on account of its good field characters, and the ease with which sugar

567

can be manufactured from it. It also retains its excellent character when judged as a ratoon cane.' B. 109 again comes second in the list at Antigua. The *West Indian Bulletin*, Vol. IV., No. 3, price 6d. This number is devoted entirely to cotton: a large amount of valuable information has been gathered together from various sources, which should be of great interest to cotton growers in these Islands. The papers contained in this issue are:—'Cotton Cultivation in the United States'; 'The Origin and Distribution of Sea Island Cotton'; 'Varieties of Sea Island Cotton'; 'The Improvement of Sea Island Cotton by Seed Selection'; 'Cultivation of Sea Island Cotton'; 'Cotton Cultivation in the West Indies'; 'The Agricultural Chemistry of Cotton'; 'Fungoid Diseases of Cotton,' and 'Insect Pests of Cotton.' It will thus be seen that the Imperial Department of Agriculture is endeavouring to place before planters in the West Indies information on all matters connected with cotton growing. Much of this information has been gathered by the Experiment Station workers and others in the United States, and will serve to indicate the amount of labour expended on the improvement of the cotton industry in that country. Under the title of 'Cotton Cultivation in the West Indies,' are brought together particulars, furnished by officers of the Department and planters, of the first efforts to cultivate cotton at St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, and Barbados. In the article on 'The Agricultural Chemistry of Cotton,' compiled by Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, interesting information will be found as to the composition and uses of the various portions of the cotton plant. An account is given of the manufacture of cotton seed oil and the feeding and manurial value of cotton seed products. Special attention is called to the papers on the pests of cotton. Planters are urged to make themselves familiar with the insect and fungoid pests and their methods of control, in order that they may be in a position to recognize and combat them. Complete descriptions are given of the pests and the appearance of infected plants. All these publications can be purchased at the West India Committee Rooms.

To Honour Sir Henry Davson.

Sir Henry Davson was guest of the evening at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, the 9th inst., in honour of the Knighthood conferred upon him on November 9th as Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee and a former Member of the Court of Policy of British Guiana. There was a large gathering of members of the Club and their friends, including Sir Walter Sendall, G.C.M.G., who occupied the chair, Mr. J. Arnold, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. F. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. C. E. Davies, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Mr. Fowler, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. W. H. Greaves, Mr. J. D. K. Hill, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Mr. E. Kynaston, Mr. J. McNeil, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. A. E. Messer, Colonel Millar, Mr. J. Moir, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. J. Shephard, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. B. Smith, Mr. Faunton, Mr. Westwood, Mr. Chas. Wilson, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. T. B. Younger.

The usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured, Sir Walter Sendall, in proposing the "Guest of the Evening," referred to the services which Sir Henry Davson had rendered to the West Indian Colonies. Speaking in particular of British Guiana, Sir Walter said that while he was Governor of that Colony he had good reason to appreciate the assistance which Sir Henry Davson had rendered so ungrudgingly to the Government. The Colony of British Guiana also was not lacking in appreciation, for from the papers received by the mail from Berbice it appeared that the announcement of the honour conferred upon Sir Henry Davson had been the signal for general rejoicings in New Amsterdam. He, therefore, asked the company present to join with him in drinking the toast, with which he coupled the name of Lady Davson.

The toast having been drunk with the utmost enthusiasm and with musical honours, SIR HENRY DAVSON replied by thanking the Chairman for the exceedingly kind way in which he had proposed the toast, and for the equally kind and cordial manner with which it had been received. He was much touched by their hearty congratulations on the honour which His Majesty the King had been pleased to bestow on him and he regarded himself as the favoured medium of the Royal recognition of the West Indies and British Guiana at a time when a new light had come over the country and Imperialism had become the prime factor in a bond of union between the Colonies and the Motherland. Sir Henry referred to the vicissitudes through which the West Indian Colonies had passed, both commercially and socially, expressing the hope that the present period would be known in contemporary history as the "Revival of the West Indies," and he complimented the West Indian Club on the good work they had done in bringing together in various ways those interested in the West Indies on this side and those who visited this country from the other side. He congratulated the Club on the rapid progress it had made during the short period of its formation, and on having increased its numbers that day to four hundred. In concluding he referred to the great honour he felt it to be entertained by the Club and to have his health, coupled as had so gracefully been done with the name of his wife, proposed by one who was so highly esteemed in this country, and whose name, as well as that of Lady Sendall, was so affectionately remembered in the various Colonies over which he had administered.

The toast of "The Chairman" was then proposed by Mr. W. P. B. Shephard and received with enthusiasm, and Sir Walter Sendall having replied, the dinner was brought to a conclusion and the company adjourned to the Club rooms, where Sir Henry Davson received personal congratulations from many friends, old and new.

Monsieur Yves Guyot and the West Indies.

At the request of some of our Members we give below a translation of Monsieur Yves Guyot's courteous and graceful remarks at our Banquet on November 25th. They were as follows: "Mr. Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, my Lords and Gentlemen, I am deeply sensible of the honour which you have done me in inviting me to the Banquet which the West India Committee are giving this evening to Sir Nevile Lubbock. Owing to circumstances which I have no need to call to mind here, Sir Nevile Lubbock has been good enough to remind you that he and I collaborated in one common work, the Brussels Conference, and if that Conference proves favourable to the British West Indies it has also the privilege of being favourable to France, to Germany, to Austria-Hungary, to Belgium, and to Holland, which countries that Conference has set free from heavy charges which they could in no other manner have escaped. To-day, this work is accomplished. I am present this evening at this Banquet at the very moment when many Members of the British Parliament are being received by their French colleagues. Who would have believed it possible? Who would, only two years ago, have suggested it? But since then great events have happened, the voyage to France of the King, your "great ambassador," and the cordial reception which M. Loubet received in England have dispersed all the clouds. No political party in my country can any longer have "Anglophobia" for its platform. Not only do extended financial relations bind these two nations together in many mutual interests, but during the last two centuries they have collaborated together by their scientific and literary genius in promoting all the great works which have contributed so much to the intellectual and moral progress of humanity.

