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Sugar in 1949 and After

THE following announcement in regard to the price of export sugar of the 1949 crop was made by the Ministry of Food on December 22nd:—

"The U.K. Government have decided that it is not possible to accede to the request of the sugar producers for an increase in the price to be paid to them for sugar for the year 1949. They have, however, authorized continuance of the 1948 price for that year. It is believed this course will permit retention of a large part of the Canadian outlet which is absolutely essential in producers' interests.

"The U.K. Government are examining problems connected with the possibility of further long-term assurances. This is bound to take some time. It is hoped to make a further announcement in due course. Meanwhile, present assurances covering the next four years place no limit on production."

The statement requires explanations. In the first place it refers to the request of the sugar producers for an increase in the price of sugar for 1949. The present price is £27 5s. a ton c.i.f. which includes £3 15s. Imperial Preference. In accordance with normal practice the price needs of West Indian sugar producers, in the light of current costs, were considered by B.W.I. Sugar Association in the early autumn and the conclusion reached, that in view of increased costs including in some cases increases in wages and supplies (notably bags, fertilizers and machinery and goods necessary for those engaged in the industry) and the prospect of a falling off in the revenue from by-products, a substantial increase in price was necessary. The facts, with supporting statistics, were duly submitted to the Ministry of Food and to the Colonial Office by the West India Committee. The economic and social consequences of sugar becoming once again an unprofitable industry were fully emphasized in discussions.

The announcement that the U.K. Government are not prepared to concede an advance in price is therefore serious and is being anxiously considered by the industry. What further steps will be taken have yet to be decided.

Readers may well be mystified by the reference to the Canadian market and the necessity for its retention. The facts are that Canada has always taken a considerable portion, between 200,000 and 300,000 tons per annum, of British West Indian sugar. Sugar has always provided a large proportion of the northward cargoes carried in the Canadian National ships provided under the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. During the war and since, the whole sugar crop has been bought

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annually by the Ministry of Food at prices negotiated with producers and agreed between it and Canada, the actual amounts going to Canada being determined by agreement. Sugar, apart from rents, is now the only thing still subject to Government control in Canada and it is understood to be the present intention of the Government to give up control even of sugar in 1949. Indeed during 1949 the situation will probably be that Canadian refiners will be buying foreign sugars in the open market to supplement Commonwealth sugars bought from the Government Purchasing Corporation.

Canada, therefore, has presumably agreed to the maintenance of the 1948 price for Commonwealth sugars of the 1949 crop. What her position will be in future years no one yet knows. Commonwealth producers are protected in that the United Kingdom has already given an assurance (in which Canada does not share) that she will provide an outlet for their whole exportable production, without any limit, until the end of 1952. Theoretically, then, the West Indies could ship all their sugar to the United Kingdom during those years. There are two reasons, however, why this is not really practicable. Firstly, it would ruin the whole basis of Canada-West Indies trade. Second, Commonwealth sugar production is increasing, and the West Indies in particular hope to expand their production considerably during the coming years, and will do so provided suitable guarantees are forthcoming. If a severe curtailment of their programme is to be avoided, a partial outlet to the Canadian market, the needs of which are likely to expand considerably, is essential. Under what conditions can it be assured? There is the problem, and it is one which will test the ingenuity and need the goodwill of all concerned, sugar producers, the U.K. Government, and the Government and refiners of Canada alike.

As indicated in the statement the problems connected with the possibility of further long-term assurances (i.e. beyond 1952) are being examined by the U.K. Government. It is no secret that West Indian producers have asked for a ten year guarantee of outlet for their full exportable capacity, prices to be negotiated annually as at present. They will press hard to secure such a guarantee. They would like to see Canada associated with it on mutually satisfactory terms. Certainly they are not prepared to see a reversion to the state of affairs that existed between the two wars, when they were forced to sell their product, upon which the whole economy, the standard of life of the whole community depend, at prices determined by those at which Cuba and Java could sell after the bulk was disposed of at favourable prices in preferred markets.

From a Londoner's Notebook

WHEN it was first announced that the Home Secretary would not be required to attend at the birth of Princess Elizabeth's baby, I wondered whether we should have a recrudescence of the popular rumours that this old custom was designed to allay. We did. I heard from quite a number of sources, the charwomen of my friends being the usual authority, that the baby was imaginary, and that after a little time it would be announced that he was dead. The non-appearance of photographs in the early days fostered this absurd delusion; but the charming pictures that have eventually been published have now dispelled all the silly talk. Everyone also seems pleased with the names that have been chosen for this probable future King. There has been a refreshing departure from what tended to become a rather narrow routine of royal nomenclature; and it is pleasant that the long feud between the descendants of the Hanoverians and the Stuarts is now sufficiently appeased to bring the good old name of Charles back into circulation.

* * *

This, I believe, was Prince Philip's deliberate intention; though in the far future, when the child ascends the throne, pious Jacobites will be left in a quandary by the problem whether to call him Charles III or Charles IV. Anyhow, he is already one of the most popular personalities in England. The danger is that he will be too popular. It will not be easy to secure for him, in the direct line of succession, such a quiet and domesticated childhood as their present Majesties were able to insist upon for their daughters when they themselves were only Duke and Duchess of York.

* * *

The heated debates before Christmas on steel nationalization were overshadowed in the public mind by the inquiry, under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Lynskey, into alleged corrupt practices at the Board of Trade. The scene was the same hall at Church House, Westminster, in which the House of Commons used to meet, first when it was bombed out of its own chamber, and afterwards during the "little blitz" of the flying bombs and rockets in 1944. Now, however, it looked very different—more like an examination room, with the invigilators sitting on a platform at one end and the body of the room occupied by multitudes of little tables for the "candidates"—really counsel, solicitors, and witnesses.

* * *

What attracted the great popular interest which caused the public seats to be crowded every day of the five weeks' sittings was the curious personality of Mr. Sidney Stanley (or Koszycki or Reichtand), whose habit of lavishly entertaining ministers and officials was alleged to have been the root of corruption. His flamboyant and self-confident manner, and the queer fascination he seems to have exercised over so many important people, were a most interesting study in psychology. On his conduct or that of any of the other witnesses it would be improper to make any comment, favourable or unfavourable, until the Tribunal

has reported; though it may be mentioned that two of the public figures who have been accused—Mr. Belcher, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, and Mr. Gibson, Government-nominated director of the Bank of England—have resigned, acknowledging indiscreet behaviour but denying any more sinister charges.

* * *

Leaving the conduct of individuals aside, one of the most striking features of the evidence was the revelation of the class of persons that has grown up recently under the name of "contact men," who make their living by acting as go-betweens between commercial firms and the Government departments from whom they have to obtain licences for carrying on their business. It is perfectly possible for such men to be entirely honest, and for their services to be almost indispensable for enabling the two sides of these transactions to understand one another. It is still a startling thought that the post-war apparatus of regulation and control, with its multifarious form-fillings and applications in quintuplicate, has grown so intricate that the King's subjects cannot manage their day-to-day dealings with the King's ministers and their subordinate officials without the intervention of a host of these expensive middlemen—who from the point of view of the national economy are purely parasitic. If the inquiry leads to a determined attempt to simplify the system it will have justified itself.

* * *

The long process which began with the Irish Treaty a generation ago has now been completed and Ireland, minus six counties, has legislated herself finally out of the British Empire into the status of an independent republic. That seems to be the effect of the repeal in Dublin of the External Relations Act, which enabled the King for certain purposes to act in foreign affairs on Ireland's behalf. No immediate practical difference is likely to be felt. Taking the consequential Irish legislation in conjunction with the British Nationality Act recently passed at Westminster, we now have Irish citizens who are not British subjects, and United Kingdom citizens to whom the status of British subject attaches automatically by that title. Irish citizens are not to be British subjects or United Kingdom citizens; but they are to have precisely the same rights and duties in England as if they were. And similarly British subjects in Ireland are not to be Irish citizens, but to have Irish citizens' rights and duties. It looks as if legal hair-splitting has no less fascination for Mr. Costello, the new Irish Prime Minister, as for his predecessor, Mr. de Valera. The crux, however, will come when we have to ask foreign countries to recognize this new conception of a country whose citizens are not to be treated as aliens, yet which is not part of the Empire and admits no relationship to the King. If international law decides that England and Ireland are foreign countries to one another, any attempt to ignore the barrier in our commercial relations with the sister island may land us in complications with our many "most-favoured-nation" clauses in treaties with fully foreign states.

The West India Committee

AT a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee held on December 16th, the following ten candidates were admitted to membership:—

<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposer and Seconder</i>
Mr. DONALD THURSTON DAVIS (Country)	{ Mr. C. Leslie Pitt. Mr. A. E. V. Barton, C.B.E.
Mr. C. TREVOR KELLY (Bahamas)	{ Mr. J. M. du Buisson. Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.S.C.
Mr. EDWARD THOMAS HOPKIN (Jamaica)	{ Mr. T. P. Evelyn. Jamaica Imperial Association.
MESSRS. CAMERON & SHEPHERD (British Guiana)	{ Mr. N. P. Sherlock. Mr. A. E. V. Barton, C.B.E.
JAMES BURNES & SONS LTD. (London)	{ Lt.-Col. C. F. Thompson, D.S.O. Mr. Alex. Elder.
Mr. GEORGE HARGREAVES (Country)	{ Mr. H. Alan Walker. Mr. N. P. Sherlock.
MRS. JANE TOLSON-SHAW, LL.A., F.R.G.S. (Country)	{ Col. A. C. W. Kimpton. Messrs. Paines & Reid.
Mr. THOMAS A. W. GIFFARD, M.B.E., J.P., D.I. (Country)	{ Mr. G. Douglas Pile, O.B.E. Com. H. V. Lavington, R.N. (Retd.)
The REV. WILFRED EASTON (London)	{ Mr. J. M. du Buisson. Mr. A. E. V. Barton, C.B.E.
Mr. HECTOR O. HAMILTON, F.R.I.B.A. (London)	{ S/Lt. G. L. J. Oliver, F.R.G.S. Mr. N. P. Sherlock.

The Obituary List

The chairman referred with great regret to the deaths of two old members of the Committee—Mr. W. E. R. Edwards, of South Africa, and Lieut.-Colonel Geoffrey Hinds Howell, C.M.G., of Tobago.

Bogota Resolution

West Indian Protest

The leading article in the November, 1948 issue of the CIRCULAR drew attention to the implications of the decision by the ninth International Conference of American States to create an American Commission of Dependent Territories.

The matter has received consideration by the British unofficial delegates to the West Indian Conference at Guadeloupe, who have passed the following resolution:—

"We, the Elected Representatives of the several British Caribbean territories foregathered at Guadeloupe on the occasion of the Third West Indian Conference, with delegates from other Caribbean territories, to consider certain social and economic problems of the territories which we represent, place on record our protest against the decision of the Bogota Conference setting-up an American Commission of Dependent Territories for the purpose of enquiring into conditions in those territories with a view to alterations in their relationship with their metropolitan countries.

"The social, economic, political and all other affairs of the British territories are the concern solely of the peoples of these territories and their metropolitan country, and we cannot admit any right whatsoever on the part of the signatories of the Bogota resolution to intervene between peoples of territorial units and their metropolitan government in their unfettered choice to work together for the satisfactory solution of the problems of the territories which we represent."

Barbados General Election

Labour Majority Maintained

ON November 23rd the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly held their last meetings for the 1946-48 legislative session, and the usual prorogation ceremony followed.

The General Election for the House of Assembly was held on December 13th and resulted in a victory for the Barbados Labour Party led by Mr. Grantley H. Adams, although a clear majority over the combined membership of the two other political parties was not achieved.

The position of the parties resulted as follows:—

	<i>Candidates Elected</i>	<i>Votes</i>
Barbados Labour Party ...	16	12 14,287
Elector's Association ...	15	9 12,467
Congress Party ...	9	3 3,887

In the old House the membership was as follows: B.L.P., 9; E.A., 7; C.P., 7; Ind. 1.

The following were the successful candidates in the recent election, with the number of votes received by each:—

Bridgetown		St. Philip	
E. D. Mottley (E.A.) ...	1,254	D. D. Garner (C.P.) ...	1,186
A. E. S. Lewis (B.L.P.) ...	843	W. A. Crawford (C.P.) ...	1,146
St. Michael		St. Joseph	
M. E. Cox (B.L.P.) ...	2,894	G. H. Adams (B.L.P.) ...	794
T. O. Bryan (B.L.P.) ...	2,582	L. E. Smith (B.L.P.) ...	711
Christ Church		St. John	
F. Goddard (E.A.) ...	1,118	O. T. Alder (B.L.P.) ...	481
W. W. Reece (E.A.) ...	1,079	F. C. Bethell (E.A.) ...	440
St. George		St. Peter	
F. Miller (B.L.P.) ...	903	F. L. Walcott (B.L.P.) ...	743
H. A. Dowding (E.A.) ...	658	K. N. R. Husbands (B.L.P.) ...	709
St. Thomas		St. Andrew	
Dr. H. G. Cummins (B.L.P.) ...	788	L. E. R. Gill (E.A.) ...	554
R. G. Mapp (B.L.P.) ...	712	D. A. Foster (B.L.P.) ...	528
St. James		St. Lucy	
E. K. Walcott, K.C. (E.A.) ...	1,003	No contest (re-elected):—	
J. H. Wilkinson (E.A.) ...	900	E. L. Ward (E.A.)	
		J. E. T. Branker (C.P.)	

Three new members of the Legislative Council have been appointed by the Governor on His Majesty's instructions: the Rt. Rev. W. J. Hughes, Bishop of Barbados, Mr. G. B. Evelyn, former representative of Christ Church and Speaker of the House of Assembly, and Mr. V. C. Gale, former representative of St. Michael in the House of Assembly.

New Jamaica Sugar Factory

The CIRCULAR learns that good progress is being made with the construction of the new sugar factory of the West Indies Sugar Co., Ltd., at Vere, Jamaica. New Monymusk, as the factory has been named, is the largest in the British Commonwealth.

The company's own organization has been responsible for the design, purchase and construction of the factory and in spite of very considerable difficulties in obtaining deliveries of machinery and equipment from manufacturers, the main problems have been overcome and it is expected that production will start at the end of February.

Castries Fire Disaster

OVER £1,750 has now been subscribed to the fund being raised by the West India Committee to relieve the many cases of distress in Castries, St. Lucia, resulting from the great fire in June last. Contributions should be addressed to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 40, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2. Cheques should be made payable to the Committee and crossed "Castries Fire Disaster Appeal Fund."

FOURTH LIST

	£	s.	d.
Tate & Lyle, Ltd	100	0	0
Royal Mail Lines, Ltd.	100	0	0
Unilever Export Ltd.	50	0	0
Keep Brothers Ltd.	26	5	0
C. Czarnikow, Ltd.	26	5	0
Ralph Martindale & Co., Ltd.	26	5	0
Low & Bonar, Ltd.	25	0	0
British-American Tobacco Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
Jamaica Cigar Importers Association	21	0	0
British Overseas Stores, Ltd.	10	10	0
Mr. A. J. McConnell	10	10	0
Hy. Langridge & Co.	10	10	0
Mr. A. L. Jupp	10	10	0
Martineaus, Ltd.	10	10	0
The Montserrat Co., Ltd.	10	10	0
Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller	5	5	0
Wiggins, Teape & Co. (1919), Ltd.	5	5	0
Roosen Silks, Ltd.	5	5	0
Henry Head & Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
John McNeil & Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
Mr. T. G. Marriott	5	5	0
Weber Smith & Hoare, Ltd.	5	5	0
Mr. S. A. Bacon	5	5	0
John H. Haigh	5	5	0
L. Guggenheim, Ltd.	5	5	0
Messrs. Paines & Reid	5	5	0
Crawford, Beck & Amos, Ltd.	5	5	0
Watson, Laidlaw & Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
Lady Rutherford	5	5	0
Mrs. Geraldine Burrell	5	5	0
McNabb Rougier & Co.	5	5	0
S. & S. Services, Ltd.	5	5	0
A. & W. Smith & Co., Ltd.	5	5	0
Mr. J. A. J. Murray	5	0	0
Mrs. Bryson	5	0	0
Messrs. Woodhouse, Carey & Browne	5	0	0
Mr. G. B. Westwood	3	3	0
J. P. McNulty & Co., Ltd.	3	3	0
Mr. V. Budd	3	3	0
Mrs. Winifred MacGregor	3	3	0
L. Garvin & Co., Ltd.	3	3	0
Mr. Oliver Stanley, M.P.	2	2	0
Captain W. F. Watson	2	2	0
The Right Hon. Lord Airlie...	2	2	0
Mrs. Elizabeth Allis-Smith	2	2	0
Mrs. R. H. B. Howard	2	2	0
Mr. B. G. Tatham	2	0	0
Mrs. Toller	1	1	0
Messrs. Smith & Harting	1	1	0
Mrs. K. C. Hackney	1	1	0
Mr. L. C. M. Cave	1	1	0
Messrs. Mence & Moore	1	1	0
Miss Sandbach	1	1	0
Mr. C. W. Matthewman	1	1	0
W. B. Anderson & Sons, Ltd.	1	1	0
Mr. C. S. J. Butterfield	1	1	0
Mr. J. Lagden	1	1	0
Mrs. Arbuthnot	1	0	0
M. & I. Duncan	1	0	0
Mr. Edward Baynes	1	0	0
Captain F. G. L. Willan	1	0	0
Lady Kitson	1	0	0
Robert Pringle & Sons (London), Ltd.	10	6	
Mr. G. H. N. Haly	10	0	
Miss M. Mickel	5	0	
"Anon"	5	0	

Leeward Islands Legislature

Governor's Address

EARL BALDWIN OF BEWDLEY, Governor of the Leeward Islands, gave his first annual address to the General Legislative Council on December 8th.

He referred to the difficulty of finding money* to finance the needs of the colony, and to the equal difficulty of finding qualified personnel to fill the necessary administrative and executive posts. "We are versatile. We can make an auditor out of a postmaster, an engineer out of a policeman. We have to, or go without; but there must be a limit to this and we must get the men before we find ourselves in the ludicrous position, for example, our Federal Treasurer acting Matron of the Hospital."

The Secretary of State had promised consideration of the colony's representations about water and a hospital after receipt of their ten-year-development plan, which would shortly be published. Arrangements were on foot, which were expected to be effected in the summer, to assure a market in the United Kingdom for the colony's tomatoes, onions and pineapples. The growing of jute and sisal might well be examined, and the export of mangrove bark for tanning purposes could be encouraged. Lord Baldwin extolled the excellence of cheese made from the milk of Antigua goats.