With good will to understand each other, all difficulties may be dissolved, and on both sides of the Channel this is the common experience. But still more, the West India Islands demonstrated their profound feeling of mutuality when the Martinique disaster occurred. Rest well assured that my

countrymen remember that it was the British West Indies who rendered the first aid to the victims. In the name of the guests I thank Sir Cuthbert Quilter for the welcome which he has extended to them, and I associate myself with the toast of the health of Sir Nevile Lubbock, and I wish the West Indies long and great prosperity."

The West Indian in London.

On the whole, the fortnight has been an uneventful one, if we may exclude the fire at Sandringham and the merciful escape of Her Majesty, the Queen. The outbreak was first discovered by Miss Knollys, one of the Ladies-in-waiting, underneath the floor of her bedroom which was immediately above that occupied by Her Majesty. Queen Alexandra, on being hastily warned of the existing danger, had scarcely time to leave the apartment when the ceiling fell in with a crash.—Great uncertainty continues to prevail as to the situation in the Far East and it is the hope of all that the threatened war between Russia and Japan will be averted, and it is felt that the British Government have effected a coup by the purchase of the two Chilian cruisers, upon which both Bear and Jap had cast longing eyes.—The present is a season appropriate to the giving of feasts, and for the second time within a short period the West Indian circle has foregathered to do honour to one of their leaders. The dinner given by the West Indian Club to Sir Henry Davson was in every way a success. On December 18th, Sir Henry received the accolade at Buckingham Palace.—Mr. George Hughes is to be congratulated on the fact that the first prize and champion cup for fat beasts at the Maidstone show was obtained by one fed on Molascuit.—The 3rd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers are due to leave Barbados for Cape Town on the 3rd inst. They will be replaced by the 4th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.—It seems a pity that something cannot be done to revive the Rum industry, but now that whiskey has become the fashionable stimulant, there is not nearly the demand for the former produce as in days gone by. Its popularity in the early part of the century is immortalised by Byron, who in Don Juan asserted "There's naught no doubt so much the spirit cheers as rum and true religion."—On December 12th, Sir Hubert Jennings delivered an eloquent and instructive lecture at Queen's College, Harley Street, on the subject of Alexandre Dumas, père, the novelist. The French Ambassador was amongst the deeply-interested audience.—Now that the departure of the West Indian Mail train has been fixed for the more convenient hour of 11.35 a.m., Waterloo Station every alternate Wednesday has become a rendezvous for many of those who have ties connecting them with the West Indies. Among those on the platform to witness the departure of the last mail train was Mr. F. I. Scard, who was the recipient of much good-humoured chaff; his robust appearance belying in a striking manner the sensational report which recently appeared in a Barbados paper to the effect that he was lying seriously ill!—Captain Molyneux Montgomerie, Grenadier Guards, and Mr. Roger Kennaway have booked passages on the S.S. "Trent," which sails on January 6th. Their object is to visit their properties in the islands of St. Kitts and St. Lucia respectively. Captain Montgomerie was lately A.D.C. to General Trotter during his command of the Home District, and also took part in the Chinese Expedition. Mr. Kennaway, who played in the Harrow school eleven not many years back, should receive a hearty welcome by West Indian cricketers.—Field Marshal Lord Roberts emphatically denies the report circulated by an evening paper that he has any intention of prematurely resigning the office of Commander-in-Chief.—There was a good turn out of West Indians at the Colonial Institute meeting on Tuesday, December 8th, when Sir Nevile Lubbock, who is slowly recovering from a sharp attack of gout, occupied the chair, and Dr. Alfred Hillier read a paper on "Fiscal Policy." Among those present we noticed Mr. George Hughes and Mr. W. P. B. Shephard.

Notes of Interest.

OVERSEER'S REGISTER. Estates Managers and Proprietors requiring overseers are informed that arrangements have been made for a list of applicants for such posts to be kept at the West India Committee Rooms. All enquiries regarding it should be addressed to the Secretary, West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

THE BARBADOS RAILWAY. We understand that the Companies interested in the Bridgetown and St. Andrews' Railway Co., Ltd., have authorised the liquidators to continue the running of the Railway until after the crop season. They are however fully determined that unless the Railway is purchased by someone before that date, to discontinue working, and to sell the materials, etc., etc

THE ANTIGUA CENTRAL FACTORY. The arrangements for the Antigua Central Factory have now been completed, and a site has been chosen on Gunthorpes Estate about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from St. Johns. The plant is to be capable of making 3000 tons of Sugar in the season, and the contract for supplying it has been secured by the Mirrlees Watson Company, Ltd.

PROPOSED PRODUCE ASSOCIATION. The replies to our circular letter on the subject of the proposed West Indian Produce Association so far received are very favourable. Sir Daniel Morris, whose opinion must carry very great weight, writes, "I am of opinion that such an organisation, if well organised and heartily supported by all the leading people in these Colonies, would be calculated to be of great and permanent benefit to the West Indies."

OUR WESTERN EMPIRE. The interest in this monthly journal, which is devoted to the development of trade between Great Britain, Canada, and the West Indies, is well maintained. A useful feature of the December number, which we have received through the courtesy of the Editor, is the list of West Indian tariffs, which will prove invaluable for reference purposes. An article, "Canada Month by Month," gives a record of the Dominion's progress, and the fiscal campaign of Mr. Chamberlain is summarised in diary form.

THE LATE MR. J. E. KERR. With deep regret we record the death of Mr. J. E. Kerr, which occurred at Richmond Hill, Montego Bay, Jamaica, on November 27th last. Mr. Kerr was formerly a Member of the Executive Committee of the West India Committee, and only resigned that position in May last, owing to ill health. He was senior member of the well-known firm of Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co., of Montego Bay, and was one of the pioneers of the fruit industry of Jamaica. Mr. Kerr was universally respected, and his death will be a loss to the Colony with which he was so long associated.

AFTERNOON MEETINGS. It is proposed in the New Year to inaugurate a series of Afternoon Meetings at the West India Committee Rooms, when papers will be read and discussions take place regarding topics of interest relating to the West Indies. The first of these meetings will be held at 3.45 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9th, when Dr. John S. Flett, M.A., D.Sc., F.G.S., has kindly consented to read a paper on "The Volcanic Eruptions in the West Indies." At a later date Sir Patrick Manson, K.C.M.G., M.D., has been good enough to promise to read a paper on "Tropical Diseases."

A CHRISTMAS APPEAL. We have received from Lady Sendall, whose charitable nature is so well remembered in Barbados, Grenada, and British Guiana, an appeal on behalf of the Colonial Nursing Association, whose objects are to provide trained private nurses in the Crown Colonies and small English communities and Foreign countries. The appeal is accompanied by a letter from Mrs. Chamberlain, setting forth the objects and needs of the Association which has carried on a most important and valuable work for the past seven years. The Committee wish to double their subscribers' list, and we hope that many of our Members will help them to do so, and will communicate accordingly with Lady Sendall, 91, Cornwall Gardens, S.W.

A CHARACTERISTIC EPITAPH. Many of our readers must be able to recall voyages to and from the West Indies under the captaincy of Robert Woolward, who for fifty years was the faithful and respected servant of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and a still wider circle will have read his book, "Nigh on Sixty Years at Sea." All felt a pang of regret, when eight and a half years after his retirement he died on August 30th last. He was buried at St. Lawrence's, Ramsgate, and the epitaph which is inscribed upon his simple tomb is remarkably characteristic of a personality which can never be forgotten. The epitaph, which is surmounted by a buoy upon which sits an angel, runs thus:—

This marks the wreck of Robert Woolward, who sailed the seas for fifty-five years. When Resurrection gun fires the wreck will be raised by the Angelic Salvage Company, surveyed, and if found worthy, re-fitted and started on the voyage of Eternity.

Launched, 15th April, 1826.

Sunk, 30th August, 1903.

West Indian Securities.

Bank of England rate 4 % (changed from 3 % on September 3rd). $2\frac{1}{2}$ % Consols, $88\frac{3}{8}$.

Colonial Government Inscribed Securities.				Miscellaneous Securities—continued.			
	Red.	1919-44	102-104	Stock or Shares.	Paid.	Div.	Price.
Antigua, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1919-44	102-104	Stck. Imperial Direct West India			
Barbados, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ... ..	..	1925-42	98-100	Mail Service Debenture	100	$4\frac{1}{2}$ %	85-89
British Guiana, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1935	106-108	10 West India and Panama			
Grenada, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1917-42	99-101	Telegraph Company ...	10	Nil.	$8-\frac{1}{2}$
Jamaica, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1934	106-107	100 Direct West India Cable Co.			
St. Lucia, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1919-44	101-103	Debentures	100	$4\frac{1}{2}$ %	99-102
Trinidad, 4 per cent. ... ..	..	1917-42	101-103	5 New Colonial Co. Pref. ...	5	5 %	$2\frac{1}{2}-3\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous Securities.				100 New Trinidad Lake Asphalt			
Stock or Shares.	Paid.	Div.	Price.	Stck. Demerara Railway Co. ...	100	Nil.	15-20
20 Colonial Bank	6	6 %	$4\frac{1}{2}-5$				
100 Royal Mail Steam Pckt. Co.	60	Nil.	25-27				

The Homeward Mail.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's R.M.S. "Trent" anchored off Plymouth at 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16th, and the mails were delivered in London by the first post on the following day. The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service's R.M.S. "Port Morant" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, December 9th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the R.M.S. "Trent."

Antigua.—Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, December 2nd. A little cotton was being picked, but the crop would not come in really for another month or so yet. The cotton factory was almost ready to start. The onion crop was looking well. The late rain came on just at a good time for transplanting out the young plants on to the cane banks. They had been visited by a practically endless hurricane—a hurricane before it got the pace up. What little wind there was began from the N. and then went to E., S.E., S., S.W., and W. This disturbance was accompanied by a terrific thunderstorm and a very heavy fall of rain, the latter amounting during the night of the 24th and morning of the 25th to six to nine inches according to different localities. Of course with such a fall as this considerable damage had been done by scouring and by the overflow of creeks and watercourses, but at the same time the land had got a good soaking which would improve the prospects of the late canes.