He criticized the people of the Leeward Islands for being "most enthusiastic about ideas and far from enthusiastic about carrying them out," and concluded: "Nevertheless the heart of the people is sound and I pray for a growing unity among us all, irrespective of race or colour. I want you to be proud that you are Leeward Islanders, that you are members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, that you are moving slowly but surely towards eventual Dominion status. You must show yourselves worthy of this political goal. There must be more give and less take. More sense of responsibility. Less wild talk and far more thought. You must remember in the words of the Mahabharata that 'greatness is to take the simple things of life and walk truly among them and Holiness is a great love and much serving.'"

British Industries Fair

The familiar key symbol which, with annual variations in detail, has been used for a number of years in connexion with the British Industries Fair, has been replaced for 1949 by a motif consisting of two gear wheels in mesh. The larger wheel (above) bears the initial letters B I F and the smaller wheel (below) the year 1949.

Supplies of display posters for the 1949 Fair printed in ten languages are now reaching British diplomatic posts and Trade Commissioners' offices throughout the world.

*The Administrator of Antigua, in laying the 1949 estimates of revenue and expenditure before the Legislative Council on November 25th, budgeted for a deficit. A balance of \$429,000 at the beginning of 1948 would be reduced to \$40,000 by the end of the year and to a deficit of \$331,221 by the end of 1949.



PRINCE CHARLES AFTER THE CHRISTENING CEREMONY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE [See page 15]



PREFECT OF GUADELOUPE OPENS WEST INDIAN CONFERENCE

[See page 5]



SUGAR IN ANTIGUA. CANES ON THEIR WAY TO THE FACTORY

[See page 15]

West Indian Conference

The Caribbean Commission, Industrial Development and Labour

THE illustrations in this issue of the CIRCULAR include a photograph of M. Gilbert Philipson, Prefect of Guadeloupe, in the act of opening the third West Indian Conference in the Conseil General at Basse Terre in that island, on December 1st.

The opening took place according to schedule, although torrential rains considerably hampered the preparations for the reception and housing of the delegates which the hospitable Guadeloupians had contemplated. M. Pierre Pelieu, French co-chairman of the Caribbean Commission, who acted as chairman of the conference, Dr. Johannes Kielstra, Netherlands co-chairman, Mr. Ward Canaday, United States co-chairman, and Sir Hubert Rance, United Kingdom co-chairman, also addressed the opening meeting.

Further plenary meetings of the conference were held on the following days. The secretary-general of the Caribbean Commission presented a report on the action taken on the recommendations of the previous conference. A discussion on the report was opened by Mr. Albert Gomes of Trinidad who, while emphasizing the necessity of preserving the research activities of the Commission secretariat which experience had shown to be most fruitful and practical, stressed the difficulties in the way of regional planning, questioned the necessity for continuing in peacetime an organization established during the war, and expressed the view that the expenditure on the secretariat might be better spent in providing technical and expert assistance for territorial governments which could not afford it on their slender resources.

Views on Work of Commission

Mr. Heesterman, Surinam delegate, regarded the expenditure on the secretariat as justified. Its research activities, though incomplete because of inadequate information furnished by the territorial governments, were of first rate importance. Lieut.-Colonel Spencer, of British Guiana, directed criticism not at the secretariat but at the Caribbean Commission. There were three main points to be considered: first, the glaring disparity between the aims of the first and second sessions of the conference and the achievements of the Commission and its secretariat; second, the disparity between the cost of the Commission and the visible benefits to the man in the street in the Caribbean; third, the inadequate support given by the territorial governments to the Commission. The Commission's programme should be more realistic.

A Virgin Islands delegate, Mr. Gordon, regarded the Commission with its research staff as the compass which was needed by the scattered islands of the Caribbean to steer them in the right direction. He emphasized that the recommendations of the Commission have no force until the territorial governments take appropriate action, and that it is the task of the representatives of the people to assist in this as much as possible.

M. Edmonds of Martinique was satisfied with the report and the work performed. The French and

British governments should give as clear a statement as possible of their ten-year development plans for the area so that they could be co-ordinated. A need was the adjustment of relationships between the more advanced and the backward communities. Dr. Pitat of Guadeloupe was shocked by the absence of information from the French territories from the report. He suggested a permanent office in each territory to collect and furnish information to the Commission.

Mr. Paterson, Windward Islands delegate, found in the report no basis for criticism of the secretariat, who had carried out the directions of the Commission and conference, but as financial resources are inadequate to implement all recommendations and decisions of the conference, it was necessary to be practical and select subjects according to their urgency and importance.

Sectional Committees

The conference appointed a committee to study the report, and also eight other committees, as follows: trade statistics and information; industrial development survey; the regional development of tourism; research activities and regional approach to research; transport and communications; migration of labour, labour conditions, organization and legislation; to study the progress report on the work of the United Nations in the drafting of a bill of human rights and obligations on those items of the Declaration falling within the terms of reference of the Commission; to formulate recommendations for the agenda of the next West Indian Conference.

At the time of going to press, full information on the work of the conference and of these committees is not available, though preliminary notes of certain action taken have come to hand.

Mr. Wilson Minshall, of Trinidad, who was appointed *rapporteur* to the committee on tourism, addressed the first meeting of the committee and hoped that regional activity would be set up to promote joint effort in the development of tourism throughout the Caribbean, potentially the best tourist resort in the world.

A motion put before the conference by Mr. Albert Gomes, of Trinidad, in the following terms: "that in the opinion of this conference a full programme of industrial and economic development in the Caribbean is possible only if a Caribbean equivalent of the Economic Co-operation Agreement is agreed upon by the metropolitan governments; that a committee of this conference be appointed to consider the matter and recommend accordingly," was carried with an amendment which referred the matter to the committee on industrial development.

Delegates unanimously approved a resolution endorsing the draft Declaration of Human Rights now under consideration by the United Nations, offered by the chairman after discussion with the following text: "the conference having taken note of the work already done by the United Nations in the drafting of an

International Declaration of Human Rights, express the hope that a declaration in the spirit of the draft will be finally adopted as early as possible; that, in the meantime, the legislatures of the Caribbean territories will be guided by such of the principles enunciated in the draft declaration as have not already been incorporated in their statutes or constitutions; and that as soon as the declaration has been finally adopted by United Nations, the terms thereof will be implemented in full, as speedily as possible."

The committee dealing with industrial development, after discussion of the general principles relating to industrialization of the Caribbean, felt that the aim should be the maximum possible productivity of labour, the precise line of development, whether agriculture or industry, depending primarily on the resources of the territory concerned. It was recognized that in the Caribbean economy industrialization was likely to remain supplementary to agriculture, and that it was difficult to improve the standard of living if populations continued to increase at a greater rate than economic productivity. Divergent views were expressed on the practicability of regional planning. Lieut.-Colonel Spencer, of British Guiana, regarded it as impracticable. Mr. Gomes, of Trinidad, considered it as essential for the development of Caribbean economy as a unit, that to achieve this the Caribbean Commission must be given greater scope and powers, and that the metropolitan governments must extend the Marshall Aid plan to the Caribbean. Mr. Moscoso, of Puerto Rico, expressed the view that there were some fields in which Caribbean economies were complementary and in which regional planning was possible. The committee agreed that these fields should be fully explored.

Industrial Development Essential

The following suggestion was submitted to the industrial development committee by Mr. Wayne, Administrator of Antigua and Leeward Islands delegate: "that the committee unanimously agree that the further development and improvement of industries in the Caribbean area is essential if the standard of living is to keep pace with increasing population, but they consider it their duty to emphasize the fact, which tends to be overlooked in certain quarters, that industrialization is no substitute for an agricultural economy. They, therefore, recommend that the Economic Policy Committee should press forward as urgently as possible with the examination of the extent to which co-operation in industrial development among the four nations can be effective and transmit their recommendations to the governments concerned."

Two proposals for financing industrial development in the Caribbean area were considered by the committee. The first, put forward by Mr. Moscoso, of Puerto Rico, advocated the establishment of a Caribbean Development Bank with capital participation by the four metropolitan powers, for the provision of capital funds for self-liquidating projects.

Professor Beasley, Economic Adviser to Colonial Development and Welfare, regarded Mr. Moscoso's proposal as premature. He was of opinion that the metropolitan governments had for the time being made adequate provision for finance capital for their territories, and that the real shortage was of equipment, trained

personnel, and access to hard currency. The metropolitan governments already subscribed to the International Bank, while the Caribbean territories now had the means for obtaining dollar finance through the Economic Co-operation Administration through their metropolitan governments.

The committee finally adopted Professor Beasley's view, and agreed to submit a proposal to the conference that the Caribbean Commission be charged with establishing machinery whereby individual governments can submit concrete plans which, after co-ordination, could be presented to the International Bank for such loans as may be deemed necessary.

A proposal that the Caribbean Commission should explore, with the labour officers of the various territories, the possibilities of setting up a Caribbean Labour Exchange, was accepted for recommendation to the conference by the committee on migration of labour, labour conditions, etc. This committee recommended preparation, for presentation to the International Labour Office Conference in 1949 through the respective metropolitan Ministries of Labour, of statements giving the point of view of Caribbean territories on migration for employment, and favoured the taking by each territory of measures to bring its legislation into conformity with I.L.O. standards, particularly in regard to labour inspectorates. The committee also agreed to urge that effective action be taken by international agencies to standardize among themselves the questionnaire forms requesting information from the territories on their labour legislation.

Other matters under examination by this committee were the need for expansion of vocational education; protection of the rights of employers and workers to form associations of their own choosing for the purpose of collective bargaining, with establishment of machinery for the solution of industrial disputes; the problem of health and safety in industry; and immigration and emigration legislation.

Malaria Control

In his address at the Ross jubilee celebration,* Professor G. Macdonald, Director of the Ross Institute told of the eradication of malaria in the island of Cyprus.

In December the Colonial Office announced the inauguration of a campaign to eradicate malaria from Mauritius. The campaign is expected to take two years, and is being carried out by a team, consisting of a doctor (in charge), a chemist, an entomologist and six field overseers, which flew out from Great Britain at the end of November.

Mauritius will pay for the equipment, the synthetic insecticides which are to be used, and for locally recruited labour. The British Government is aiding the colony by paying both the passages and the salaries of the scientific staff.

The results of this campaign will give valuable information on the feasibility, and the cost, of eradicating malaria from islands in tropical and sub-tropical areas.

* Reported in the August, 1948, issue of the CIRCULAR, page 174.

Settlement Commission Recommendations

Investigation of Urgent Projects

QUESTIONS put by Mr. Skinnard in the House of Commons on December 10th, in the course of an adjournment debate, elicited further pronouncements from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on action contemplated in regard to the report of the British Guiana and British Honduras Settlement Commission.

Mr. Skinnard expressed concern at the delay in publication of the report and the initiation of preliminary discussions with commercial interests in regard to certain of the development possibilities, for which capital will be needed, before the report had been placed in the hands of members of the West Indian legislatures, particularly those of the two colonies principally concerned.

He concluded by asking the following questions: "First, in future will legislatures be allowed to see very early on any proposals which affect the real work and the natural resources of their countries. Secondly, on the Evans Report itself, which of the projects for British Honduras and British Guiana are receiving priority and is the Secretary of State prepared to agree to the setting up of two separate corporations for this development under the general control of the Colonial Development Corporation. Thirdly, will the number of selected emigrants—that is to say, certain types of emigrants suitable for certain types of work—be held to, and will the Secretary of State set his face against any wholesale clearance of population without any reference to the needs of the area to which they are to be sent? Fourthly, does he recognize that the position of West Indian shipping needs very urgent attention, and particularly in view of the recent report of the Commonwealth Shipping Committee. I invite his attention particularly, since shipping is going to be a very important factor in the success of any of these developments, to paragraphs 54 to 63 of that Report. Paragraph 54 states that passenger facilities are urgently required. Nobody will quarrel with that, but the remedy proposed by the Committee allows for accommodation for about 2,700 persons annually each way between this country and the West Indies. Unfortunately, if one looks at the appendix in the same report on page 40 there is shown that in 1937 3,316 passengers travelled outwards and 2,975 homewards. So at the very best the remedies proposed by the Committee, aimed to operate in 1951, will have the result that the accommodation will be actually under 90 per cent of that available in 1937. Fifthly, is the Secretary of State prepared to tell the House whether he has considered the suggestion made by Mr. Adams of Barbados, that consultations should be held with as little delay as possible in London between the Colonial Office and the representatives of the seven West Indian colonies to determine the extent to which the colonies should contribute to the share capital of the Corporation recommended."

Mr. Creech Jones replied that the delay in publication of the report was due to factors over which neither the Government nor the Commission had control. It was

felt, however, that because certain of the recommendations were likely to be of major importance for the development of British Honduras and British Guiana, parts of the draft report should be made available to the Governor in order that urgent consideration should be given to some of the projects contemplated, and also to the Colonial Development Corporation so that preliminary studies could be put in hand. So far as he knew there had been no leakages. There was no distribution of chapters of the report, and if information fell into the hands of individuals, it was completely unauthorized. There was no desire on the part of His Majesty's Government that the Legislative Councils should not have the fullest opportunity of studying the report and making recommendations in respect of the projects contemplated. So far as he knew there had been the fullest consultation between the Governors and the Executive Councils in the respective territories, and a great deal of publicity had been embarked on in the territories in order that the people concerned should know precisely what is recommended and gather their reactions to the projects suggested.

Action Already Taken

The Evans Report, with due regard to its two main objectives of proper development of the two mainland territories and the alleviation of the population problem in the West Indies, had to be taken in conjunction with the programmes of social and economic development worked out by the two territories for social and economic development over the next ten years with the assistance of funds under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. The government would not give preference to one territory over another as regards encouragement and financial support. It was hoped, in order to proceed with certain of the projects proposed in the report, that monies would be made available in addition to those already allocated under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act and that a further £2,000,000 would be made available to enable the necessary preliminary investigations to proceed.

Certain action was already being taken. With regard to the expansion of rice production in British Guiana, two experts, one on organization and one on mechanization and milling, together with an irrigation engineer, were to visit the colony early next year and report on future organization of the industry.

The project for the establishment of a 10,000 acre banana plantation on the right bank of the lower Essequibo river had been referred to the Colonial Development Corporation and the Director of Agriculture in the colony had been able to obtain quantities of disease-resisting plants from Dutch Guiana. Discussions and inquiries were being made regarding shipping facilities if these crops could be produced.

An engineer was being sent to the colony to investigate the possibility of dredging the bar at the mouth of the Essequibo river, to facilitate traffic and commerce with the hinterland.

The New Year Honours

THE New Year Honours contained the following names of West Indian interest:—

K.C.B.

SIR THOMAS INGRAM KYNASTON LLOYD, K.C.M.G., Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

K.C.M.G.

MR. EDWARD FRANCIS TWINING, C.M.G., M.B.E., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, North Borneo.

KNIGHTS BACHELOR

MR. CECIL FURNESS-SMITH, K.C., Colonial Legal Service, Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago.

MR. JOHN LIONEL SIMONSEN, Director of Research, Colonial Products Research Council.

C.M.G.

MR. WILLIAM ALEXANDER MACNIE, O.B.E., Colonial Secretary, Leeward Islands.

C.B.E.

MR. CHARLES WALTER BURROWS, Labour Adviser, Development and Welfare Organization in the West Indies.

MR. JOSEPH TROUNSELL GILBERT, O.B.E., Colonial Legal Service, Attorney-General, Bermuda.

MR. HOWELL DONALD SHILLINGFORD. For public services in Dominica, Windward Islands.

O.B.E.

MAJOR AUGUST SCHOENER ARRINDELL. For public services in Trinidad.

MR. GEORGE FREDERICK BAXTER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Senior Surgeon, Public Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica.

MR. FREDERICK ARCHIBALD CONRAD CLAIREMONTE, Commissioner of Income Tax and Death Duties, Barbados.

MR. ETIENNE DUPUCH, Editor and Proprietor of the *Nassau Daily Tribune*, Bahamas. For public services.

MR. JOHN FITZROY FLEMING. For public services in Grenada, Windward Islands.

MR. GEORGE GIGLIOLI, M.D., M.R.C.P. (London), Honorary Government Malariologist, British Guiana.

MR. JOHN ROBIN PLOWMAN, lately Director of Supplies and Chairman, War-time Supplies Commission, Bermuda.

MR. CALVERT MILFORD STAINE. For public services in British Honduras.

M.B.E.

[MILITARY DIVISION]

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR WHITFIELD POMEROY BURROWS, British Honduras Volunteer Guard.

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR HAROLD BRUCE GARDINER MARSHALL, Barbados Volunteer Force.

[CIVIL DIVISION]

MR. WILLIAM ERIC BASSETT, Agricultural Superintendent, Montserrat, Leeward Islands.

MR. JOHN CHARLES CATER, Colonial Forest Service, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Trinidad.

REVEREND BROTHER MICHAEL CANICE COLLINS, Headmaster, St. Mary's College, Castries, St. Lucia, Windward Islands.

MR. GEORGE JAMES DENT, Acting Honorary Secretary, West Indian Club.

MR. JAMES OLVA GEORGES, Senior Unofficial Member of the Executive Council of the Virgin Islands and Member of the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands.

REVEREND FRANCIS GODSON, Chairman of the Old Age Pensions Claims Committee for the Parish of St. Michael, Barbados.

REVEREND EDWARD ARMON JONES, Chairman and General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Jamaica.

MR. RODERICK O'CONNOR, Acting Chief Valuer, Trinidad.

MR. DENTON WILLOUGHBY SAYERS, Superintendent Mechanic, Department of Highways and Transport, and Engineer in charge of Government Watercraft, Barbados.

MR. CHARLES LEONARD SWABY, Assistant Secretary, Jamaica.

MR. FITZ-HERBERT WAITHE, Sanitary Inspector, Special Grade, Trinidad.

H.E.M.

MIRIAM BATSON, lately Charge Nurse, General Hospital, Barbados.

BADRI NAUTH, Senior Magistrate's Clerk, British Guiana.

KING'S POLICE MEDAL

[FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE]

GEOFFREY DUPUIS MAYDON, Superintendent (Head) of Grenada Police Force, Windward Islands.

U.K. Beet Sugar

English and Scottish sugar beet contracts for the 1949 season have now been issued, and reports indicate a prompt response from growers.

Prices are to be the same as for 1948, i.e., 103s. 4d. free-on-rail in Scotland, and from 103s. 4d. to 105s. 4d. delivered at factory in England, per net ton of properly topped clean beet. The prices are subject to a variation up or down of 5s. in respect of each one per cent increase or decrease in sugar content above or below 15½ per cent. Growers' privileges in respect of pulp remain unchanged.

It is the government's wish that the present sugar beet acreage should remain substantially unchanged in 1949.

It is anticipated that the 1948 sugar beet crop will yield about 4,100,000 tons of beet, or approximately 10½ tons per acre. Sugar content is lower, but root weights considerably higher, than in 1947. The campaign should close at all factories by the end of January, favourable harvesting weather having enabled an early start.

Economic Adviser for Trinidad

Mr. Arthur Asher Shenfield, of Birmingham, has been appointed to the Colonial Service as Economic Adviser in Trinidad.

Mr. Shenfield was educated at Cardiff High School and the Universities of Wales, London and Birmingham and graduated B.A. (Wales), B.Sc. (London) and M.Com. (Birmingham). He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1945.

He has held appointments as assistant editor, London Cambridge Economic Survey; lecturer in Economics, Birmingham University, and deputy controller of plans, Economic Division, Central Control, Germany.

Britain's Four Year Plan

Role of the Colonies

THE U.K. plan for achieving and maintaining a satisfactory level of economic activity without Marshall Aid by the middle of 1952, when that assistance ends, has recently been published and has been laid before the Organization for European Economic Co-operation. There it is being synchronized with similar plans prepared by the other participating countries.

The shortest possible general picture of what it is hoped to achieve is given by the following table, all figures being millions of dollars :—

Total payments for Imports...	1947 6,206	1948 7,150	1952-53 8,030
Receipts from Exports and Re-exports	4,441	5,892	7,377
Deficit on Visible Trade	-1,765	-1,258	-653
Invisibles (net)	-774	+130	+1,053
Balance on Current Account	-2,539	-1,128	+400

Exports in 1952-53 are put at 150 per cent of 1938 by volume. The corresponding figure for imports is 15 per cent by volume less than in 1938. The statement says :—

"A growth of output and trade of this magnitude will, besides reducing the balance of payments problem to manageable dimensions, permit a distinct increase in home consumption per head not only beyond the somewhat meagre standards of 1947, but, in many respects, beyond pre-war levels. The supply of manufactured goods for the consumer should rise 15-20 per cent above the 1947 level, with clothing and household goods somewhat above the pre-war level. There should be sufficient supplies of the chief energy producing foods and notable increases in the 1947 levels of consumption per head of meat, eggs, oils and fats. The consumption of food as a whole would approach the pre-war volume and the more equal distribution of the national income which has been secured in recent years would imply that the standard of food consumption of a large part of the population should be markedly better than before the war."

The role of the colonies is described. Colonial exports to the U.K., about \$600 million in 1947 and \$800 million in 1948-49 are expected to reach \$950 million by 1952-53. Exports from the U.K. are expected to rise from \$930 million in 1948-49 to \$1,000 million in 1952-53. "Still more significant" says the statement, "in conditions in which dollar currencies will still be scarce, is the expected increase in the colonial dollar surplus. Already in 1947 the colonies had recovered to the point of having a small dollar surplus; in the current year this has been running at a rate of about \$150 million." Unfortunately no separate figures are given, therefore the place of the West Indies in the scheme of things cannot be determined.

Certain figures of colonial production past and forecasted may be of interest. Sugar is expected to reach 1,400,000 metric tons in 1952-53 as against 895,000 in 1946. Bauxite, 1,950,000 metric tons in 1950 as against 1,250,000 in 1946. Production of oil in British Borneo and Trinidad about 4½ million tons in 1947, is

expected to increase to about 6 million tons, as a result of extensions in hand. Sugar beet production in the United Kingdom is to remain at 3,650,000 metric tons of roots in 1952-53 the same as in 1948-49. This compares with 2,785,000 metric tons average for 1934-38.

West Indian Federation

Some of the Problems

MR. H. V. WISEMAN, who was Education Officer from 1943 to 1946 in Dominica under the Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, has contributed to the Fabian Colonial Bureau series of pamphlets a study* of the political scene in the West Indies entitled *The West Indies: Towards a new Dominion?*

Beginning with the facts of the adoption by the Montego Bay conference of resolutions 1 and 2, covering acceptance of the principle of federation without prejudice to progress towards self-government in each colony, and the establishment of the Standing Closer Association Committee to explore the road to federation, Mr. Wiseman reviews the constitutional and economic developments bearing on these decisions.

He believes in the right and capacity of the West Indian to assume responsibility for his own affairs, and considers it wise to regard the West Indies as inevitably set upon the road to federation and self-government, but at the same time recognizes that economic and social development are an essential prelude to success, and that in these directions there is still some way to go.

He makes a strong case for adult education, on the ground that self-government will not wait upon the results of the general education of the young. He notes the slow progress made in developing satisfactory organs of local government. He feels that the continuance of subsidies from outside sources to provide services which a colony could not otherwise maintain would militate against the achievement of self-responsibility. While he regards a belief that the economic problem can be solved on the basis of self-government and federation as "progress half-way along the road to successful work," he sees a tendency to neglect the economic for the political aspect. A tendency for populations to drift towards the towns does not help the economic position. The historical fact that each colony has developed its connexions with the mother country rather than with its neighbours has led to an individuality in outlook which is a stumbling block. A gap which he discerns between the coloured middle classes and the mass of the people is an even greater obstacle; the impossibility of developing the whole apparatus of modern social administration in all the smaller colonies is another.

Mr. Wiseman follows Professor Simey in hoping for the growth of a real West Indian culture and civilization, which would make it possible to lay the foundations, psychological and spiritual, of a united federation.

*Research Series, No. 130, Fabian Publications Ltd., and Victor Gollancz, Ltd., London. Price 2s.

Jamaica Primary Producers

Central Committee

MR. D. J. VERITY contributes to the July-August-September, 1948 issue of *The Farmer*, the Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, an interesting account of the formation and activities of the Jamaica Central Committee of Primary Producers from which the following is taken:—

The earliest Producers' Associations in Jamaica were the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association Ltd., the Jamaica Coconut Producers' Association Ltd., and the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica) Ltd., all of which came into being about 19 years ago. Since then other commodity associations have been formed, most of them cradled and nurtured by the Jamaica Agricultural Society and including the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers' Association, the Bee Farmers' Association Ltd., the Citrus Growers' Association Ltd., the Jamaica Livestock Association Ltd., The Jamaica Cigar Manufacturers' Association Limited, and the All-Island Banana Growers' Association Ltd. The latter replaces the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association Ltd., which is now a commercial company transporting bananas to Britain, whereas the Banana Growers' Association is an association of banana growers as its name implies. The Coconut Producers' Association Ltd., has since been taken over by the Coconut Industry Board, which has wider scope and represents a larger number of growers.

Some of these organizations, having learnt the value of cohesion within their own industries, came to the conclusion in 1944, that a Central Committee of Primary Producers should be formed, and the Jamaica Agricultural Society naturally came to the minds of the moving spirits in several of them as the most appropriate body to convene a preliminary meeting. The Central Committee was set up, but did not commence to function until last year when it was galvanized into activity principally by Mr. Rudolph Burke, president of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and the Hon. R. L. M. Kirkwood, chairman of both the Sugar Manufacturers' Association and the Citrus Growers' Association, just in time to forward to the Montego Bay Conference on Closer Union of the British West Indies some useful resolutions which will be dealt with later in this article.

Once reborn, the Central Committee provided itself with a constitution and simple regulations. The Manager of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association was appointed Secretary, and the Central Committee meets in that Association's rooms and its staff does the necessary clerical work at small cost.

Member Organizations

The Member Organizations of the Central Committee are the following: The Jamaica Agricultural Society; The All-Island Banana Growers' Association Ltd.; The Bee Farmers' Association Ltd.; The All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers' Association, Ltd.; The Jamaica Cigar Manufacturers' Association, Ltd.; The Citrus Growers' Association, Ltd.; The Coconut Industry Board; The Jamaica Imperial Association; The Jamaica Livestock Association, Ltd.; The Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica), Ltd.

Each one contributes to the comparatively small budget of the Central Committee according to its ability, and each is entirely autonomous and conducts its own affairs. In matters affecting all producers and processors of primary products, the Central Committee speaks with one voice, and with the weight of probably 50,000 members of its constituent organizations and their democratically elected representatives behind it.

Recommendations

The Resolutions forwarded to the Closer Union Conference recommended (1) the formation of a B.W.I. organization of Primary Producers; (2) the establishment of a B.W.I. trade commissioner service in Britain; and (3) the recognition of the B.W.I. trade commissioner at Commonwealth conferences and discussions affecting the trade and commerce of the British Caribbean on the lines of that accorded to the High Commissioners of the Dominions. All these resolutions were passed.

The Central Committee considers it quite an achievement that it has succeeded in establishing as Jamaica Government policy that it shall be consulted when maximum guaranteed prices are fixed for local food crops such as corn (maize), yams, pulses, etc. Formerly, such prices were fixed without hearing the views of the growers, and at times they bore no real relation to the cost of production, with the result that farmers did not plant the crops that were badly needed.

Results Achieved

Other results achieved by the Central Committee include the following:—

- (1) Tractors and tractor parts to be admitted duty free, after the proposal had been thrown out by the House. Stock feed and poultry feed to be admitted free of duty.
 - (2) Amendment of the Agricultural Marketing Law (Law 54 of 1944) after the proposal had been thrown out by the House of Representatives.
 - (3) Trade Controller issues import licences for goods certified as essential by Commodity Association.
 - (4) Increase in the price of milk sold to the condensary by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 5d. per quart all the year round, after Government had fixed 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for part of year.
 - (5) Unit weight of coconuts reduced from 150 lb. to 135 lb.
 - (6) Appointment of a Food Production Committee by Government with representatives of Jamaica Agricultural Society and Central Committee.
 - (7) Lifting of controlled prices on local foods.
 - (8) Continuation of guaranteed prices (though for 1 year instead of 5) at figures very near to those recommended.
 - (9) Inclusion of rice as a guaranteed item.
 - (10) Government to subsidize seed production.
- Matters still being pursued are:—
- (1) Remaining 5s. increase for beef cattle.
 - (2) Extension to agriculture and industry generally of facilities granted to hotels, textiles and cement under special laws.
 - (3) Tariff revision in favour of agricultural and industrial needs.
 - (4) Relief of primary producers' associations from income tax on reserves and unspent balances.
 - (5) Subsidies to farmers—Director of Agriculture's plan.

Agriculture in Trinidad

Director's Report for 1947

THE Administration Report of the Director of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago for the year 1947 indicates that agricultural effort in the colony continued to be directed towards the aims and ideals laid down in the report of the Agricultural Policy Committee, accepted by the local government in 1945.

Shortage of trained staff, however, especially on the specialist side, continued to be a serious limiting factor to the rate at which progress could be recorded. For this reason the development of the Central Experiment Station was not as satisfactory as had been wished for. Experimental procedures involving changes from established agricultural practices require constant supervision if they are to be carried out as designed, and an increasing shortage in senior staff militated against this.

The district extension and marketing side, although not at full strength, did not suffer from staff shortage to the same extent. Good progress was made with the conversion of the former "war gardens" into permanent food allotments. The new tenancies offered under this scheme were generally accepted as fair and reasonable, and as they were only offered on land suitable for permanent gardening they paved the way for the introduction of a system of long term leases whereby the good tenant may obtain security of tenure and settle permanently on the land. Local food production, although not reaching self-sufficiency, was maintained at a satisfactory level.

Purchases of all commodities by the marketing division totalled 4,033,580 lb. compared with 2,199,635 lb. in 1946. A record crop of maize was reaped during the year, of which the division purchased 3,077,400 lb. during the period October to December in honouring the local government's guarantee to support the producers. There was a big increase in advances to co-operative societies. The fisheries division was active, and further progress was made in the extraction of shark liver oil, which proved to be of high value, and some of which was delivered to the Health Department.

Sugar

Production in 1947 was 110,068 tons compared with 109,603 tons in 1946 and 76,347 tons in 1945. The original estimate had been for a production of 125,000 tons, the shortfall being due to drought conditions and a certain amount of damage by froghopper.

Estate canes reaped during the season amounted to 737,400 tons and farmers' canes to 321,818 tons. The average yield per acre of estate canes was 24.80 tons, compared with 25.28 tons in 1946. Yields of farmers' canes are not available. Over the season's grinding one ton of sugar was obtained from 9.62 tons of cane.

The price of export sugar was increased for 1947 by \$22.80 per ton, of which \$6.00 per ton was allocated to a price stabilization fund, \$4.80 per ton to a rehabilitation fund, and \$2.40 per ton to a labour welfare fund.

The price for farmers' canes was \$6.52 per ton. A new wage agreement was negotiated during the year by which the crop time bonus of 10 per cent granted in 1946 was replaced by the concession of an increase of

15 per cent on basic earnings (1946 rates). 1947 wage rates were 30 per cent above 1944 irrespective of the war, attendance and/or output bonuses which remained unchanged.

Cocoa

The better prices ruling for cocoa, and the indication that owing to the falling world output of cocoa good prices may be expected to continue, encouraged estate owners to reclaim semi-abandoned plantations, and exports during the calendar year rose to 9,009,644 lb. compared with 6,626,962 lb. in 1946. Producers' prices in the colony rose from \$28.00 per fanega (110 lb.) in January to \$41.00 per fanega in December. During the war years the price had remained unchanged at \$13.25 per fanega.

The value of good prices to the industry, and to the colony, is reflected in the following returns of exports which are given in the report:—

Year	lb.	Value in \$
1938	42,436,447	2,369,285
1944	10,622,633	1,411,796
1945	7,731,824	1,080,047
1946	6,626,962	1,171,781
1947	9,009,644	3,205,049

Witches' broom disease accounted for less damage than usual in 1947. This is attributed in the report to a prolonged dry season and also to the greater care now being paid to cultivations.

The cocoa rehabilitation scheme made further progress and 105,995 rooted cuttings of high yielding plants were distributed against 70,000 in 1946. Where land is considered unsuitable for replanting in cocoa the majority of applications for assistance under the scheme were for the planting of citrus.

Coconuts

The amount of copra milled in 1947 again increased, as work continued in bringing estates back to maximum production with maintenance of the price of copra at \$7.00 per 100 lb. The steady rise in production over the last few years is shown in the following returns of copra milled each year:—

Year	lb.
1943	21,670,531
1944	29,313,693
1945	38,916,669
1946	39,617,401
1947	40,033,078

No copra was exported as such, the whole output being processed in the colony with production of 1,556,050 gallons of edible oil, 1,388,472 lb. of lard compound, 129,975 lb. of margarine, 376,494 lb. of butter substitutes, and 8,845,997 lb. of laundry soap.

Citrus

The export of fresh fruit to the United Kingdom market was resumed during the year, as will be seen from the table of exports given above.

The Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association canned 175,535 cases of juice and packed 97,192 crates of fresh fruit.

Considerable plantings of Valencia oranges, which come into prime condition for shipping in April/May/June, had reached a stage of maturity which was expected to permit of trial shipments in 1948, but the lime industry continued to decline on account of "dying out" disease. Experimental work on the disease was in progress during the year with a view to control if possible. It has been established that it is a condition peculiar to the lime, and that although shade may delay, it does not prevent dying out, while it does reduce crop considerably.

Other Crops

Exports of tonca beans totalled 204,176 lb. valued at \$196,515. The product met a reduced price of 50 to 60 cents per lb. compared with \$1.00 per lb. in 1946.

Exports of coffee were 1,265,675 lb. against 1,287,000 lb. in 1946. The drought conditions in 1947 seriously affected prospects for 1948.

The agreement whereby all rubber produced was made available to the United States government through the agency of the Rubber Development Corporation expired on June 30th, 1947, and the war-time prosperity of this industry came to an end. 324,899 lb. of rubber were exported, valued at \$221,296.

Agricultural Exports

The total value of agricultural exports, at \$16,872,844, exceeded that in 1946 by \$4,520,967. The increase was largely made up by a gain of \$2,134,332 in respect of sugar and its by-products and a gain of \$2,031,623 in respect of cocoa.

Particulars of the principal exports are as follows:—

	Quantity	Value
SUGAR AND BY-PRODUCTS		
Sugar ...	ton 89,664	8,111,099
Rum ...	proof gal. 844,910	1,846,235
COCOA		
Raw Cocoa ...	lb. 9,009,644	3,205,049
Cocoa Butter ...	lb. 500	278
Prepared Cocoa ...	lb. 1,536	915
CITRUS		
Lime Oil, distilled ...	lb. 12,698	68,931
Raw Lime Juice ...	gal. 67,310	48,913
Limes, fresh ...	lb. 4,398	538
Citrate of Lime ...	lb. 209,440	17,496
Grapefruit, fresh ...	No. 9,081,436	366,401
Oranges, fresh ...	No. 4,708,746	78,000
Grapefruit Juice ...	gal. 473,654	478,045
TONCA BEANS ...	lb. 204,176	196,515
RUBBER, RAW ...	lb. 324,899	221,296
COFFEE		
Raw Coffee ...	lb. 1,265,675	250,014
Prepared Coffee ...	lb. 49,435	16,311
COCONUTS AND COCONUT PRODUCTS		
Edible Oil ...	gal. 181,342	297,934
Coconut Oil ...	gal. 546,510	789,022
Margarine ...	lb. 253,373	88,278
Lard Substitute ...	lb. 193,506	102,072
SOAP STOCK ...	lb. 197,166	26,621
SOAP, HARD ...	lb. 627,986	82,159
FRESH VEGETABLES ...	lb. 322,133	64,318
FRESH FRUITS ...	lb. 102,001	5,822
BANANAS ...	stems 1,495	4,401
LIVESTOCK AND HIDES		
Livestock ...	...	...
Hides ...	lb. 27,200	2,984
BITTERS ...	proof gal. 39,236	378,925
HONEY ...	lb. 71,177	11,219
MISCELLANEOUS ...	...	96,697
TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS		16,872,844

B.W.I. Cocoa

The Trinidad 1948 cocoa crop ended on September 30th last with a total production of 17,897,187 lb., nearly double the 1947 crop of 9,450,000 lb. An early estimate for the 1949 crop was 15,000,000 lb., but unfavourable weather has been experienced since.

The 1948 Grenada crop was also higher than the previous year, exports from October 1st, 1947, to September 30th, 1948, totalling approximately 6,000,000 lb. against a little over 5,500,000 lb. for the corresponding period 1946/47.

Interim allocations of B.W.I. cocoa for 1949, issued by the International Emergency Food Council, are as follows:—

Destination	Country of Origin					Total
	Trinidad	Grenada	Jamaica	St. Lucia	Dominica	
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
Australia ...	70	70	—	—	—	140
Belgium ...	200	150	—	—	—	350
Canada ...	600	240	1,350	—	—	2,190
Netherlands ...	300	50	—	—	—	350
Palestine ...	50	50	—	—	—	100
Poland ...	100	—	—	—	—	100
S. Africa ...	200	—	—	—	—	200
Switzerland ...	150	20	—	—	—	170
United Kingdom ...	1,750	1,000	—	—	—	2,750
U.S.A. ...	2,190	500	—	450	360	3,500
Total ...	5,610	2,080	1,350	450	360	9,850

Witches' Broom in Grenada

The discovery in Grenada of the witches' broom disease of cocoa was reported on page 235 of the November issue of the CIRCULAR.

Further survey has revealed that the disease is also prevalent on the east side of the island, Burnside and Peggy's Whim in St. Patrick's, Springs in St. Andrew's, and Mount Stanhope in St. Mark's parishes being named as infested estates.