Barbados.—Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, December 5th. On November 25th they heard of a disturbance near Antigua, and very heavy weather at St. Kitts, Guadeloupe, and St. Thomas. At the same time intense heat prevailed in Barbados, and had continued; what little wind there was, was southerly, but for the most part there was none. Heavy black clouds repeatedly darkened the sky, and they fully expected to hear of fresh eruptions, and to experience more dust. None however came, and they had heard no news of any. Rain fell not in districts, but in spots; altogether the weather had been most abnormal. November had been the driest on record in many places, but in its last few days many partial showers fell, benefitting materially those who received them. At Porters they marked 3 8z for the month, but at Dunscombe in St. Thomas, usually the wettest part of the island, only 2.32. Many estates had not had more than 1.50. On Sunday the 29th several estates in St. George and part of Christ Church had 2 to 3 inches, while others near by were dry. To the North of the island canes were beginning to show signs of suffering, but in the great sugar districts of St. George, Christ Church, St. Philip, St. John, and St. Thomas, they were fine and green and healthy. They were still hoping that the great heat would bring them rain. Sir Daniel Morris had returned from Jamaica, and has inspected many of the Cotton fields. Rain was wanted for these also, but the worm seemed to have disappeared, and he thought that with careful pruning, even those that had been attacked, would still give a fair return of cotton. In Christ Church and St. Philip it has not been at all prevalent, and the cotton there promised well. There was a magnificent field of 20 acres at Kirton. The erection of the new gins was to be proceeded with at once, but they would have to make an appeal to the Legislature for an additional £100, as their former grant of £250 merely completed the erection of one gin, and they would now have six. Many hundreds of lbs. of cotton were awaiting their erection. Onions were making good progress. The continued low price of sugar, beet remaining at 8s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d., made the outlook for next year very disheartening. With the advent of December, planting operations had begun vigorously. Some few estates were planted in November, but at the time of writing all were in full swing. Good showers were wanted to benefit them.

British Guiana.—A. Summerson, Esq., December 3rd. The heartiest congratulations went out to Sir Henry Davson upon the honour which had been conferred upon him. Mr. Arthur McConnell returned by the mail. The

weather had been much too dry and showers were wanted generally. Some 8600 tons of Refining Crystals had been sold during the fortnight, at 1.87½ to 1.85, the latter quotation might be taken as the price of the day.

Dominica.—E. A. Agar, Esq., November 29th. The weather continued favourable, though a few days before the mail closed a disturbance passed over the Island. A heavy ground swell and chopping sea, with steady wind from the S.W., had prevailed on the leeward coast, but no damage was reported.

Jamaica.—J. L. Ashenheim, Esq., November 30th. During the fortnight they experienced almost perfect weather—seasons almost as if made to order for the growing crop (Vere unfortunately excepted), and the climate bracing and delicious. As far as the writer could gather, the trade of the Island so far as imports went had shown remarkable vitality, indeed in Kingston the retail trade in clothing, etc., had been quite equal to the same period last year. This showed that the hurricane of August last had not hurt the spending power of the people. Regarding the cable question he could safely say that the extension of the lines of the Direct West India Cable Co. to Demerara and the Islands would meet with almost universal approval in Jamaica. He did not think the suggestion of utilising wireless telegraphy would be approved of, as this mode of transmission was too much in its infancy for them to risk it, but he was sure that an arrangement with the Direct West India Cable Co. would receive strong and general backing: for the West India and Panama Cable Co., by raising their rates for Demerara and the Islands, had practically killed this large portion of the business of the Direct Cable. Quarantine between Jamaica and Trinidad, so far as first class passengers were concerned, was about to be raised.

Nevis.—Hon. C. Arthur Shand, November 30th. The planters would feel greatly indebted to the West India Committee for obtaining cotton gins for Nevis. The weather had been very favourable for the growing crops, and there should be in 1904 a marked increase on the output for 1903. Those planters who had persevered with the application of the Paris Green mixture had checked the onslaught of the insect pests upon their cotton and would, he hoped, reap a fairly good crop as a result of their efforts. It would be a great advantage if the West India Committee would do something to get the island into the cable system of the West Indies. Latterly they had been absolutely cut off from communication with the neighbouring islands by the heavy south winds which had prevailed, and which had rendered the landing in St. Kitts an absolute impossibility. They were to have an Agricultural Show on the next Wednesday. The Administrator and Mrs. Cox were expected on the Royal Mail Steamer that morning, and of course would extend their patronage. It was to be hoped that the result of the Show would justify the adoption of an annual Exhibition, as there could be no doubt that any thing of the kind must necessarily tend to the development of agriculture generally, and the Island depended for its living entirely upon the products of the earth.

St. Kitts.—C. Adamson Smith, Esq., December 1st. The past fortnight was seasonable for the crops in spite of a strong southerly gale early in the past week, which although laying the canes to some extent, did not do any appreciable harm to crops.

St. Lucia.—Hon. E. Du Boulay, December 4th. The weather had been fairly good for the crops, but at the time of writing was too dry.

St. Vincent.—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., December 4th. The Governor had not as yet paid the Island a visit since his return, so there was nothing to report as to his intentions with regard to the disposal of the balance of the relief fund. In the opinion of a French scientist who had visited the Island during the past week, the crater had every resemblance of becoming extinct, and it was therefore hoped that a decision would soon be arrived at. The weather during the fortnight had been exceptionally fine, and the manufacture of arrowroot was in full swing on almost all the estates outside the area desolated by the eruptions.