Measures and the enactment of legislation for dealing with the disease are being energetically pursued, while the Finance Committee has voted to James Ambrose, the labourer who first found the disease at Bon Air, an award of \$48 as a mark of appreciation.

In Transit Cocoa

Facilitation of Handling

In response to representations made by the Cocoa Association of London, Ltd., the Raw Cocoa Branch of the Ministry of Food has agreed that as from January 1st, 1949, applications for licences to import raw cocoa for storing in bond pending re-export in the same form, and applications for export licences in respect of the same cocoa, will no longer be referred to the Ministry of Food, but will be dealt with solely by the Board of Trade. The change refers to raw cocoa of any country of origin.

Droughts in Antigua

Disastrous Effects on Island's Economy

MR. R. S. D. GOODWIN, chairman of Antigua Syndicate Estates, Ltd., speaking at the annual general meeting held in Antigua, on December 20th, drew attention to the serious losses suffered by the island during the past two years in consequence of drought. A touch of history was introduced into his review by his reference to the severe droughts which ravaged the island in the latter half of the eighteenth century.

In the course of his speech, Mr. Goodwin said:—

"The year 1948 has been one of the most critical in the history of Antigua, due to two main causes. In the first place, the island, which has always been subject to periodic droughts of great intensity, suffered one of the worst of these from early November, 1947 until September, 1948. This, following on the drought which I reported last year, had a disastrous effect on the 1948 crop and on our whole undertaking.

"An early chronological history of Antigua records:—
1773 failure of crops through drought.

1779 extreme drought; all parts of the ground parched, ponds dry; stock and labourers dying in agony.

1789 seven months without rain; 5,000 head of horned stock died.

1782-1832 over a 50 year period the island's crop varied between 16,000 hogsheads (about 12,000 tons) of sugar and, on five occasions, as low as 3,000 hogsheads.

"In 1931 the island's average rainfall was about the same as in 1947. In that year the estates, which our company now owns, reaped 28,292 tons of cane or about six tons to the acre. In 1948 these same estates delivered 65,444 tons of cane or about 13½ tons to the acre. In the former year the island was saved by an Interest Free Loan from the Antigua Sugar Factory, which was repaid in ten annual instalments. While we have been able to arrange the necessary advances to carry on our cultivation this year, this can only be done at heavy expense for interest charges, and our company has suffered a severe set back which will take all our resources and the greatest care in planning if we are to recover at any time in the near future.

"The outlook, however, is by no means hopeless. Just as the industry recovered from these big upheavals in the past, so we may look for a good recovery now, especially with the new methods of cultivation, better ploughing and manuring, and with the new varieties of cane which are being constantly tried out. It is therefore to be hoped that our recovery will be far more rapid than it was from the more disastrous though not more severe drought, in 1930.

"Some idea of the intensity of the drought may be given by mention of the fact that some estates measured only 20 inches of rain in 1947 and not more than 10 inches for the first nine months of 1948. High winds aided the low rainfall in ruining our crops. Our company was fortunate in having three or four springs which continued to give good water for man and beast and so the calamities of 1779 and 1789 were averted.

"The second factor to which I would refer is a

prolonged strike at the Antigua Sugar Factory and at our estate workshop which delayed the start of crop by more than two months. As a result of this, many fields could not be cut, and much of the cane that was cut was so spoiled by dry weather and the delay in reaping that it was hardly worth grinding. It is estimated that not less than 2,000 tons of sugar were lost to the island's economy in this way."

[In 1731 the scarcity of water was so great in Antigua that a pailful was sold for three shillings.—ED.]

Canada—B.W.I. Trade

The following figures of Canadian trade with the British West Indies for the twelve months ended August, 1948, and the corresponding figures for 1947 and for the average of the five years 1935-39, are published in the issue of *Foreign Trade* which appeared on October 30th:—

CANADIAN IMPORTS

Country	Twelve Months ended August					
	Average 1935-39		1947		1948	
	Value \$'000	Per cent	Value \$'000	Per cent	Value \$'000	Per cent
Bermuda ...	102	0.6	113	0.3	62	0.2
British Guiana	5,348	29.0	11,716	33.5	15,488	39.7
British Honduras ...	85	0.5	843	2.4	642	1.6
British W.I.:						
Bahamas ...	*	.....	383	1.1	588	1.5
Barbados ...	3,354	18.2	8,314	23.8	5,955	15.3
Jamaica ...	5,291	28.7	6,776	19.4	8,516	21.8
Leeward and Windward Islands ...	*	.....	136	0.4	294	0.8
Trinidad and Tobago ...	2,362	12.8	6,373	18.2	7,497	19.2
Other ...	1,878	10.2	331	0.9	Nil	.....
Total ...	18,420	100.0	34,985	100.0	39,041	100.0

CANADIAN EXPORTS

Country	Twelve Months ended August					
	Average 1935-39		1947		1948	
	Value \$'000	Per cent	Value \$'000	Per cent	Value \$'000	Per cent
Bermuda ...	1,350	10.8	4,878	6.2	4,416	6.8
British Guiana	1,258	10.1	9,493	12.0	9,340	14.3
British Honduras ...	251	2.0	1,351	1.7	1,072	1.6
British W.I.:						
Bahamas ...	*	.....	2,318	2.9	3,930	6.0
Barbados ...	1,155	9.3	8,221	10.4	6,371	9.7
Jamaica ...	3,751	30.1	18,500	23.3	15,688	24.0
Leeward and Windward Islands ...	*	.....	5,231	6.6	6,341	9.7
Trinidad and Tobago ...	3,123	25.1	26,033	32.8	18,224	27.9
Other ...	1,569	12.6	3,260	4.1	Nil	.....
Total ...	12,456	100.0	79,285	100.0	65,384	100.0

* Included with "Other."

New Ship for West Indies

AS briefly reported in last CIRCULAR, the first of the new passenger ships of Elders and Fyffes, Ltd., the *Golfito*, will make her maiden voyage to the West Indies next May-June. She was launched recently from the Linthouse Yard of Alexander Stephen & Sons, Ltd.

The twin-screw steamer *Golfito* is 415 feet long, 62 feet in breadth and 35 feet in depth. She will carry 99 first class passengers and 1,800 tons of cargo. Her passenger accommodation is spacious with large lounges leading to an open deck fitted with a permanent swimming pool. Fire prevention has received special consideration and the main stairs are built of steel and enclosed in steel casings. The cabin bulkheads are made of asbestos fibre with light steel fire-proof doors and the whole accommodation is divided into fire insulating zones with electrically operated division doors. The sides of the hull, deckhouses and all cargo spaces are insulated with fibre glass, a new departure in heat resisting material.

Of 7,000 tons G.R.T., she is engined by two sets of double reduction geared turbines and will have a designed speed of 17½ knots. She is now being fitted out in preparation for her maiden voyage to the West Indies.

For the photograph of the *Golfito* which appears alongside, we are indebted to *The Bulletin*, of Glasgow.



The Elders & Fyffes' *Golfito*

New Vessel for French Line

The m.v. *Fort Richepanse*, being built by Alexander Stephen and Sons, Ltd., at Glasgow, for the French Government, was launched on December 15th, by Madame Marie, wife of M. Jean Marie, president of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.

The vessel, which has a gross tonnage of approximately 5,200, is designed for the carriage of bananas between northern France and the West Indies, but there will also be accommodation for twelve passengers in two and three berth rooms, each with private shower and toilet.

We hope to publish a photograph of this new ship in next issue.

The first consignment of this season's citrus fruit from Jamaica reached the United Kingdom on December 5th, and consisted of 4,623 boxes of sweet oranges and 6,762 boxes of grapefruit. A second consignment of 6,862 boxes of sweet oranges and 15,041 boxes of grapefruit arrived on December 15th.

British Guiana Beef

Trial Shipment by Air

THE government of British Guiana have for some time been considering the possibility of transporting beef by air from the Rupununi ranches to Georgetown, as an alternative to marching the cattle over the long jungle trail to the coast, and the recommendations of the Evans Commission included suggestions for the development of this industry.

The June, 1948, issue of *The Farm Journal of British Guiana* gives particulars of a trial shipment of beef by air from Wichabai Pau in the southern savannah to Georgetown, flown on June 11th by the Department of Agriculture with the co-operation of the Rupununi Development Company, the B.G. Airways and the Demerara Meat Company.

The consignment consisted of 16 quarters totalling about 1,500 lb. of consumers' meat. The four animals selected—an old steer, a young steer, an old cow and a speyri heifer—were rested for a day after roping up, slaughtered and dressed in the morning, and the carcasses hung after dressing for 2 hours until the arrival of the plane about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The plane carried a qualified meat inspector of the Central Board of

Health, who inspected the carcasses and offal, which were then wrapped in specially made sacks and packed in metal trays provided by the aeroplane company.

The meat was landed at Atkinson field and conveyed by lorry, with precautions to prevent bruising, to Georgetown, where it arrived at about 8 p.m. It was at once inspected at the Demerara Meat Company by the meat inspector of the municipality. The inspection showed that the meat arrived in good condition, and fit for human consumption. The marked difference in the grade of carcase obtainable by this method of transport as compared with that obtained from similar animals driven down the cattle trail was clearly manifested and freely commented on.

The meat was placed in cold storage after inspection and kept there for seven days, the entire operation from slaughter to cold storage having been successfully completed in 13 hours. The meat showed no signs of discolouration due to bruising or other causes, and was sold for consumption at the expiration of the experimental period.

This first trial of shipment of beef by air is regarded as promising.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"IF you hab shillin', wash de shillin', drink de water
an' keep de shillin'."

* * *

THE REV. E. M. ASHWORTH was inducted as Rector of Trinity Cathedral and Dean of Trinidad, on November 30th, 1948.

* * *

MR. J. M. CAMPBELL, deputy chairman of the West India Committee, has returned to London after a visit to British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica and Canada.

* * *

LIEUT.-COLONEL KENNETH PREVITE, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has returned to London after a visit to Trinidad and the U.S.A.

* * *

LADY (MARY HÉLÈNE) SISNETT, who, we regret to learn, died on December 3rd at Harmston Hall, near Lincoln, lived for some years at Bridgetown, Barbados.

* * *

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for the bulk importation into the United Kingdom under specific licence during 1949 of citrus fruit juices from Australia and Sicily.

* * *

THE Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago has unanimously adopted a Bill which provides for the control of prices of admission to cinematograph entertainments.

* * *

PLANS for the revival of the Surinam cocoa industry, which was abandoned in 1926, include the importation from Trinidad of 150,000 disease resistant and highly productive cocoa plants in 1948.

* * *

ORDERS IN COUNCIL made on November 26th, 1948, extended the boundaries of Jamaica and the Bahamas to include the area of the continental shelf which lies beneath the sea contiguous to the coasts.

* * *

THE Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board's new passenger centre at King's Wharf, Port-of-Spain, was opened on December 20th by the Governor. A further reference to the new centre will be made in the next issue of the CIRCULAR.

* * *

MR. JOHN W. FREEMAN, of Jonas Brown & Hubbard, Ltd., son of the late Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, a former deputy chairman and treasurer of the West India Committee, was presented by his wife with a daughter—Felicity Anne—on December 8th.

* * *

THE 88th Regular Meeting of the Caribbean Lodge, No. 4826, will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2, on Tuesday, February 1st at 5 p.m. Visitors from the West Indies will be cordially welcomed and should contact the secretary, W. Bro. J. Lagden, at 34, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.

MR. H. L. Q. HENRIQUES, of D. Q. Henriques and Co., and a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, left this country in the *Ariguani* on December 30th to pay a visit to the West Indies. He will visit Trinidad, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, Antigua, Jamaica and British Honduras, and return via Canada towards the end of April.

* * *

At a reception held at the Belgian Embassy in London by the Belgian Ambassador and the Vicomtesse Obert de Thieusics on December 14th, Sir William Rook, Director of Sugar at the Ministry of Food, received the insignia of Officier de la Couronne. This follows upon the conferment by the Dutch government of the Commander of the Order of Orange Nassau, which took place recently.

* * *

MR. C. ERNEST WOODHOUSE, chairman of the Cocoa Association of London and director of Woodhouse, Carey and Browne, who has been connected with West Indian trade for more than 40 years, is paying his first visit to the West Indies. Accompanied by Mrs. Woodhouse, he sailed in the s.s. *Stuyvesant*, on December 31st, and hopes to visit Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica, British Guiana and Cuba before returning to England in March next.

* * *

MR. ALFRED RAYMOND LYON, who, we regret to learn, died in the Royal Masonic Hospital, London, on December 17th, had been in the service of Royal Mail Lines, Ltd. for nearly 35 years. He was born in Trinidad in 1894 and after leaving school entered the local office of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. During the 1914-18 war he saw service at sea in a hospital ship and at the beginning of the last war was transferred to Admiralty Service when the *Alcantara* was requisitioned as an armed merchant cruiser. He had served as purser in all the large Royal Mail vessels and was a most popular officer.

The Pictorial Pages

PRINCE CHARLES OF EDINBURGH was christened in Buckingham Palace, on December 15th, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Rev. M. F. Foxell, and was given the names Charles Philip Arthur George. The photograph reproduced on the first of the pictorial pages in this issue was taken shortly after the ceremony, and shows the Prince wearing the royal christening robe of white silk and Honiton lace made for Queen Victoria's children.

The illustration in the top half of the second page is referred to in a special article elsewhere in this issue.

The two photographs in the lower half of the page, for which we are indebted to Antigua Syndicate Estates, Ltd., shows cane being transported to the factory. In that on the right, cane is being lifted by mechanical tackle from a tractor-drawn cart into railway cars seen on the extreme left of the picture.

Obituary

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of the following:—

Dr. F. B. Oliphant

Dr. Frank Binfield Oliphant, M.B., C.M., died at Bridport, Dorset, on December 11th, where he had lived and practised since 1916 when he returned to this country from the West Indies.

Dr. Oliphant is still remembered with affection in Antigua where he served from 1903 to 1916 and made himself one of the best loved medical officers that the island has known.

He leaves a widow—whose services for many years as his dispenser were given as ungrudgingly as his own—a son, Commander George Oliphant, R.N. (Retd.), and a daughter, Mrs. Jean Murray, and a wide circle of friends to mourn his passing.

"M.M.S." writes: "To him it mattered not from what quarter or at what hour the call came, his services were immediately available. The enthusiastic welcomes he received as he stepped ashore at Antigua on his return from leave proved that to him 'neither East nor West, Border, nor Breed, nor Birth' mattered when his skill was called upon."

Mr. Cecil Farrar

Mr. Cecil Farrar, who died at his home at Georgetown, British Guiana, on December 17th was one of the colony's leading commercial figures.

Born at Plaisance, East Coast Demerara, in 1875, he was the son of the Ven. Archdeacon Thos. Farrar, B.D., and was educated at Queen's College, British Guiana. He commenced his business career at the British Guiana Bank (now the Royal Bank of Canada), and later joined the firm of S. Davson and Co., Ltd., becoming its senior attorney and then a director in the colony.

His business activities also included directorships with the Hand-in-Hand Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., of which he was until recently, chairman, and F. A. Persick, Ltd.

Mr. Farrar was of a retiring disposition and was a devout churchman being a member of Christ Church and a member of the Diocesan Synod.

Mr. Farrar married, in 1904, Miss Leila Elizabeth Agnes Winter whom he leaves to mourn his loss, together with their two children, Mr. C. F. Farrar of Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Graham and Co., and Mrs. E. Barron.

B.B.C. Overseas Service

From January 2nd to April 2nd, 1949 the B.B.C. General Overseas Service will be directed to the West Indies and Central America between the hours of 5.15 p.m. and 11.15 p.m., and of 11.45 p.m. and 3.15 a.m., Greenwich Mean Time.

The wavebands on which the programmes will be projected at different times (local time) during the day will be as follow:—

January. Morning, 11, 19; Afternoon, 13, 16, 19; Evening, 25, 31, 49.

February. Afternoon, 16; Evening, 19, 25, 31, 49.

March. Afternoon, 16; Evening, 19, 25, 31.

Cayman Islands in 1947

THE annual report of the Cayman Islands for 1947 records a considerable strengthening of the medical services in the Dependency during the year. The Government Medical Officer retired, but after a holiday returned to practise in a private capacity in Grand Cayman. A successor was seconded from the Jamaica Medical Service, and also a general and maternity nurse. A Cayman Island nurse completed training in Jamaica and assumed duty as general and maternity nurse in Cayman Brac, and a private practitioner took up residence at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, taking with him a trained nurse.

These extensions of medical facilities are possibly reflected in the pronounced drop in the infantile mortality rate as compared with 1946, a drop from 33 per 1,000 to 19.87 per 1,000.

Recent improvements in communications may also be reflected in a substantial increase in the number of inward and outward migrants.

There was little change in employment statistics, but some increase took place in rates of pay and in the cost of living.

The figures of revenue and expenditure given in the report are those for the year April 1st, 1946, to March 31st, 1947. The former amounted to £31,200 against £29,380 in 1945-6; the latter totalled £28,950, against £23,106. On March 31st, 1947, the Reserve Fund of the Dependency stood at £28,315, and the Hurricane Relief Fund at £2,117.

The prosperity of the Cayman Islands depends largely on the remittances sent home by its menfolk serving abroad, mainly in seafaring capacities. Other prime factors are the earnings of schooners engaged in the turtle and shark fisheries, and boat building. Another substantial item is the export of thatch rope. Exports of turtles and turtle shells were much the same as in 1946, but there was a set-back in the rope industry due to a drop in the demand from Jamaica. By the end of the year, however, the position had improved considerably.

During the year a motor-vessel of 79 tons, a motor-yacht of 14 tons and a launch for the Customs department were built in the islands, and two sailing vessels were under construction. Two new companies were formed during the year, and an increase in shipbuilding is anticipated.

Agricultural production continued to fall short of local demands, and a Select Committee was appointed to report on steps to be taken to bring about an increase. With few exceptions, all commodities required by the inhabitants had to be imported. The potentialities of the islands as a tourist resort attracted a number of capitalists from outside the Dependency, and the possibility of establishing a small tourist industry was pursued.

The Governor of Jamaica, Sir John Huggins, visited the Dependency in January, 1947, this being the first visit by a Governor since before the war.

Professor Sir Norman Haworth, of Birmingham University, the well-known authority on the chemistry of sugars, is among the notable scientists who will represent the Royal Society at the Pacific Science Congress to be held in New Zealand in February.

West Indian Shipping

Correspondence in "The Times"

THE report of the Commonwealth Shipping Committee in connexion with its survey of the shipping needs of the British colonies in the Caribbean area, and Bermuda, was reviewed at length in last issue.

The report has been the subject of correspondence in *The Times* which is reproduced below. The four letters appeared in that journal in its issues of December 8th, 13th, 21st and 23rd respectively.

FROM LADY SOUTHOORN

The report of the Commonwealth Shipping Committee, of which a summary appeared in your issue of November 29th, brings home once more most forcibly the completely insufficient transport service to and from the Caribbean, and indeed between the islands themselves. Personal experience may help to underline the inadequacy of the service.

In September, 1946, my husband and I went to the West Indies for health reasons, intending to return in the spring of 1947. We applied for reservations for return passages immediately on arrival, but in April, 1947, we were told that there was no chance of obtaining a return passage to England for an indefinite period. It was imperative for us to return, and eventually, with infinite trouble, we obtained passages in a small American freighter to St. John, New Brunswick, and on from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the Aquitania.

The inter-island communications in the Caribbean are deplorable. Apart from air transport, the islands are practically cut off from one another except for an occasional Harrison Line, Canadian, or French ship or local schooner. The schooner is a most uncomfortable and limited method of transport, and seems to date from the days of the diligence in Europe. Can it be hoped that deeds may soon take the place of words in establishing our shipping position in this vital area of the Commonwealth?

From MR. J. W. BOOTH, chairman, British South American Airways Corporation.

Lady Southorn's complaint that "apart from air transport the (Caribbean) islands are practically cut off from one another" makes rather curious reading. She would scarcely, one imagines, think of complaining because many villages in this country are cut off from each other, "apart from buses." Surely it is this linking of small and scattered communities which is one of the most valuable functions of air transport, and one which it is also performing with such great benefit to the communities concerned in East Africa, West Africa, and Australia, to take a few instances at random.

Admittedly, air communications in the Caribbean are still not yet fully developed, but this is being remedied as rapidly as possible by our associate, British West Indian Airways, which will shortly be taking delivery of the first of its fleet of small amphibian aircraft which it is acquiring with the specific object of providing services to the small and remote islands of this area. This, of course, is in addition to its existing landplane services linking the larger centres in the Caribbean area.

From MR. R. GAVIN, secretary, West India Committee.

No one would wish to underrate the service rendered to the scattered island communities of the Caribbean by British West Indian Airways. The present company and its predecessor have earned the gratitude of all by the way in which, in spite of many discouragements, they have kept their air services going. It is good to know that plans are afoot for their development and extension to islands hitherto unprovided for.

Nothing should be allowed, however, to obscure the basic needs of the area, which are two: (1) A fortnightly passenger service by sea between the United Kingdom and the eastern Caribbean serving directly or indirectly Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana, and the Leeward and Windward Islands; and (2) an inter-island freight and passenger service linking the Windwards and Leewards by sea with either Barbados or Trinidad or both.

The Commonwealth Shipping Committee's report merely reaffirms the well-known necessity for both these services. On

the first it makes no concrete proposals as regards the assistance by way of building subsidy or subvention to meet running costs either or both of which are necessary to interest shipowners in providing the service. On the second it reaffirms a recommendation of the Moyne Commission of 1938-39 upon which action should already have been taken.

The ball has, therefore, been passed back to the Government, which, whatever its desire to help, has not the technical knowledge of shipbuilding and ship-running costs to take the immediate decisions which are so essential to the welfare of the communities concerned. And so presumably it will seek still further expert advice. Meanwhile the months and years roll on while loyal citizens of the Empire become more and more exasperated about apparent indifference to their interests.

From MR. M. J. WATT, Empire Department, Federation of British Industries Overseas Directorate.

Having just returned from a visit to the British West Indies I would like to add my commendation to Mr. Gavin's regarding the services being rendered to these colonies by British West Indian Airways. As he says, however, valuable as these services are, they do not meet the basic needs of these territories for sea communications with the United Kingdom and between the various smaller islands. I attended the eighth quadrennial congress of the Incorporated Chambers of Commerce of the British Caribbean, at which this question of better sea communications was considered, and a resolution was passed urging the Government in the United Kingdom to give the matter immediate consideration. Subsequently I visited a number of the colonies, where I met the Chambers of Commerce and various business men, when once more this need was stressed.

During the war, when we were unable to meet the needs of these colonies, we pressed them to draw essential supplies from Canada and the United States. This policy has now been reversed and strict import regulations are being enforced restricting imports from North America to a minimum. This change of policy quite obviously has resulted in serious losses to many business people who have built up connexions in the United States and Canada.

The many inquiries which have been conducted into economic conditions in the West Indies in the past have generally resulted in recommendations for improved transport services, but unfortunately they have proved ineffective. In the circumstances to-day, when the West Indian people are being forced to buy in the sterling area, more especially in the United Kingdom, the least that the Government can do is to ensure that a satisfactory shipping service at reasonable rates is established with the least possible delay.

Food Yeast

A recent report* of the Nutrition Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations declares insufficiency of the B group of vitamins to be probably the most important fault of typical rice diets in Asia and the tropics.

Food yeast, a good source of riboflavin, rich in other vitamins of the B group and in protein, is an obvious choice as a supplement to such a diet, and the committee reports that it has been readily accepted by various groups. One useful method of supplying food yeast may be through school-feeding programmes, and the report recommends that the possibility of increasing consumption of the product in this and other ways should be explored.

The committee emphasizes, however, that food yeast must be cheap if its use as a dietary supplement is to be extended, and regards the price of the food yeast which is at present being supplied to a limited extent to certain countries in the East as high.

**Nutrition Problems of Rice-eating Countries in Asia*, Report of the Nutrition Committee, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Washington, U.S.A., June 1948, Price 25 cents. (1s. 3d. net from H.M.S.O.).

Canada—B.W.I. Trade

Drop in Canadian Exports

In the issue of *Foreign Trade* of December 11th, 1948, Mr. A. W. Evans, acting Canadian Government Trade Commissioner in Trinidad, discusses the trend of Canadian trade with the Eastern Caribbean and the Guianas.

Mr. Evans writes: "While prosperous conditions continued in this area in the middle months of the year, a change in the pattern of trade is now evident. Rigorous import controls, imposed by Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward and Windward Islands and Trinidad, as a result of the dollar shortage, have reduced by one-third their purchases from Canada. Formerly the principal source of supply, the Dominion has now fallen into an uneasy second place, and just ahead of the United States. Foreign competition is increasing, as suppliers seek to regain a share of their former market aided by the preference granted 'war-torn' countries.

"Rigid application of controls on imports from the dollar areas, plus an increased supply of goods available enabled the United Kingdom to regain her pre-war position as chief supplier by a wide margin. This change has not been accomplished without painful adjustment. British prices are claimed to be high, even exorbitant. Much publicity has been given the subject by protests from the various Chambers of Commerce to United Kingdom authorities.

"Recent removal of import controls from a wide range of commodities when imported from the United Kingdom and colonies group will tend to further accentuate Britain's lead. As long as present restrictions on dollar imports continue in force, Canada's trade will continue to suffer, and in some cases, the losses will be irreparable.* This will be particularly true in the switch now taking place in supply from American subsidiaries in Canada to American subsidiaries in the United Kingdom. Two examples in point are refrigerators and rubber products. Branded lines will also suffer heavily."

Meantime, purchasing power in the area has been maintained, and on the average, Mr. Evans considers, expectations are that business in 1948 will be as good as, or a little better than, in 1947. Conditions, however, are far from uniform, St. Lucia, on account of the Castries fire, and Barbados, on account of the poor sugar crop and shortage of home-grown foodstuffs, being particularly hard hit.

The commercial intelligence committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, recently submitted a report to the executive council of the Association on difficulties facing Canadian businessmen trying to trade with other member countries of the British Commonwealth.

The report expresses concern at the fact that import restrictions in the British Empire countries have become progressively more stringent since the war and that

* At the time of going to press the CIRCULAR was informed that proposals for certain relaxations, agreed between His Majesty's Government and Canadian representatives following the visit of Sir Stafford Cripps to Canada, have been accepted by the British West Indian governments. These proposals will be reported in the February issue.

more and more of Canada's highly-manufactured goods are being excluded from natural markets.

Specific representations have been made to the department of trade and commerce in Ottawa with respect to the British West Indies, to which area, among others, there has been a noticeable drop in Canadian manufactured exports.

Institute of Jamaica

Gift from Carnegie Trust

THE Carnegie Corporation of New York has made the generous gift of \$18,000 to the Institute of Jamaica. This gift, which covers a period of three years, is to be applied to the conservation and study of material of historic value to Jamaica kept at present in the archives of Spanish Town.

The archives comprise the records of extinct courts, dispatches between Governors and Secretaries of State, and local records. They include masses of unbound papers and folios which were stored in the old Court House in Harbour Street, Kingston, until the 1907 earthquake destroyed the building. After being collected and stored temporarily in Wolmer's school they were moved in 1910 to the Supreme Court building in King Street, and placed by the Jamaica Government in the custody of the Institute in 1940, with a small grant only sufficient to provide for a preliminary listing of the contents.

Closely linked with the gift from the Corporation is the scholarship recently awarded by the British Council to Mr. Clinton V. Black, assistant in the West Indies Reference Library. Mr. Black will study for a year in the Record Office, London and the School of Archive Administration at London University. On his return he will train for a further period under a skilled archivist.

The seals of the Chancery and Vice-Admiralty Courts, which were with the archives, were picked up in Water Lane after the 1907 earthquake, and are now in private hands. The Institute feels that this would be an opportune time for them to be placed in the Institute's care for public display.

Sea Island Cotton

A Correction

In the note on the report of the Advisory Committee in England of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association, on page 262 of the December, 1948 issue, there is an error to which attention must be drawn.

In the first column, paragraph 5, reference is made to the alleged deterioration in the quality of the M.S.I. type cotton produced in Antigua and St. Kitts. This should read Antigua and Nevis. There has been no such deterioration in the quality of the St. Kitts cottons.

Mr. William Norman Gallagher, who was appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on September 27th, 1948, as Development Liaison Officer for the Caribbean area and Bermuda, will leave London by air on Thursday, January 6th, 1949, on his first tour. He is due to arrive at Nassau, Bahamas, the next day.

Publications Received

Extension Circulars, Jamaica Department of Agriculture, October, 1947. Three instructive circulars from the Veterinary and Livestock division, No. 8, *Handling Cattle*; No. 9, *Handling Bulls*; No. 10, *Showing Cattle*.

Bulletins of the Jamaica Department of Agriculture, No. 35, *Notes on the Chemical Composition of Some Grasses grown in Jamaica*, by R. F. Innes, 1947. Gives the results of experimentation at Hope and Grove Place, and the effects of season and variety of grass on the nutritive value of the fodder obtained. Draws attention to the necessity for supplementing the feeding of tropical grasses with the most protein-rich concentrates available in order to make optimum use of maximum grass production.

No. 36, *A Study Tour of Centres of British Agriculture with special reference to Agricultural Mechanization and its application to Jamaican conditions*, by W. K. Mitchell, 1948. The author, while on vacation leave in the United Kingdom in 1947, made a tour of agricultural stations and agricultural engineering works, with the assistance of a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare fund, to gain information on the suitability for Jamaican conditions and the availability of agricultural machinery of British manufacture.

Mr. Mitchell's observations cover the whole range of farm machinery from heavy tractors and implements to hand tools and miscellaneous gadgets. He found that British manufacturers tended to have vague ideas on the requirements of tropical agriculturists, and that there are many gaps to be filled between tropical requirements and supply. He notes a particular dearth of machinery suited to the requirements of contour farming.

E.I.A. Export Catalogue, 1948. An Index of members of the Engineering Industries Association, listed under the names of the products which they manufacture. Published by the Association, 9, Seymour Street, Portman Square, London, W.1.

The International Sugar Journal, Vol. L, No. 599, November, 1948. A feature article in this issue by Rafael Arroyo deals with the simultaneous production of "light" and "heavy" rums from the same "beer" while using exactly the same distillation equipment and technique.

Ian Grant, engineer at Plantation Albion in British Guiana, describes a sighting method for the accurate alignment of mill engine crankshafts.

The South African Sugar Journal, Vol. XXXII, No. 9, September, 1948. The leading article in this number discusses the International Sugar Agreement. It is considered that agreement on a new sugar charter cannot be unduly delayed, but that the decision taken at the meeting of the International Sugar Council in London in August, to renew the agreement in its existing form for another year and to appoint a committee to study the changing sugar situation as it relates to the need for negotiating a new agreement, was wise.

The Empire Journal of Experimental Agriculture, Vol. XVI, No. 64, October, 1948. J. Duckworth and G. B. Rattray give a further account of their observations on the three-quarter-bred Holstein heifer, and deal

with the management and rearing of the animal from birth to two years of age.

Dr. O. J. Voelcker describes experimental work on cocoa carried out at the West African Cacao Research Institute at Tafo on the Gold Coast.

British Honduras Trade Directory, 1948. Edited, compiled and published by P. J. Webb, Box 221, Belize. A business and professional directory, with useful information on harbour facilities, duties and other charges, and notes on hotels, boarding houses and passport requirements.

Gordian, Vol. XXXVIII, Nos. 1151 and 1152, November 10th and 25th, 1948. The reappearance of this journal will be welcomed by a wide circle of readers interested in sugar, cocoa, coffee and the confectionery industries, though the useful statistical section has not yet been fully developed. This the publishers promise to do, though they anticipate that it will only be possible to do so gradually. A discussion of the case for a new international sugar agreement emphasizes the need in Western Germany for increased sugar imports.

The Barbados Commercial Journal, Vol. XI, No. 8, July-August, 1948. The full text of the memorandum dealing with the high cost of British goods, prepared by the committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce to inquire into the matter, and of the Chamber's discussion thereon, is published in this number of the journal. Other discussions reported related to the shipping situation in the Southern Caribbean and the need for the Chamber to be called into consultation by the local government in regard to co-operation of the colony in the Marshall plan.

Britain and the Colonies

Events during and since the war have created in the public mind of Britain an awareness of the colonies which did not exist before, and a growing demand to know more about them.

To assist those in search of information, and those engaged in disseminating it, the Colonial Office has recently published a catalogue* of material about the colonies available to schools and the public.

This catalogue gives particulars of lecture services available; of films, film strips and sets of lantern slides which can be borrowed; of picture sets, display sets, posters and maps which are obtainable; of arrangements which can be made to assist with exhibitions; of government and other publications dealing with the colonies; of centres where personal contacts with those from and interested in the colonies can be made; and of the information agencies which represent the interests of the various territories, and are in a position to supply information on points of particular interest and descriptive literature.

The catalogue is well arranged, and brings together in convenient form particulars of the many available sources of information on the colonies.

**Britain and the Colonies*: A catalogue of material about the colonies available to schools and the public, prepared by the Colonial Office and the Central Office of Information, H.M.S.O., 1948. Price 3d. net.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions, transfers, and new appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

BETHEL, C. P. (Assistant Colonial Secretary, Bahamas), Deputy Colonial Secretary, Bahamas.
 BOYD, P. J., M.D., M.P.H. (Medical Officer, Leeward Islands), Medical Officer of Health, Leeward Islands.
 BRITTON, D. G. (Assistant Auditor, St. Helena), Director of Audit, British Guiana.
 BYERS, M. A., M.B., M.P.H. (Medical Officer of Health, St. Lucia), Senior Medical Officer, St. Lucia.
 CAMACHO, F. J. (Magistrate, Trinidad), Second Magistrate, Trinidad.
 COOK, J., F.R.C.S., D.P.H. (Medical Superintendent, Trinidad), Surgical Specialist, Hong Kong.
 COOPER, R. O., D.M., M.S. (Medical Officer, Mental Hospital, Jamaica), Senior Medical Officer, Mental Hospital, Jamaica.
 DE VERTEUIL, I. (Executive Engineer, Public Works and Hydraulics Department, Trinidad), Investigation and Designs Engineer, Public Works and Hydraulics Department, Trinidad.
 DONOHUE, P. (Master, Queen's Royal College, Trinidad), Master, Education Department, Hong Kong.
 EARLE, A. L. (District Engineer, British Guiana), Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, British Guiana.
 EDDEY, L. G., M.B., D.T.M. & H. (Deputy Director of Medical Services, British Guiana), Director of Medical Services, British Guiana.
 EDWARDS, H. F. O. (Surveyor, Jamaica), Senior Surveyor, Jamaica.
 ELLIS, T. O. (Agricultural Chemist, Jamaica), Senior Agricultural Chemist, Jamaica.
 FLETCHER, J. L. (Deputy Director of Customs and Excise, Palestine), Controller of Supplies, British Guiana.
 FOLEY, A. M. (Executive Engineer, Trinidad), Divisional Engineer, Public Works and Hydraulics Department, Trinidad.
 FOX, J. E. (Deputy Director of Prisons, Jamaica), Superintendent of Prisons and Lunatic Asylums, Nyasaland.
 HAMILTON, A. J. (Second Magistrate, Trinidad), Chief Magistrate, Trinidad.
 HAMMOND, S. A. (Educational Adviser to the Comptroller of Development and Welfare, West Indies), Chief Adviser to the Chairman, Development and Welfare Organisation, West Indies.
 HOUGHTON, H. (Education Planning Officer, Jamaica), Director of Education, Jamaica.
 HUGH, E. I. (Agricultural Superintendent, British Guiana), Livestock Officer, British Guiana.
 KEALEY, J. (First British Sergeant, Palestine), Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica.
 KNOWLES, U. T. (Clerk, Grade I, Bahamas), Assistant Secretary, Bahamas.
 LANGFORD, F. S. (First British Sergeant, Palestine), Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica.
 LILLEY, R. (Director of Audit, British Guiana), Senior Auditor, Uganda.
 LYDER, W. E. (Surveyor, Lands and Surveys Department, Trinidad), Senior Surveyor, Lands and Surveys Department, Trinidad.
 PAUL, H. (Assistant Chemist, Agricultural Department, British Guiana), Agricultural Chemist, British Guiana.
 REDHEAD, J. H. V. W. (Additional Magistrate, Antigua), Magistrate, Antigua.
 ROSS, C. (Magistrate, Antigua, Leeward Islands), Magistrate-Crown Attorney, Montserrat, Leeward Islands.
 ROYES, K. C., M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.M. (Medical Officer, Jamaica), Medical Officer, Mental Hospital, Jamaica.
 RUSSELL, E. L. (Master, Queen's Royal College, Trinidad), Education Officer, Nigeria.
 SAVARY, J. L. H. W. (Puisne Judge, Jamaica), Senior Puisne Judge, Jamaica.
 SMITH, C. A. (First Class Inspector of Police, Jamaica), Deputy Commissioner of Police, Jamaica.
 STOBY, K. S. (Magistrate, British Guiana), Magistrate, Nigeria.
 TAYLOR, A. ST. C. (Principal Clerk, Jamaica), Assistant Treasurer, Jamaica.
 TOWERS, T. D. (Auditor, Nigeria), Principal Auditor, Windward Islands.
 WARD, M. F. T. (Executive Engineer, Trinidad), Executive Engineer, Grade I, Gold Coast.