Trinidad.—Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, December 4th. The second codlie vessel of the season, the "Maine" arrived on December 2nd from Calcutta, with 575 Adults and 33 Children. The 3 persons prosecuted for inciting to riot had been committed by the Magistrate to Sessions. The Sessions were to be held next week. The general public exhibited absolute indifference to the result. Reports from the Sugar Estates were on the whole not unfavourable, though in the Couva District there were complaints of it being too dry. From the Cocoa Estates complaints of continued drought were general. In consequence of the excessively dry weather in most of the Cocoa Districts, the good pickings would not commence that month as was reported in his last letter, it was more likely to be January or February, meanwhile the small fruits continued to dry up. The following figures of shipments of Cocoa give a good idea of the lateness of this year's crop—

Cocoa shipped in October 1902	...	...	...	...	...	8056	Bags
" " " November 1902	...	...	...	...	...	12 947	"
						21,003	Bags.
Cocoa shipped in October 1903	...	...	...	...	...	2351	Bags.
" " " November 1903	...	...	...	...	...	1970	"
						4321	Bags.

During the fortnight about 500 Bags changed hands, "Ordinary" at \$14.00 to \$14.25; "Estates" at \$14.50 to \$14.85. The former was purchased for the French market, the latter for United States. Market remained firm.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Dec. 21st. "Fine rains generally throught the Island."
British Guiana (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), December 7th. "Nice showers, but more wanted."
 (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), December 10th. "Partial showers have fallen."
 (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), December 15th. "Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message."
 (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), December 15th. "Rain has fallen heavily."
 (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), December 21st. "Nice rains since last message."

Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

From—	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Rum.	Cocoanuts.	Molasses.	Gold.	Diamonds.
British Guiana—	Tons.	lbs.	Cwts.	Puns.		Puns.	Ozs.	Carats.
Jan. 1 to Dec. 1, 1903	105,078	124,442	—	23,596	4991	3509	79,322	8533
" " 1, 1902	97,764	99,693	—	25,733	3360	1316	91,765	11,078
Jamaica—		Cwts.		Galls.		Pimento.	Bananas.	Oranges.
April 1 to Nov. 15, 1903	8143	16,564	20,371	879,952	13,445,060	52,218	7,376,822	59,490,000
" " Nov. 14, 1902	12,578	9783	45,051	1,521,781	16,739,056	91,734	10,253,102	51,772,987
Trinidad—	Bags & Btls	lbs.	lbs.	Puns.		Molasses.		Asphalt.
Jan. 1 to Dec. 3, 1903	382,407	26,763,090	42,360	1173	13,629,192	3573	178	171,086
" " 3, 1902	449,825	30,092,550	39,900	1560	11,709,856	3408	142	145,446
							Tres.	
							Brls.	Tons.

The Mails.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Home arrivals per R.M.S. "Trent," December 16th, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. and Mrs. Halliday, Mr. T. H. King, Lieut. G. Irwin. **Demerara.**—Mr. A. J. McConnell, Mrs. and Miss Fogarty, Miss H. Murray, Mr. A. E. Batchelor, Mr. E. G. Braddon, Mr. G. Ball-Greene, Mr. H. R. Owen. **Jamaica.**—Mr. and Mrs. Crum Ewing, Miss Ross, Miss M. Douglas, Mr. A. E. Bravo, Mr. W. H. Butler, Mr. J. H. Butler, Mr. E. Pratt, Col. and Mrs. J. D. Buckton, Mr. D. K. Courage, Dr. and Mrs. Elliott, Mr. G. O. Blacker, Capt. H. Connop, Mr. J. Cook, Mr. A. Platt, Lieut. J. G. Courtice and Twenty Soldiers. **Trinidad.**—Mr. and Mrs. De Casas Ramos, Mr. N. Richards, Mr. H. D. D. Huggins, Dr. Hugh Vallance, Mrs. J. Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. E. Caley. **Antigua.**—Dr. and Mrs. J. Freeland, The Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Antigua. **Grenada.**—Miss M. Page. **St. Kitts.**—Mr. J. D. Adamson. **St. Lucia.**—Lieut. and Mrs. H. Larmour, Capt. Thimm, Mr. G. Moody Stuart. **St. Vincent.**—Mr. D. F. Porter.