WILSON, V. A. (Accountant, Agricultural Department, Jamaica), Accountant Administrator General's Department, Jamaica.

WYNTER, J. R., D.M., L.M.S., D.O.M.S. (Medical Officer, Leeward Islands), Ophthalmic Surgeon and Assistant Medical Superintendent, Leeward Islands.

New Appointments

ALLISON, Miss C., Nursing Sister, Barbados.
 AUSTIN, F. C. K., M.D., District Medical Officer, Windward Islands.
 BROWNE, R. E., M.R.C.S., Supernumerary Medical Officer, Leeward Islands.
 DUNN, A. M., M.R.C.S., Medical Officer, Grade C, Trinidad.
 GRAFTON, Miss D. M., Senior French Mistress, Bishop's High School for Girls, Trinidad.
 HOWE, Miss M. A., Supervisor, Physical Training, Jamaica.
 JONES, C. R., M.B., B.Sc., Medical Officer, British Guiana.
 LEWIS, Miss J., Assistant Matron, General Hospital, Barbados.
 McRAE, Miss E. M., Nursing Sister, General Hospital, Barbados.
 MINTY, L. M., Police Magistrate, Bermuda.
 MITCHELL, J. L., Assistant Superintendent of Police, Trinidad.
 TIBBITS, E. A., Assistant Superintendent of Police, Trinidad.
 YAP, P. M., M.A., M.B., Medical Officer, Hong Kong.

Jamaica Tomatoes

The Ministry of Food, in agreement with the Board of Trade, has announced that the period of validity of the open individual licences issued in 1948 for the importation into the United Kingdom of fresh fruit and vegetables, has been extended to June 30th, 1949.

A reference to the application of these licences to the importation of tomatoes from Jamaica was made on page 218 of the October, 1948 issue of the CIRCULAR.

In connexion with the extension of the period of the licences a revised list of commodities, to which the licences will apply as from January 1st, 1949, has been prepared.

In this list it is indicated that tomatoes may be imported from Jamaica, Canary Islands, French North Africa and Spain during the periods January 1st to April 30th and November 1st to December 31st.

Importers are advised that under the open licensing arrangements it may be necessary at any time to discontinue or suspend without warning the further import of any of the commodities shown in the list.

Jamaica Trade Commissioner

It has been announced by the Board of Trade that Mr. W. Ferguson, Trade Commissioner Grade II, has been transferred from Cape Town to Kingston, Jamaica, where he arrived on November 19th. Mr. Ferguson will take over the Trade Commissionership from Mr. F. J. Gick on the latter's retirement.

It is notified by the Board of Trade that the validity of tourist voucher books has been extended until the new arrangements for 1949 come into force. Validity of the existing books and vouchers did not, therefore, cease on December 31st, 1948. The relevant Order is the Consumer Rationing (Tourist Vouchers) (Amendment) Licence, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 731).



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

RAINY Spell. Writing from St. John's on December 22nd, our correspondent, Miss Helen Goodwin, says: "We are now enjoying a rather belated 'rainy spell' and as 1948 draws to a close, the gaiety of the gardens and the healthy green of the cane fields and the pastures give us a more hopeful outlook for the New Year. Vegetables are more plentiful too, and the stock look better."

Celloist's Visit. "We have recently had a visit from Mr. Bogumil Sykora, a Russian celloist who has held recitals, both private and public, and has given much pleasure to music lovers in the island. He was accompanied at the piano by Miss Wainwright and Mr. C. Ross Hutchinson."

"Mr. Charlesworth Ross is at present acting Colonial Secretary in the absence of Mr. Macnie, who is on leave. Mr. Archibald Thompson, Federal Treasurer and Treasurer of Antigua, acted as Administrator of Antigua while Mr. Wayne was one of the official delegates at the West Indian Conference held in Guadeloupe. The other delegates of the Leeward Islands were Mr. A. C. Palmer, Federal Education Officer, and Mr. Gordon, of Nevis."

Memorial Tablets. "This year tablets, erected in the cathedral to the memory of the late Bishop Hand and Mr. T. F. Burrowes, were unveiled by the Administrator and dedicated by the Dean of Antigua. Mrs. Frank Goodwin also unveiled one to the memory of members of the Forrest family who for two generations gave faithful service to the church and the island."

Help for St. Lucia. "Antigua has this year centred its public service on giving help to St. Lucia after the Castries fire. A committee, set up by the Government, raised \$3,560 for this cause. In addition the Antigua branch of the British Red Cross Society collected clothes, food and other necessities. Great credit is due to this society for their keen and quick work in despatching the first shipment on the day following the fire."

Sugar Crop. A correspondent in a letter from St. John's dated December 21st, says: "The weather continues very favourable and the rapid response of all crops to the rain has to be seen to be believed. Although the position with regard to the 1949 sugar crop has improved considerably, reliable estimates are still conservative in the region of 15,000 to 16,000 tons."

Budget. "The Antigua Legislative Council met for their Budget Session recently. The estimates for 1949 show a deficit of approximately \$370,000, the total expenditure being estimated at \$2,577,183."

BARBADOS

Shipping. Writing from Bridgetown on December 17th, our correspondent, Mr. Keith McCowan, says: "The Barbados Chamber of Commerce at a meeting on December 8th expressed disappointment with the terms of the report of the Imperial Shipping Committee on shipping facilities for the British Caribbean. Emphasiz-

ing that the greatest need is for a passenger link between the Eastern Caribbean and the United Kingdom, the Chamber decided to take up the matter through the president of the Incorporated Chambers of Commerce on the lines that whoever provided the freight service should be required to provide a certain amount of reasonably good passenger accommodation also."

Food Supplies. "The Government processing factory has during the last seven weeks made over a million pounds of sweet potato meal from three-and-a-half million pounds of potatoes available in excess of normal food requirements. The meal is used in the production of balanced animal feed and for this purpose is a substitute for cornmeal imported from dollar areas. The factory generates power from natural gas piped from Turner's Hall plantation."

Medical. "Dr. J. P. O'Mahony, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.T.M. (London), M.P.H. (Harvard) has taken up duties as Chief Medical Officer of the island *vice* Dr. H. D. Weatherhead, now Director of Medical Services, North Borneo. Dr. O'Mahony was previously Medical Officer of Health for St. Kitts."

Legislature Prorogued. Miss Joan Kysh, secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee, in a letter dated December 1st, says: "The 1946-48 session of the Legislature was prorogued by the Governor with traditional ceremony on November 23rd."

"The cost of living index figure for October showed an increase of one point, being 236 as compared with 235 in September. The increase since 1939 on all items is 136 per cent, and for food only, 125 per cent."

"Cacrabank Guest House has been purchased by a company to be known as the Cacrabank Co., Ltd. The new owners are making several improvements, and Mr. Ernest Devereux, one of the shareholders, will be in charge of the management."

Entertainments. "The annual Poppy Dance was held at the Marine Hotel on November 30th. On the same night, the St. Andrew's Society held their annual dinner. The Windsor Hotel organized a special cocktail dance, and thanksgiving dinner on November 25th."

BRITISH GUIANA

New Ice Company. It is stated that a new company is being formed, with a capital of \$240,000, to manufacture ice in Georgetown. The project will aim at the provision of regular daily ice supplies, and cold storage facilities.

As Messrs. Wieting & Richter have announced plans for the expansion of their ice plant, it is anticipated that periodic ice shortages which have been experienced will end, and that movements of fishing vessels dependent on ice supplies will be speeded up.

Large Diamond. The third large diamond reported from the Mazaruni in the past two years is said to have been found by a four-man outfit in the Kurupung district, and to have been sold to Mr. E. F. Correia. The weight is given as 16½ carats.

New Tobacco Factory. The Demerara Tobacco

Company's new factory, which replaces the building burnt down in 1945, covers 20,000 feet of floor space and is fitted with up-to-date plant capable of turning out a million cigarettes per working day. The 168 employees, 130 of whom are girls, make Clipper, Light-house and Four Aces cigarettes, three popular brands in the local market.

DOMINICA

Warships' Visit. Writing from Roseau, on December 3rd, a correspondent, who signs himself "Wintergreen," says: "The visit of H.M.S. *Diadem*, *Bulawayo* and *St. Kitts* to the island was a great success and it has stimulated our latent patriotism. All ratings had a good time ashore and the functions aboard the ships gave great pleasure to the people of Roseau.

"Export trade continues brisk, with bananas, lime juice, grapefruit juice and candied peel being shipped to United Kingdom.

New Sea Service. "Our government has called for tenders for the subsidization of a sea service for mails, passengers and cargo between Dominica, Barbados, St. Lucia and back to Dominica, twice weekly. This is an excellent move as our postal service—surface mail—is past speaking about. Your correspondent receives an important London weekly journal, three at a time and seldom in chronological order.

Dockers' Wage Increase. "Our wharf workers have received an advance in their wages and are now working what they call 'white wages.' The pity is that their work is of such a casual nature. The advance has shown itself immediately. They are all dressing much better. The coloured man likes to dress well."

JAMAICA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. December 17th.

During November the Executive Council imposed additional duties on cigarettes, beer, and the cheaper grades of rum which were compensated by a reduction in the duty on middle grade rums said to be stultifying the industry locally. The taxes are designed to mitigate the island's financial position. Amendments to the income tax law have been passed by the House of Representatives increasing the allowance and benefiting the lower category earners.

The Food Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has demanded a public inquiry into the operations of the Competent Authority's department, alleging gross mismanagement and inefficiency. In a speech, the Governor refuted the accusations and said that merchants were merely seeking increased profits; the controversy is continuing.

The delegation of Mr. R. F. Williams, Mr. Rudolph Burke and Mr. Clifford de Lisser now returning from England reports satisfactory negotiations in connexion with banana purchases. The Jamaica citrus growers are delighted by the offer of the Ministry of Food for a ten year contract to supply 5,000 tons of concentrated orange juice yearly from Jamaica, Trinidad and British Honduras, and plans are proceeding for a processing plant.

The approval of the House of Representatives has been given for a loan of £50,000 from the Bank of Nova Scotia to the water commission for the installation of a new plant for the University College.

The Hon. W. A. Bustamante has definitely pronounced

his opposition to the political federation of the British West Indies which, he says, is unaccomplishable without a large loan. The lack of inter-island trade and the burden on Jamaica and Trinidad are among his objections. "Federation will come," he said, "but it is impossible at present and I will not be party to it."

Kingswood Films, Ltd., Chicago and Kingston, have been placed on a satisfactory basis by the passage of a law protecting cinema producers. The firm expects to start operations early in 1949.

A serious accident occurred at an open air concert given by Paul Robeson on December 1st; 27 people were injured when a shed collapsed and two afterwards died. Tourist business amounted in 1947 to £1,250,000.

TRINIDAD

Mr. C. W. Hodges, until recently Principal Auditor, Windward Islands, succeeds Mr. J. R. Cusack as Director of Audit, Trinidad. Mr. Cusack has been appointed Director of Audit, Kenya.

1946 Census. Details of the results of the 1946 census were released on October 23rd. Population numbered 557,970, of whom 213,093 were gainfully employed. Of the latter 32,309 were classified as farm labourers, 34,109 were engaged in factories and workshops, 22,447 are shown as labourers, 15,762 were employed in trade and commerce, and 18,718 in the building trade.

Dr. A. A. Peat, Deputy Director of Medical Services, Jamaica, has succeeded the late Dr. E. J. Sankerelli as Director of Medical Services, Trinidad.

Cocoa exporters (with the exception of the Cocoa Planters' Association) and the local government have agreed that exporters may retain overhead and direct charges, and in addition a profit of \$1 per fanega on all cocoa shipped to any destination up to September 30th, 1948. The balance of the proceeds of sales will be deposited with the Treasury for distribution to producers through the cocoa pool.

The Legislative Council, on November 5th, unanimously adopted a resolution to accede to the Economic Co-operation Agreement entered into by the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Puisne Judge for Windward and Leewards

The Colonial Office announced on December 31st that the King had been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Donald Edward Jackson, Registrar of Deeds and of the Supreme Court, British Guiana, to be a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, in succession to Mr. G. E. F. Richards, who has retired.

Mr. Jackson was born in British Guiana in May, 1892, and was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1927. After being in private practice in British Guiana, he was appointed a Stipendiary Magistrate in that colony in October, 1931. He was promoted to be a Senior Magistrate in 1936 and to his present post in 1944.

West Indies at Westminster

BOTH Houses of Parliament adjourned on December 17th for Christmas, and will reassemble on January 14th.

Caura Dam. Mr. H. Hynd asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he had received any further information on the Caura Dam, Trinidad, and particularly whether the auditors' report on the dam would be published.

In a written reply of December 8th, Mr. Rees-Williams, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, said there was no further information, but arrangements had been made for the consulting engineer to visit the colony in February. The auditor's report was to be published.

Jamaican Honey. Mr. Skinnard asked the Minister of Food whether it was intended to extend the importation of honey from Jamaica following trial shipments of honey in tins during the year; and whether he would receive a representative of the Jamaican Bee Farmers' Association.

In a written reply of November 15th, Dr. Edith Summerskill, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, said that two licences had already been issued for the importation of Jamaican honey in tins of about 60 lbs capacity. If the trade wanted more in that type of pack, the Ministry would raise no objections.

West India Library. Mr. Driberg asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on December 1st if he was aware of the unique importance of the West India library at the Institute of Jamaica; and if it was intended that that library should be housed, as soon as possible, in a fireproof building.

Mr. Creech Jones replied in the affirmative to both parts of the question.

Mr. Driberg then asked whether Mr. Creech Jones could say how soon and by what means that desirable end was to be effected.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that an appeal had been made by the Jamaican Government in regard to the Institute, and hopes were held that there would be a favourable response.

British Guiana Price Control. Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what reply he had sent or proposed to send to the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, British Guiana, who had protested against the imposition of the Control of Prices Order on the grounds that the new prices had been fixed by a secret committee without full consultation with the trades concerned; and if he was aware that any changes in prices could not possibly be made by December 1st without severe dislocation of trade.

Replying, in a written answer, on December 2nd, Mr. Creech Jones said that he had asked the Governor to inform the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce that he saw no reason to intervene in the matter. The President of the Chamber had been himself a member of the committee on whose recommendations the Control of Prices Order was based. One month's notice of the price changes had been given, and he was assured that that was quite sufficient for the remarking of goods.

West Indian Customs Union. Mr. Thomas Reid asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 10th, what progress had been made in respect to the policy of a West Indian customs union or federation.

Mr. Creech Jones said in his reply that considerable preliminary work had been done by the chairman of the Standing Closer Association Committee, Sir Hubert Rance, since his appointment. The chairman of the commission which was to frame proposals for a customs union of the British Caribbean colonies, was due to leave for the West Indies on November 16th. The Standing Committee, which is to work out a scheme for closer union for presentation to the legislatures concerned, would hold its first meeting on November 12th.

Mr. Reid then asked whether it was not a fact that Sir Hubert Rance had stated that federation in the West Indies was a political necessity, and would Mr. Creech Jones try to press on with this business as fast as possible. Mr. Creech Jones replied in the affirmative, and added that considerable progress had already been made, and they would do all in their power to expedite matters.

When Mr. Peter Roberts asked, "Has Mr. Morgan Phillips insisted on this being a Socialist federation?" there was no answer from Mr. Creech Jones, but Mr. Scollan replied, "Not yet, but we expect it any minute."

Raw Cocoa. Mr. De la Hère asked the Minister of Food whether in connexion with supplies of cocoa beans he would consider allowing the West African Produce Control Board to sell direct to chocolate manufacturers in the United Kingdom; and if he would explain his reasons for hitherto retaining the existing method by which his ministry acted as middlemen.

Mr. Strachey, Minister of Food, in a written reply of November 16th, said that the bulk purchase of raw cocoa by the ministry had been introduced shortly after the outbreak of war to secure co-ordination and economy of resources in procurement and first-hand distribution. Since the war, the world demand for raw cocoa had far exceeded supply and in order to maintain the controlled prices of sweets containing chocolate or other cocoa products, they had found, and still found it necessary to continue to buy in bulk and to allocate supplies among the manufacturers at fixed prices. The West African Produce Control Board had not dealt in cocoa since the 1946-47 season, and the ministry bought from the London companies of the local Marketing Boards.

British Guiana Sugar Inquiry. Mr. H. Hynd asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies when the report of the commission inquiring into the shooting of plantation workers on the Enmore sugar estate, British Guiana, would be published; and in what circumstances had the lawyers acting for the workers withdrawn from the inquiry.

In a written reply, dated December 8th, Mr. Rees-Williams, said that Mr. Creech Jones had referred the question to the Governor, who had just returned from a visit of duty to Britain, and would communicate with Mr. Hynd on receipt of the reply.

Mr. Henderson Stewart asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he was aware of the continued printed and spoken propaganda of the communist-inspired agitators in British Guiana; what steps he was taking in the matter; and when the report of the Governor's inquiry into the shooting incident during the recent strike was to be published.

Mr. Creech Jones, in a written reply of December 15th, said that the Government of British Guiana was alive to the need for prompt action to deal with any contravention of the laws relating to sedition, and he was satisfied that that possibility was constantly in mind. As regarded the last part of the question, he would invite attention to the reply given to Mr. H. Hynd on December 8th [see above].

British Publicity in the West Indies. Mr. Driberg asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on December 8th, if he was aware of the constant disparagement of the achievements of the people of Great Britain and of H.M. Government indulged in by wealthy persons from the United Kingdom resident in Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and other islands in the West Indies; and if he would endeavour, by establishing or strengthening information offices, by the issue of bulletins containing facts about these achievements, or otherwise, to minimize the effects of such disloyalty.

In reply, Mr. Rees-Williams said that Mr. Creech Jones had not received reports of the kind referred to, but he appreciated the importance of wide publicity about the achievements of Britain in the past few years. All colonial governments received material on the subject of British economic and social achievements. A Regional Information Officer had recently been appointed for the Caribbean area, whose duties included advice to the governments concerned about the effective use and presentation of that material.

Mr. Driberg then asked whether Mr. Rees-Williams realized that it was extremely difficult for officers such as that to get their information across in the face of local newspaper prejudices and other obstacles, and whether he could take some steps more emphatically to convey to the peoples of those colonies the contempt felt by all decent people in Britain for the lying propaganda of those tax-dodging émigré droues.

British Honduras Ex-Service Men. Mr. Cooper asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 10th, what steps were being taken to improve and unify vocational training for colonial ex-servicemen; why no rehabilitation scheme or vocational training had yet been undertaken in British Honduras; and what steps were being taken to alleviate the present problem of mass unemployment and poverty in British Honduras.

In a written reply Mr. Creech Jones stated:—
"Vocational training in the colonies must depend on local conditions and uniform arrangements would not be practicable. Schemes for such training of ex-service men have, however, been provided in a number of colonial territories and colonial

Governments know that I should be glad to consider, in consultation with them, any suggestions for the improvement or extension of such schemes. In the case of British Honduras, men who did war service in the United Kingdom were covered by a Colonial Office scheme for further education and vocational training similar to the Ministry of Labour scheme for U.K. ex-service men.

"The main difficulty in absorbing ex-service men into civil occupations in the colony has been that there were comparatively few openings for persons trained for a skilled trade. In consequence, there is no general scheme for vocational training, although the needs of ex-service men in respect of employment have been a pre-occupation of the Governor in British Honduras. Efforts have been made to absorb the men into agriculture and such other kinds of work as are available. The proposals for the purchase of land for resettlement to which I referred in replying to Mr. Cooper on June 9th have recently been put into effect. This scheme is expected to employ 35 men by the end of the year and about 100 men in 1949. I have also recently approved a scheme to employ ex-service men on clearing and levelling some 40 acres of land in the neighbourhood of Belize, with a view to development.

"Other projects are being studied, but I must add that the ultimate answer to the problem lies in major economic development, recommendations for which are made in the Report of the British Guiana and British Honduras Settlement Commission which is being presented to the House to-day."

West Indian Immigrants. Mr. Janner asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many West Indians had arrived in the United Kingdom seeking employment during the last 12 months; how many had been placed in employment; and how many had returned to the West Indies.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Rees-Williams, in a written reply of November 15th, said that he could give approximate figures only. West Indians coming to the United Kingdom to seek employment did so privately and at their own expense. It was only when a large contingent had arrived that his attention had been drawn to them. Large parties arrived in December, 1947 (about 150), June, 1948 (about 500) and October, 1948 (about 180), making a total of 830. Over half of these immigrants had friends in the United Kingdom and became scattered immediately on arrival. Any of these men who had registered at employment exchanges would have been dealt with in the normal way and no statistical information about them was available. Of those arriving in June and October, 300 had had nowhere to go: 250 had been placed in employment within three weeks of arrival. The remaining 50 had become merged in the general population and he had no information about them. West Indians who wished to return home made their own arrangements through the shipping companies and he had no information as to how many had returned to the West Indies.

Ex-Servicemen's Smallholdings. Mr. Driberg asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 17th, what the average size was of the smallholdings on which ex-servicemen had been settled in Jamaica; how many ex-servicemen were settled on such holdings; how many of them had had previous experience or training in agriculture; and what percentage of these holdings were adequately supplied with water.

In his reply, Mr. Rees-Williams said that 1,264 ex-servicemen had been settled on smallholdings of six to seven acres. It was not possible to say how many had had previous experience or training in agriculture. He added that approximately 35 per cent of the holdings were adequately supplied with water.

Mr. Driberg: Is my hon. friend aware that the size of these holdings is quite uneconomically small and that on the whole this scheme, with some notable exceptions, has really been rather an expensive flop?

Mr. Rees-Williams: This is primarily a matter for the Government of Jamaica, but the amount of land available for agricultural settlement there, owing to the size of the island, is, of course, limited.

Sir G. Jeffreys: Is the hon. gentleman aware that there has been great discontent in Jamaica among ex-service men, particularly those of the First World War, about the quality of the land which they were given? It is not only un-fertile and barren, but is also ill-supplied with water.

Mr. Rees-Williams: As I have said, this is primarily a matter for the Government of Jamaica. No doubt the hon. and gallant gentleman is aware that they now have wide powers.

Company Reports and Meetings

Angostura Bitters, Ltd.

THE directors, in their report for the year ended September 30th, state that the profit of this Trinidad company is £63,330, from which is deducted £28,440 for taxation. To the remainder was added the profit on disposal of investments (£32), sundry income tax recoveries and adjustments (£1,788) and the balance brought forward (£28,319) making a total divisible profit of £65,029. The payment of the interim dividends of 5 per cent on the preference shares, and 10 per cent on the ordinary shares, both less Trinidad income tax, absorbed £7,012, and the directors now recommend the payment of a final dividend of 5 per cent on the preference shares, and 15 per cent on the ordinary shares, both less income tax, which will absorb £9,350. After appropriating £750 for donations to charities, and transferring £13,000 to general reserve, there remains a balance to be carried forward of £34,916.

Alstons Ltd.

In their first annual report for the period ended September 30th, the directors of this Trinidad company state that the profits, including those made prior to its incorporation, amounted to \$343,313. After deducting \$13,255 for transfer to capital reserve, and \$146,778 for income tax, there remains for appropriation \$183,280. The board recommends the payment of a dividend on the preference shares of 7 per cent, less Trinidad income tax, and on the ordinary shares of 8 per cent, less Trinidad income tax, which will absorb \$141,480, and the writing off of the balance of formation expenses, absorbing \$17,997, leaving to be carried forward the sum of \$23,803.

In the course of a review which accompanies the report, the chairman, MR. GERALD R. WIGHT, after discussing the balance sheet and accounts, says:—"During the period under review the company's business has increased both in volume and value. Generally speaking, we have made good headway with the policies of the company and with its development. Out of every dollar of gross profit we have been left with 70.7 cents after paying the company's working expenses: out of that amount which remains, no less than 30.2 cents go to the Government in income tax alone and only 40.5 cents are left to provide dividends for shareholders, reserves for special losses, contingencies, emergencies and general reserves for building up the company's strength. I feel bound to point out that whilst a high level of taxation continues it makes harder the task of ploughing back real profits so necessary to the continued development of industrial enterprises in which field the record of our company is a proud one; high taxation of this type is the modern reversal of the Parable of the Talents."

"My review would not be complete without mention of our close associate the Caribbean Development Co., Ltd. This company, after passing through many difficulties and vicissitudes with exchange and currency control, U.K. steel allocations, plant delivery delays, staff disappointments, and a multitude of other teething troubles common to all new industries, will start production in the first of its industries, namely glass, early in the New Year. It is early yet to say much more except that the second of its industries, the brewery, is well up to its scheduled programme, and should be in production by the time I again address you next year.

"Your company is already a leader in the industrial field in Trinidad and your board is fully alive to the growing recognition of the point of view that every effort should be made to produce within the colony as many as possible of those commodities which are in everyday use. It is the policy of your board that your company should play a prominent part in any new healthy and economically sound industry which aims at satisfying the internal needs of the colony, with perhaps also possibilities in the field of exports. Government could help materially in this direction in two ways—firstly, in some alleviation of taxation on new enterprises for a reasonable number of years, and secondly, in pressing on with the policy of a West Indian customs union. With regard to customs union, the principle of unifying areas with economic ties has long been known to be wise and has lately been much to the fore in Western Europe. Such a union in the British West Indies would do much to increase the volume and scope of trade within this area. It is to be hoped that the administrative difficulties of such an evolutionary step will not deter our government from seeking to put into practice the agreed principles of so advantageous a policy, which is bound to be of the

greatest help in the industrial development of the colony, and it is only through the continued development of agriculture and industry that the real material wealth of the colony as a whole can be increased and thus play its share in raising the standard of life for our people."

Caroni Ltd.

In their report for the year ended June 30th, the directors state that the net profits of the company (including that of its subsidiary), after providing for depreciation and taxation, amount to £102,909, to which is added £23,144 brought forward, making a total of £126,053. Out of this, £15,000 has been transferred to future crops expenditure reserve, £12,000 to staff pensions scheme, and £35,000 to general reserve, leaving £64,053. The dividend on the 6 per cent preference stock, less income tax, absorbs £19,140, and out of the balance of £44,913, the directors recommend the payment of a dividend on the ordinary stock, at the rate of 2d. per 2s. unit, less income tax which will absorb £19,250, leaving to be carried forward £25,663.

The 1948 sugar crop amounted to 33,859 tons, against 32,508 tons in 1947.

In the course of his annual statement, which accompanies the report, the chairman, Mr. J. GORDON MILLER, says: "You will agree that the financial affairs of the company, as outlined in the consolidated balance sheet, are to-day in very good shape and justify the policy steadily pursued of building up reserves.

"With a sugar crop of 33,859 tons, processed economically and efficiently by one central factory and, in addition, record sales of by-products at remunerative prices, the trading results for the past year can be considered satisfactory. Export sugars were again sold to the Ministry of Food at a negotiated price of £27 5s. per ton c.i.f., less £2 15s. per ton applied to the three separate reserve funds established in the previous year for labour welfare, rehabilitation of factories and price stabilization. The effective cash price, therefore, was £24 10s. per ton c.i.f., while the freight arrangement was maintained at the pre-war level. A recent statement by H.M. Government extends the period of the existing agreement with the Ministry of Food by giving assurance of market until the end of 1952. That will be helpful as far as it goes although declaration of a longer term policy is still the expressed desire of West Indian producers.

"A year ago, I referred to our efforts to control the pest, known as the froghopper, whose depredations over many years have involved incalculable losses to cultivators of sugar cane. The fog generators for dispersal of smoke-laden insecticides proved far from fully effective for the purpose. Accordingly, despite the heavy estimated expenditure, it was decided to renew the attempt by hiring a helicopter and the necessary personnel to spray insecticides from the air over the fields of growing cane. It was unfortunate that an accident to the plane, before completion of the four months' period of the experiment, denied to us the full achievement we hoped to attain. Nevertheless, the actual results, carefully recorded and checked, of operations during the period when the helicopter was available, established the fact that we had found the most effective and efficient method of dealing with adult froghoppers while they were actively engaged damaging the canes above ground. In that respect, therefore, the first experiments proved successful.

The problem then arose how to deal with the eggs which lie buried in the soil, incubating and protected by a froth. Our own research department in Trinidad, I am glad to say, appears to be on the way to a solution of that difficulty. Direct application to the soil of a particular chemical gives promise of effective results. A year hence, however, it should be possible to say something more definite about this important phase of our experiments which aims at destruction in the cradle and before development of the pest can take place. I should like to express our grateful thanks to government departments here and in the colony; to the Colonial Insecticides Committee; to Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.; to the Shell Petroleum Co., Ltd.; and the Irvin-Bell Helicopter Co. for all their co-operation and contributions in connexion with this great endeavour to rid the Trinidad sugar industry, at long last, of this prolific and devastating pest—*Tomaspis saccharina*.

"You are aware that, after extraction of juice by the mills, there remains the crushed and exhausted cane which is normally sent to the furnace as fuel. This crushed cane is called "bagasse." It is in demand, meantime, for the manufacture of fibre-board. This development of our business, to which I have not previously referred but upon which we have spent money and endeavours to reach the stage of profit making, is now, I hope, within sight

of a measure of success. One of our difficulties was storage of this bulky material for several months until it reached the age of maturity for heavy press baling in volume suitable for shipment. There are still some problems to resolve but shortly it is expected these will be overcome. The present stage has been reached after many disappointments. If the final objective is at last attained, it will be due, in no small measure, to the energy and perseverance with which the staff have faced the many formidable obstacles presented.

"The company's new harbour at Biechin Castle shipping point should be in full working order during the approaching season. The railway, which now directly links up our three estates, has already proved its value for rapid and economical handling of canes to the main factory. All these efforts for increasing revenue by reducing costs are complementary, of course, to our main activity which is the production of sugar. The prospects for the approaching crop season are reported to be favourable. Indeed, an estimate of estates and farmers' canes in the fields indicates that it will be necessary to operate two factories in 1949 in order to accommodate, within a shorter grinding period, a much higher tonnage of available canes. We are now within sight of a return to normal pre-war outputs of sugar and ultimately, I hope, to some expansion even beyond that.

"It is right you should know that our distillery played a very important part in the financial results of the past year. That supplementary source, however, now shows signs of dwindling. That is not to say that consumption in the future will be reduced but it does mean that there has been a big increase in rum production and the war-time sellers' market is at an end. The effect on our own sales of bulk spirit will be easier to gauge next year. On the other hand, our new Caroni Light Rum is so much in favour with the trade that it is reasonable to hope we shall be able to retain a fair share of future business in this important by-product of the sugar industry."

Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.

The directors, in their report for the year ended June 30th, state that the profit for the year amounts to £87,656, which added to the balance brought forward of £34,803, makes a total of £122,459. From this £51,367 is provided for taxation, and out of the balance of £71,092 the directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent, free of income tax, which will absorb £20,988. The balance forward is £50,104.

Sugar production amounted to 41,416 tons. Crop was seriously interfered with by a strike of estates workers which lasted five weeks and resulted in a loss of about 3,200 tons of sugar.

All raw sugar for export was sold to the Ministry of Food at £24 10s. per ton, c.i.f., plus £2 15s. per ton to be held by the Trinidad Government as provision for sugar rehabilitation, price stabilization and social welfare.

The Trinidad Government depreciation grant for replacement of machinery has now been utilized in full.

Nothing has yet been drawn from the rehabilitation fund, to which the company will have contributed a total of approximately £69,000 by the time all sugar proceeds in respect of this year's crop are realized.

In his annual statement the chairman, Mr. J. M. DU BUISSON, says: "... The preparation of the accounts to conform with the conditions of the Companies Act, 1948, has entailed considerable extra work. This has, unfortunately, delayed their presentation, which we much regret. The main difficulty has been the placing of a separate value on the various fixed assets of the company. In future, all items of plant and equipment will be added to our fixed assets, and an annual charge for depreciation will be shown. The net additions during the year amounted to £94,959, and included buildings £17,132, factory equipment and railway trucks £61,620, and agricultural equipment, including tractors £12,465.

"This expenditure is part of our programme of rehabilitation and for the speeding up of cane deliveries to the factory and shortening the crop period. I have referred in past years to the last two points.

"The past crop, with a total of 41,416 tons of sugar made, has been most disappointing, due entirely to an unexpected strike of estate workers on February 23rd. This state of affairs lasted more or less intensively for five weeks during our normal peak period of production. The factory was only enabled to grind at half-rate, thereby prolonging crop and increasing the cost. Towards the end of the strike period we received great assistance from our neighbours in the reaping of our estate cane

and we are very grateful to them for their help. I should like especially to mention the help we received from Mr. Robinson of Woodford Lodge. The strike did not appear to be due to any question of dissatisfaction with the wage rates, but to an attempt at starting a rival union to the All-Trinidad Sugar Estates and Factory Workers' Trade Union, with whom the Trinidad Sugar Manufacturers' Association have negotiated wage agreements for the past few years.

During the course of the strike, some 20,000 tons of cane were burnt and completely lost, as estate labour would not work. As a result of the prolongation of crop, we were unable to finish cutting before the arrival of the wet season and, in consequence, were left with about 11,600 tons of cane uncut at the end of crop. The regrettable feature of the strike is the loss inflicted on all concerned, the loss of wages to labour amounting to at least £15,000. If all cane had been reaped in the normal way, the tonnage of estate cane delivered to the factory would have been the highest in the company's history, and we could have made some 3,200 tons more sugar.

The yield from estate cane was very satisfactory, averaging nearly 27 tons per acre, an increase of about two tons per acre over last year. The tonnage of farmers' canes delivered was far in excess of estimate, and was a great help in keeping the factory grinding during the strike.

As you will have seen, the price of export sugar was increased by £3 per ton over the 1947 price to £27 5s. per ton c i f. This includes the reserve funds payable to the Trinidad Treasury. The effective cash increase was slightly less than £3 per ton owing to discontinuance of the Canadian Benefit Pool. The rehabilitation fund, part of these reserve funds, will be available to us for replacement of machinery, etc., and we hope to commence drawing on this fund in the very near future. I fear our share of it will not meet in full the capital expenditure necessary for complete rehabilitation, but it will be a great help.

The value of the rehabilitation fund has been included in the computation of the price to be paid to farmers for their canes, thus enabling them to get their share immediately. The strike has reduced our profit considerably, owing to increased expenditure and reduction in sugar output, but the distillery has again done well. How long this state of affairs will continue, I would not like to say, as there are indications that rum consumption has passed its peak. As for the prospects for next crop, we hope to exceed the tonnage of sugar made this year, but I think it wise to point out that in view of the greatly increased costs of sugar production both for labour and materials it is only possible to make a reasonable profit if everything goes well. Much depends upon the weather and the speed with which the crop can be taken off.

Since the end of our financial year, a commission under Lord Soulbury has been inquiring into the sugar industry in Trinidad and other islands in the British West Indies, and their report is expected soon.

We have been negotiating recently for a small factory and estate lying on our boundary, and hope shortly to bring this deal to a successful conclusion. Your board feel confident that the purchase will be of great benefit to the company."

Raw Cotton Selling Prices

An announcement by the Raw Cotton Commission made certain upward adjustments in prices and differentials of Egyptian cottons, to take effect as and from November 29th. Prices of Sea Island cottons were not affected.

A further announcement brought into effect, as from December 13th, increases in selling prices of raw cotton as follows: Egyptian cottons, 1½d. to 4½d. per lb.; Sudan types 4d. per lb.; sundry American, East Indian and African types ½d. to 1d. per lb.

From December 20th there were additional increases of 1d. per lb. in North Brazilian and East African cottons; 1½d. to 4d. per lb. in Egyptian types; 3d. to 4d. per lb. in Sudan cottons; and 4d. per lb. in West Indian Sea Island cotton.