Outward Bookings per R.M.S. "Orinoco," December 23rd, 1903:—**Barbados.**—Mr. and Mrs. Knight, Miss E. Forlong, Mr. E. M. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. von der Osten, the two Mr. von Voigtlander, Mr. J. Allan, Lieut. J. G. Fraser, R.N., Capt. and Mrs. John Ferris, R.N., Miss Morris, Mr. H. N. Leacock. **Demerara.**—Dr. Hugh Ross, Mr. R. MacDonald, the two Misses Pogson. **Jamaica.**—Captain J. E. Mackenzie, Mrs. B. Guiseppina, Miss Neist, Mr. E. Kar-Seymer, Mr. and Miss Young, Mr. C. MacLachlan. **Trinidad.**—Mr. and Miss Burroughes, Mr. and Mrs. Lota. **Dominica.**—Miss Duffield. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. and Mrs. Wells Durrant, Mr. R. Fitzgerald.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Trent" January 6th, 1904:—**Barbados.**—Mr. H. Jump, the two Misses Jump, Mr. and Miss Ewing, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Wilkinson, Col. C. E. and Mrs. Swaine, Mr. W. W. Keating, Mr. and Mrs. Heap, Mr. H. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Porter, Mrs. M. Sexton, Mr. and Mrs. Standring, Miss Hunt, Miss Ravenhill, Mr. and Miss Mitchell, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, Mr. R. Kearns, Mrs. Sargood, Mr. F. Maitland, Mr. C. Broadbent, Miss E. MacFurran, Mrs. Whitfield, Miss Joyce, Mr. F. Worthington, Major and Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. L. Craven. **Demerara.**—Mr. M. H. Bugle, Mr. G. F. Powell, Mr. F. W. Hutson, Mr. O. Vaughan-Williams. **Jamaica.**—Mr. S. C. Spencer-Smith, Mr. D. C. Spencer-Smith, R.H.A., Mr. A. St.-Hill, Capt. C. St.-Hill, Mr. W. Church, Master Church, Mrs. Bastock, Miss Church, Col. and Miss Cleig, Mr. and Mrs. Colbourne, Mr. J. G. Hildyard, Mr. G. Dunsmere, Mr. J. Atkins, J.P., Dr. J. D. Donovan, Lieut. A. E. Fitzgerald, Mr. A. M. Lewis. **Trinidad.**—Mr. N. Lamont, Mr. and Mrs. Todd, Mrs. M. Clifford, Mr. G. Burford, The Hon. W. S. Robertson. **Antigua.**—Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin, Miss E. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. Cowley. **Grenada.**—Master D. Copland, Mr. W. Lassey. **Montserrat.**—Rev. and Mrs. Shankland. **St. Kitts.**—Capt. G. Montgomerie. **St. Lucia.**—Mr. R. Kennaway, Mr. E. Bateson.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—Home Arrivals per R.M.S. "Port Morant," Dec. 9th, 1903:—**Jamaica.**—Mr. V. Hosking, Mr. S. Morris, Mr. E. Lanyon.

Sailings per R.M.S. "Port Morant," Dec. 19th, 1903.—Miss A. Chambers, Mr. G. N. Cox, Mr. J. S. Downing, Rev. Ellis Fray, Dr. L. Gifford, Mr. R. M. Lamb, Mr. G. Lamb, Rev. W. Pratt, Mr. P. Sewell, Mr. J. J. Spencer, Mrs. and Miss Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. S. Abdo, the three Mr. Abdo, Mr. J. S. Beatty, Mr. L. Brydi, Mr. H. Evans, Mr. M. M. Kennelly, Sergt. and Mrs. Preston.

Advance Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Royal" January 2nd, 1904:—Major G. Close, Mr. Cox, Jun. Mr. and Mrs. A. Cross, Mrs. and Miss Dugdale, Mr. W. S. Evans, Mr. J. T. Garlick, Mr. W. Illingworth, Mr. and Miss Morris, Hon. F. S. Sanguinetti, Dr. T. Thomson, Mrs. and Miss Townsend.

The Produce Markets Summary.

Sugar—88 per cent Beet.—With the customary daily and hourly fluctuations produced by the speculators in time bargains, prices remain approximately on the same level as last Mail, viz.: Dec., 8s. 5½d.; Jan./Mar. 8s. 6½d.; April/June, 8s. 9½d.; and Aug., 9s.; and Oct./Dec., 1904, 9s. 1½d., all free on board Hamburg. Crop estimates have been raised by M. Licht to the extent of 50,000 Tons, the total in Europe for the present season reaching 5,900,000 Tons. This compares with 5,560,000 Tons last year, or an excess of 340,000 Tons.

With the rapidly extending cane production since the abolition of Bounties, the industry having taken, as it were, a new life, it becomes a matter of vital importance to the Continental Beet producers to regulate their crops in accordance with the changed conditions of Sugar growing. If ever they are to realise 9s. free on board for 88%, which is generally believed to be the average *minimum* cost of production, supplies from the Beet countries must be arranged on a very different basis, both as to quantity and cost to what has obtained during the long series of years when the Foreign Governments practically indemnified the growers against loss, and indeed poured millions into their coffers. It is absolutely no use talking about trifling reductions in sowings. For the season 1904/5 at least 10% curtailment is required to get rid of previous seasons over-production, approximately 1,000,000 Tons of which still remains unconsumed. If this is done, the growers of sugar everywhere will obtain a natural cost. If not, daylight looks a long way off. For subsequent years, no doubt, further reductions will become necessary, but these can be considered later on. Of this consumers may rest assured, there will be no dearth of sugar on the basis of 9s. for 88%, but what appears evident is, that we in this country seem likely to substitute the pleasant flavoured Cane Sugar for an important quantity of the questionable Beet, hitherto forced on consumers by Cartels and Bounties. This feature in America is brought into great prominence, and why not here, also? With the passing of the Cuban Reciprocity Bill, which comes into force on the 27th December, great changes may be expected, the nature of which will only appear as time goes on.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe and North America (uneven dates) are as follows:—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	
Europe	3,180,000	3,070,000	2,880,000	2,360,000	2,200,000	Tons.
United States	100,000	150,000	130,000	70,000	210,000	"
Cuba	120,000	50,000	20,000	—	10,000	"
Cargoes afloat	70,000	60,000	10,000	40,000	50,000	"
Total	3,470,000	3,330,000	3,040,000	2,470,000	2,470,000	

Comparative prices of 88% for 5 years:—

1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
8s. 5½d.	8s. 1½d.	6s. 8½d.	9s. 1½d.	9s. 2d.

Crystallised Sugar.—Remains steady, with a fair business doing in "yellows" from 15s. 6d. to 16s.; and small quantities of fine and choice from 16s. 3d. to 17s.; inferior grades command 15s. 3d.; the value of average qualities is 15s. 9d. For a cargo of 96% centrifugals, 9s. 4½d. could be obtained on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—In good demand, from 11s. 6d. to 15s. **Muscovado.**—A cargo of 8g test should realise about 8s. 3d. in bond on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st. Jan.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports to date	23,000	58,000	43,000	40,000	Tons.
Deliveries	40,000	42,000	40,000	39,000	"
Stocks	12,000	29,000	12,000	7,000	"

Rum.—The market continues dull, but prices are unchanged, viz.: 9d. for fair Demerara, and 1s. 9d. for Standard Home Trade Marks of Jamaica. Our buyers seem disinclined to enter into any further operations this side of the New Year, and the fortnights business is almost a blank.

Board of Trade Returns for 11 months:

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	4,860,000	7,500,000	6,120,000
Home Consumption	3,380,000	3,660,000	3,790,000
Stocks 30th November	9,440,000	9,420,000	7,350,000

London Figures to date:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Imports Jamaica	8600	13,500	10,500	10,300	Puns.
Demerara	10,400	16,700	14,800	11,900	"
Stocks Jamaica	9500	11,300	8300	8600	"
Demerara	6700	7100	3600	4000	"
Total of all kinds:— Stocks	26,029	28,672	—	—	Deficiency, 2643 Puns.

Cocoa.—The market is unchanged both in tone and prices, and there is no special feature to refer to. Our manufacturers buy sparingly, in the face of the new West Indian crops now arriving, and the large receipts in Lisbon of African Cocoa, which in the next issue of the "Summary" will be more fully referred to. Quotations of West India Cocoa are as follows:—Trinidad fair collected, 64s., Estate Marks, 64s. to 70s.; Grenada fair, 53s., fermented, 58s. to 61s.; fair Native Cocoa from other Islands being worth about 51s., with fermented 54s. to 60s. Fermented African can be bought at about 57s. on full landed terms, delivered at the usual United Kingdom Ports.

Board of Trade Returns for 11 months.

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	20,770	23,665	22,056
Home Consumption	16,926	19,027	17,783
Stocks 31st Oct.	3705	4397	6742

Stocks in London:—1903, 50,000; 1902, 63,000; 1901, 81,000; 1900, 89,000 Bags.

Coffee.—Speculative rises and falls in Santos have been numerous and important. The closing quotation for December, is 34s. Prices of Jamaica range from 33s. to 125s. **Nutmegs.**—West India easier 62's at 2s. 3d.; 90's at 1s. 2d.; 110's at 10d.; 130's at 8d.; 145's at 7d. **Mace.**—Steady. Pale sold at 2s. 2d. to 2s. 7d.; reddish, 1s. 10d. to 2s. 2d., with broken 1s. 8d., to 1s. 9d. **Pimento.**—Dull. Prices unchanged—fair about 3½d. **Ginger.**—Slow, values as last mail. **Cotton.**—Steady. American December delivery, about 7d.; and fair West India, 7d. **Arrowroot.**—Dull and prices unchanged, except for 350 barrels of old St. Vincent of poor quality, which sold cheaply in Public Sale without reserve at 1d. to 1½d., the nominal value of fair manufacturing of recent import is 1½d.; but buyers are difficult to find.

Stocks in London:—

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
13,164	13,050	6832	8321

Lime Juice.—Very slow and difficult of sale at 10d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated, steady at £12 15s. per cask of 108 gallons; Distilled oil slow, values 1s. 3d. and 1s. 4d. per lb.; Hand Pressed, neglected at 2s. 6d. per lb.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The West India Committee.

Report

OF THE

Executive Committee

FOR

1902.

The Executive Committee beg to present to Members their Annual Report and Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year 1902.

Membership. During the year 1902, 57 New Members were elected, compared with 40 in 1901, and 42 in 1900. This gratifying increase is a significant indication of the growing interest which is being taken in the British West Indies. The number of Members on December 31st was 433. Your Committee have to record with deep regret the death of four of their Members, which have occurred since the last General Meeting. Mr. Quintin Hogg, for many years their Deputy Chairman, Mr. Alexander Porter, their Honorary Correspondent in St. Vincent, Mr. H. A. Porter, and Mr. Alexander Garnett. They have also to deplore the death of Sir George Chambers, a former Member of the Executive Committee, who took an active interest in West Indian matters.

Publications.—Thanks to the increased support accorded to them, your Committee have been able to continue the publication of the *West India Committee Circular* fortnightly, a course which appears to meet with the approval of Members.

Honorary Correspondents.—Your Committee desire to convey their cordial thanks to the undermentioned Honorary Correspondents, with whom they have maintained regular communication, and whose letters have contributed so largely to the interest of the *West India Committee Circular*—

HON. C. A. SHAND, ...	... }	ANTIGUA.	R. CRAIG, Esq., ...	... ++	JAMAICA.
A. ST. G. SPOONER, Esq., ...	... }		C. WATSON, Esq., ...	... ..	MONTSERRAT.
HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE, ...	... }	BARBADOS.	HON. E. G. TODD, ...	... ++	ST. KITTS.
A. SUMMERSON, Esq., ...	... ++	BRITISH GUIANA.	HON. E. DU BOULAY, ...	... ..	ST. LUCIA.
E. A. AGAR, Esq., ...	... }		Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co., ...	... ..	ST. VINCENT.
HON. H. A. NICHOLLS, M.D., C.M.G. }	... }	DOMINICA.	HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, ...	... |	TRINIDAD.
HON. D. S. DE FREITAS, ...	... ..	GRENADA.	EDGAR TRIPP, Esq., ...	... |
J. L. ASHENHEIM, Esq., ...	... ..	JAMAICA.	W. J. S. TUCKER, Esq., ...	... ..	TOBAGO.

Your Committee have kept in close touch with the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool, and the West India Sections of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool and the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, with whom the interchange of views has been of mutual advantage.

The Bounty Question.—It will be seen from the accompanying statement of receipts and expenditure that the West India Committee contributed a further substantial sum to the Anti-Bounty League, whose work has now every prospect of being shortly crowned with success.

Reference was made in the last yearly report to the steps which led to the signing of a Convention on March 5th, 1902, for the abolition of all direct and indirect bounties from September 1st, 1903. The text of the Convention was published in the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 66. It was recognised that some measure of assistance would be needed to enable the sugar industry of the West Indies to tide over the period until the Convention becomes operative.

A deputation of your Committee waited upon Sir Montague Ommaney and Mr. C. P. Lucas, C.B., to urge the need of such assistance being granted and as a result Sir Michael Hicks Beach, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, in presenting his Budget on March 14th announced that some such assistance would be forthcoming, and grants in aid to the extent of £250,000 were voted by the House of Commons on July 31st.

The Brussels Convention was duly ratified by all the Contracting Powers prior to February 1st, and already a tone of hopefulness throughout the British West Indies, such as not been experienced for many years past, has resulted.

The Cane Sugar Movement.—Your Committee continue to keep before them questions arising out of the Adulteration and Merchandise Marks' Acts, which protect buyers of sugar, by securing to them the quality for which they ask. With the abolition of bounties the movement for differentiating "cane sugar" from "beet sugar" will still be of great importance.

Royal Exchange Colonial Exhibition.—Your Committee were allotted 150 square feet at this Exhibition, which remained open for eight weeks. This space was offered to Members, and was taken up by Messrs. Jas. Philip & Co., The Pure Cane Sugar Co. (who arranged the Exhibits), Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co., The Imperial Department of Agriculture, The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., and The Direct West Indian Cable Co. The West India Exhibit attracted much attention, and the Exhibition was a conspicuous success.

West Indies and West Africa.—The possibility of a trade between these two parts of the Empire is the subject of correspondence between your Committee and the Colonial Office.

Proposed Jamaica Agency.—Your Committee were approached by the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange with regard to the proposed formation of a Jamaica Agency in London. The matter was referred to a sub-committee, comprising—Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., Alexander Crum Ewing, Esq., H. H. Dobree, Esq., W. Gillespie, Esq., John Kerr, Esq., E. A. de Pass, Esq., and J. Rippon, Esq., which was appointed on March 6th. They reported that the function of Agents might adequately be performed by the West India Committee, though it would be necessary to increase the accommodation of the Committee and employ an extra clerk. This suggestion Jamaica has not as yet seen her way to adopt, in view of the expense involved, but, inasmuch as your Committee are now acquiring larger premises, this important question must not be considered as dropped.

577

Coolie Immigration.—Various matters affecting the introduction of Coolie Emigrants from Calcutta to British Guiana and Trinidad continue to engage the attention of your Committee.

Praedial Larceny.—At the instance of your Committee the Colonial Office approached the various Colonies with a view to make arrangements for the visit of a Commission to enquire into and make recommendations for the suppression of the praedial larceny, or theft, of the growing crops which is so detrimental to proprietors. Several Colonies, however, did not see their way to provide the funds necessary for such a Commission and no further steps have been taken.

The Volcanic Disturbances.—When the news reached your Committee, early in May, of the appalling volcanic disasters, when the Town of St. Pierre, Martinique, was totally destroyed by the eruption of La Pelée, involving the loss of 30,000 lives, and when widespread ruin and loss of life was caused by the eruption of the long quiescent Soufrière at St. Vincent; they at once communicated with Mr. Chamberlain with a view to the opening of a Mansion House Fund. The Lord Mayor readily acquiesced and accepted the offer of your Committee to receive donations towards the fund which amounted to £65,769 10s. 10d.

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
BILLITER SQUARE BUILDINGS,
LONDON, *April 30th, 1903.*

The West India Committee.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE for the Year 1902.

To be submitted to the Annual General Meeting, on Thursday, May 14th, 1903.

	1902.	1902.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Balance in hand, January 1st.	2 9 10	
" Subscriptions received	850 13 3	
" Transferred from Deposit to Current Account...	300 0 0	
" Interest on Deposit	6 14 0	
	£1159 17 1	
To Salaries		490 15 5
" Payments to the Anti-Bounty League		300 0 0
" Printing		134 13 9
" Rent of Committee-Room		86 0 0
" Postages and Telegrams		48 3 4
" Rent of Telephone £17 (less half paid by Anti-Bounty League)		8 10 0
" Gratuity to the late Secretary		5 0 0
" Office Expenses		55 2 9
		1128 5 3
	Balance at Bank £31 2 5	
	Petty Cash in hand 9 5	31 11 10
		£1159 17 1

On Deposit with Prescott's Bank, Ltd., December 31st, 1902—£150.

SPENCER H. CURTIS,
CYRIL GURNEY,
R. RUTHERFORD,
W. A. WOLSELEY,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*