West Indian Passenger List

British South American Airways

Passengers for Bermuda and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Land (Captain A. J. Campbell), from London airport, November 27th:—

Mr. E. Davey	Mr. R. Walker	Mrs. H. M. Wilson
Mrs. E. J. King		

Passengers for Bermuda, the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Bright (Captain E. T. Kippenberger), from London airport, December 1st:—

Mrs. K. M. Carty	Mr. L. M. Minty	Mrs. G. M. Smith
Miss H. Constantines	Mr. B. Sanders	

Passengers for Bermuda, the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Panther (Captain D. A. Cracknell), from London airport, December 2nd:—

Mr. H. Cooper	Mr. T. M. Jaeger	Mr. A. S. Patterson
Mr. W. B. Craggs	Mr. H. Kendall	Mrs. M. Rowntree
Mrs. A. H. Daffer	Mrs. P. Lyons	Mrs. A. Scott
Mr. R. A. Hitch	Mr. E. C. Maguire	Mr. R. Turner
Mrs. E. Jackson	Mr. W. L. Orr	Mr. J. L. Wyatt

Passengers from Jamaica and Bermuda, in aircraft Star Flight (Captain P. Sleight), at London airport, November 23rd:—

Mr. W. H. Beckwith	Mrs. A. C. Mills	Mr. D. Stuart
Mr. F. Dell	Mr. E. Prescott	Mr. L. Tucker
Mr. R. Gane	Mr. A. Ramondt	Mr. M. S. Willey

Passengers from the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Panther (Captain G. M. Allcock), at London airport, December 6th:—

Mrs. V. Fleming	Mr. R. E. Spray	Mr. J. Wilkins
Mr. B. L. Langford	Mr. L. Swains	

Passengers for Bermuda, the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Leopard (Captain J. F. Jones), from London airport, December 30th:—

Mr. G. E. Bennett	Mr. H. A. Galler	Miss B. Shoa
Mr. J. H. Holton	Mr. G. V. Gare	Mrs. L. F. Shoa
Mr. J. J. Butler	Miss D. M. Grafton	Miss M. Souli
Mr. & Mrs. S. Plateau	Mr. A. Huberty	Mr. R. V. Tunstall
Miss Portossi-Magrin	Mr. P. A. Potier	Mr. H. G. Yates

Passengers for Jamaica, in aircraft Star Leopard (Captain D. A. Cracknell), from London airport, December 4th:—

Mr. M. P. Alasin	Mr. L. J. Harris	Mr. W. A. Pickersgill
Miss S. Bhag Chaudhary	Mr. C. Hensley	Mr. M. Quah
Mr. & Mrs. T. R. Bhag Chaudhary	Mr. R. F. Norris	Mrs. C. Wyde
	Mr. W. D. O'Connor	

Passengers from the Bahamas and Bermuda, in aircraft Star Ariel (Captain Loveless), at London airport, December 11th:—

Mr. C. C. Cowley	Mr. F. N. Woodward
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Passengers for Jamaica, in aircraft Star Panther (Captain J. W. Fordham), from London airport, December 11th:—

Mr. V. Bajkic	Mrs. F. J. Glapperton	Mr. J. Hunter
Mr. C. Brown	Mr. R. E. Gooding	Mr. D. Stevenson
Miss M. J. Gazey	Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Horne	Mr. T. Tearney

Passengers for Bermuda and the Bahamas, in aircraft Star Ariel (Captain W. J. Rees), from London airport, December 13th:—

Miss M. Alexandrou	Miss P. Gardaccolou	Miss Manta
Miss Deneti	Mr. C. Geto	Miss Papagorciou
Mr. Davidson	Mr. W. Geto	Miss Papanastasiou
Mr. W. Fong	Mr. B. How	Mrs. Reeves

Passengers for Bermuda, the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Lion (Captain D. M. Walbourn), from London airport, December 9th:—

Miss Angelari	Miss Elstathiou	Mr. L. A. Tucker
Prof. R. L. Baker	Dr. C. L. Elgood	Mr. W. Webster
Miss M. H. Barnard	Mr. & Mrs. E. Lanibert	Mr. R. M. Whistler
Mr. Mr. P. Christie	Mr. H. H. Reynolds	Mr. & Mrs. O. Williams
Mrs. E. C. Cusworth	Mr. N. W. Simmonds	Miss Zahariades
Miss S. P. Duncombe	Mr. S. R. Summers	

Passengers for Bermuda and the Bahamas, in aircraft Star Ariel (Captain J. F. Jones), from London airport, December 6th:—

Miss A. Catsivela	Miss M. K. Haddon	Mrs. E. Van
Miss Couvava	Mrs. M. Rowntree	Miss M. Voutsas
Mr. K. O. Cowley	Mr. A. J. Sheridan	Miss N. Warzitu
Miss D. De Cruz	Miss G. Simopoulou	Mr. F. W. Webb
Miss Gami	Miss Sourelli	Miss E. A. Zissimutou

Passengers from Bermuda, the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Panther (Captain W. J. Rees), at London airport, December 21st:—

Mr. J. W. Benson	Miss M. O'Neill	Mr. W. H. Smith
Miss R. G. Cordiez	Mr. C. D. Price	Mr. H. Walker
Miss E. Crump	Mr. E. Resketh	Mr. L. Wilmin
Mrs. N. Docherty	Mr. R. Sassoon	Mr. N. Wilmin
Mr. B. Lyon		

Passengers from Bermuda, the Bahamas, and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Leopard (Captain P. Sleight), at London airport, December 14th :—

Mrs. R. Doorly	Mr. C. Keysell	Mr. R. Robinson
Rev. B. Griffiths	Mr. G. Lepper	Mr. M. Tutton
Mr. L. Hough	Sir E. Peck	

Passengers from Jamaica, in aircraft Star Lion (Captain J. F. Jones), at London airport, December 15th :—

Mr. B. Bevan	Mr. L. Harris	Mr. L. O. Strane
Mr. & Mrs. L. Brooks	Mr. D. Irvin	

Passengers for Jamaica, in aircraft Star Lion (Captain E. T. Kippenberger), from London airport, December 18th :—

Mrs. W. Davison	Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Pantin	Mr. R. C. Scruby
Miss E. K. Dorrington	Mrs. M. C. Platt	Mr. G. L. Wallace
Mrs. S. G. Kingwood		

Passengers for Bermuda, the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Elizabeth of England (Captain M. D. Deloford), from London airport, December 16th :—

Dr. A. Bromley	Miss M. King	Mr. H. Shapp
Mrs. A. Carrick	Mr. J. F. Kohler	Mr. K. Stevens
Miss D. M. Carrick	Mr. W. Kung	Mr. N. Watson
Mr. Fong Jiu	Mr. C. Lee	Mrs. E. P. West
Mr. S. Fong	Miss Makavea	Mrs. E. Whitehead
Mr. J. A. Griffiths	Mr. B. G. Nandlal	Mr. T. Wing
Mrs. J. V. Hampshire		

Passengers from the Bahamas, in aircraft Star Ariel (Captain D. A. Cracknell), at London airport, December 18th :—

Mr. D. Bell	Mr. E. Male	Mr. A. Tooke
Mr. N. Jackson	Mr. E. Mitchell	

Passengers for Bermuda, the Bahamas, and Jamaica, in aircraft Elizabeth of England (Captain J. Wright), from London airport, December 23rd :—

Mrs. M. I. Arguelles	Lady M. G. Field	Miss C. Panayotou
Mr. Back Hing Lyn	Miss Fortossi	Miss Pitnieta
Miss Boutisikaki	Mrs. E. D. Garcia	Miss L. A. Roe
Mr. & Mrs. A. Derbyshire	Dr. H. C. Heudry	Mrs. E. Sanches
Miss J. M. Derbyshire	Miss Kistathiou	Miss Sireis
Miss Dumitropoulou	Mr. E. O. Lydon	Mr. W. N. Stevenson
Mr. K. Eninull	Mr. A. Millward	

Passengers for Bermuda and the Bahamas, in aircraft Star Ariel (Captain P. Sleight), from London airport, December 27th :—

Miss Apostolou	Mr. J. Haighton	Sir F. Peck
Mr. S. Falcke	Mr. N. Lakin	Mr. F. J. Stanley
Mr. W. H. George	Mr. E. D. Moseley	Mr. D. I. Stuart
Mr. J. Grant		

Passengers for Bermuda and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Panther (Captain A. H. Woolcott), from London airport, December 25th :—

Mr. W. Helby-Panzetta	Mr. W. Hayes	Mr. F. Sabarsky
Mr. S. Devon	Mr. C. I. Mohammed	

Passengers for Bermuda, the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Leopard (Captain J. C. McPhee), from London airport, December 20th :—

Miss Chadjiantrihook	Miss Kanellopoulou	Mrs. E. Ponbery Lehmann
Mrs. H. Easton	Mr. J. C. Kerr	Mr. F. G. Smithfield
Mr. & Mrs. L. W. Fry	Mr. E. Murphy	Mr. G. H. Tildesley
Lord R. Graham	Mr. H. H. Peacock	Miss G. Williams

French Line

Home arrivals from Trinidad and Barbados, in s.s. Katoomba (Captain I. Polemis), at Southampton, November 27th :—

TRINIDAD		
Miss B. Dias	Mr. H. King	Miss C. Soares
Miss B. Gilkes	Mr. R. Priest	Miss M. Toussaint
Mrs. A. Glegg	Rev. Father G. Raupert	Father J. Van Stralen
Mr. & Mrs. J. Key		

BARBADOS		
Mr. & Mrs. C. Cooper	Mrs. G. Hodges	Miss E. Pollard
Mr. R. Cooper	Mr. E. Newton	Mr. G. Small
Mr. L. George	Mr. & Mrs. G. Niles	Miss G. Sutherland

Sailings to the West Indies, in s.s. Katoomba (Captain I. Polemis), from Southampton, December 8th :—

Mr. & Mrs. C. Bacon	Mrs. M. Honorez	Mr. & Mrs. E. Paddenburg
Mr. I. Barnfather	Mr. P. Jaital	
Mr. H. Bell	Mr. D. Johnson	Mr. W. Persaud
Mr. & Mrs. M. Bell	Miss L. Lafitte	Miss D. Phillips
Mr. J. Burt	Miss D. Liddell	Mr. V. Pierre
Mr. E. Burton	Mr. R. Lyder	Misses C. & A. Pollard
Mr. & Mrs. B. Easter	Mrs. M. McDonald	Mrs. P. Pollard
Mr. & Mrs. B. Fleming	Major L. McKinstry	Mr. D. Rausch
Mr. J. Furness-Smith	Mrs. C. Meadway	Mrs. E. Slack
Mr. & Mrs. K. Gordon	Mrs. C. Merry	Mr. & Mrs. C. Stollmeyer
Mr. E. Hamel-Smith	Miss Orton	Mr. W. Thomas
Mr. F. Harris	Mrs. D. Orton	Miss E. Thomson
Miss M. Hoggan	Miss Paddenburg	Miss B. Webster
Mr. & Mrs. D. Holbrook		

Booker Line

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. Enid (Captain O. Njerve), at Liverpool, December 8th :—

Mr. H. J. Knight	Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Otley	Rev. & Mrs. N. Shellock
Mr. J. D. Mahoney	Mr. K. St. George	Mr. C. O. Tulloch
Miss M. Mathieu		

Fyffes Line

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Manistee (Captain Roberts), from London, December 14th :—

Miss F. I. Case	Miss G. E. Oerton	Lady Stubbs
Mrs. M. A. Farquharson	Mrs. V. M. Ray	Miss P. M. Taynton
Major & Mrs. E. Harding	Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Scott	Mrs. E. Wright
Mr. R. J. Martin		

Sailings to Bermuda and Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain G. S. Gracie), from Avonmouth, December 16th :—

Mr. J. Adlington	Mr. V. B. Grant	Dr. K. E. Priestley
Mr. J. G. Aldwinkle	Mrs. G. Hanson	Mrs. R. Kafferty
Mr. & Mrs. R. Bakewell	Mr. O. L. Hughes	Mr. C. W. Richards
Mr. K. Ball	Mrs. T. M. Hutley	Mr. A. Roberts
Mr. R. G. Baskett	Sir James C. Irvine	Mrs. E. Ross
Mr. A. Hickerton	Mrs. V. B. Johnson	Miss R. M. Russell
Miss H. Boland	Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Joysey	Lt.-Col. & Mrs. P. Sheppard
Mrs. S. M. Brothers	Mr. L. A. Lack	Mr. D. Silvera
Mr. J. V. Campbell	Mr. F. S. Langford	Mr. E. A. Sole
Mr. E. J. Colchester	Mr. J. Lawton	Mrs. F. A. Stone
	Weinys	Mr. W. N. Thompson
Mrs. M. Davies	Mr. & Mrs. K. D. Lundo	Lt.-Col. & Mrs. H. C. Tongood
Miss J. E. Elford	Mr. D. S. Lynch	Miss W. J. Towers
Mrs. M. J. Elford	Mr. R. A. Mitcham	Dr. D. E. Verley
Miss M. S. Elwes	Mrs. C. D. Mateer	Mr. A. J. Vincett
Mr. E. Eynon	Mr. D. F. McCabe	Mr. & Mrs. F. Witley
Miss B. E. Fonseca	Mr. B. R. McCorry	Mrs. A. K. Yandell
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Gibbs	Mrs. M. A. Poulton	
Mr. D. J. Gill		

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Manistee (Captain H. Roberts), at London, December 12th :—

Mr. E. A. Douglas	Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Martin	Miss H. V. Owen
Mr. J. G. Gibson	Mr. K. P. Mullins	Mrs. H. A. Pringle
Mr. J. B. Hyatt	Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Nokes	Miss T. E. Scott
Mrs. N. Jack		

Home arrivals from Jamaica and Bermuda, in s.s. Bayano (Captain G. S. Gracie), at Avonmouth, December 8th :—

JAMAICA		
Mr. & Mrs. H. Barrymore	Miss B. Hopley	Mr. G. H. Rainford
Mrs. J. Crow	Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Hunter	Mr. & Mrs. F. Salmon
Mr. E. L. Edwards	Mr. G. M. Mitchiner	Mr. A. C. Samuels
Mr. E. S. Gamble	Miss M. J. Moss	Mr. A. G. Williams
Mr. V. H. Harris	Mrs. V. Neely	
BERMUDA		
Mr. A. C. Bevan	Mr. A. G. Hammond	Mr. E. J. Reeves
Mrs. J. Best	Mrs. M. J. Locke	Mrs. M. L. Reynolds
Mr. S. H. Bugden	Mrs. G. M. May	Mr. & Mrs. F. E. Richardson
Mrs. L. Cowley	Miss F. M. Mayhew	Mrs. M. V. Towle
Miss S. Cowley	Miss J. W. Mayhew	Miss L. M. Turner
Mr. & Mrs. V. W. Cox	Mrs. C. Mitchell	Mrs. O. A. Turner
Miss L. V. Cox	Mrs. J. Napier	Mrs. S. M. Turner
Mrs. J. M. Dawson	Mr. W. P. Potter	
Mr. R. F. Flood	Mrs. I. P. Price	

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Eros (Captain Vigurs), from London, November 26th :—

Mr. & Mrs. V. Barrow	Mr. W. J. Lightburn	Mrs. G. V. Oerton
Mr. & Mrs. J. Carbery	Miss P. Martinez	Miss D. H. Peck
Mrs. J. E. Crum-Ewing	Mr. & Mrs. R. Martinez	Mr. & Mrs. H. S. Speed
Mrs. M. M. De Cordova	Mr. J. Mercer	Mr. T. A. Stobo
Mr. T. F. Hogan		

Sailings to Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Cavina (Captain Sapsworth), from Avonmouth, December 2nd :—

Miss J. G. Abel	Miss M. J. Groves	Dr. & Mrs. H. Richards
Mrs. D. W. Arnel	Miss V. Henzell	Mr. D. G. Smallman
Mr. D. G. Britton	Miss M. Honnor	Mr. & Mrs. G. Trestrail
Mrs. G. Brooks	Mr. & Mrs. C. Hubah	Dr. & Mrs. J. A. Venn
Mr. M. F. Costello	Mr. & Mrs. K. Jordan	Mr. & Mrs. C. P. Waller
Mrs. J. M. Cuke	Mr. F. E. Keevil	Capt. D. R. Webb
Sir G. L. Davson	Mrs. H. M. Knights	Mrs. A. M. Webster
Mr. & Mrs. J. De Freitas	Mrs. L. Levy	Mr. H. G. Wellman
Mr. C. De Lisser	Miss M. A. March	Mrs. M. K. Wight
Mr. & Mrs. H. De Pass	Mr. & Mrs. W. Moore	Mrs. L. Williams
Mrs. E. V. Dowrich	Mr. A. K. Norrish	Mr. R. F. Williams
Mrs. D. M. Folkes	Mr. J. H. Park	Capt. A. B. Wollaston
Miss B. C. Forsyth	Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Pratt	Mr. C. B. Woodward
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Getty	Mr. I. Randell	Mrs. S. B. Young
Mrs. I. M. Gilchrist		

Home arrivals from Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Ariguani (Captain R. A. Thorburn), at Avonmouth, December 18th :—

Mr. Alderson	Mr. & Mrs. Hodges	Mr. & Mrs. Shuttleworth
Miss K. Henn	Mr. H. Hughes	Mr. Sitman
Mr. I. Braddock	Mr. & Mrs. Maclean	Mrs. Smith
Mrs. Briant	Mr. Miller	Mr. Somerville
Mrs. DeLu Rosa	Mrs. Mills	Mr. Stanton
Mr. & Mrs. Drew	Mr. & Mrs. Nash	Mr. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Gale	Mr. Rabson	Mr. & Mrs. Terrell
Mr. & Mrs. Gare	Mr. J. Race	Mr. Watts
Mr. Goodsir	Mrs. J. Robinson	Miss G. Williams
Mr. G. Gunn		

(Continued at foot of next page)

The Markets

January 3rd, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below :—

Dividend for Latest Year	Quotation	Price Year Ago	
2½ Consols	79 81	81 83	
3½ War Loan	103 104	102½ 103½	
20 Angostura Bitters	85/- 95/-	65/- 75/-	
10 Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	40/7½ 45/7½	40/- 45/-	
Antigua Sugar Factory	14/- 15/-	22/6 23/6	
*30 Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	46/6 48/-	46/3 47/3xd	
8 Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	55/- 59/-	68/- 72/-	
14 Hooker Bros. McConnell	90/- 95/-xd	100/- 105/-	
6 Hooker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	29/4½ 31/10½xd	28/9 31/3	
5 British Guiana Cons. Gold 3/9	1/6 2/-	2/- 2/6	
8½ Caroni Ltd. 2/-	3/6 4/-	3/3 4/3	
6 Caroni Ltd., 6% Pref.	22/6 25/-	21/10 24/4	
*7½ Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	5/6 6/6	5/3 6/3	
12½ Kern Oil Co. 3/4	11/6 12/6xd	10/6 11/6	
10 Linnier & Trinidad Asphalt. Ord.	48/1½ 50/7½	48/9 53/9	
Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	1/3 2/3	2/- 2/6	
Royal Bank of Canada \$10	155/- 175/-	150/- 170/-	
*17½ St. Kitts (London) Sugar	65/- 75/-	72/6 77/6	
*3 St. Madeleine Sugar	17/6 18/9xd	18/- 21/-	
10 Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	19/6 21/6	19/6 21/6	
Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	3/3 4/3	2/- 3/-	
*14 Trinidad Leaseholds 5/-	31/- 32/6	29/6 30/6	
*16½ Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	28/- 29/6	34/6 35/6	
8 Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 6% Pref.	22/- 24/-	22/- 24/-xd	
7½ Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/9 6/6	6/- 7/-xd	
9½ United British Oilfields 6/8	24/6 26/-	28/- 29/-	
5 West Indies Sugar	20/7½ 21/10½	23/- 29/6	
6 West Indies Sugar 6% Pref.	23/9 25/-	24/- 26/-	

* Free of income tax.

Honey continues under Government control and the price is unchanged at 72/6 per cwt., c.i.f. U.K.

Pimento. Business has been done in spot parcels at 1/2 per lb., and one or two small lots have been sold to the Continent at this equivalent. No business has been reported in forward shipment and the price is unchanged at 119/-.

Ginger. The spot position is slightly easier. Sellers still ask 120/- for good quality No. 3 and for No. 2, and 125/- for No. 1, but buyers are not willing to pay these prices. New crop No. 3 for shipment is offered at 105/- c.i.f., but buyers show little interest. Rhatoon is offered at 100/- c.i.f.

Nutmegs. The market is still quiet. There are offers for shipment at 1/3 per lb. for defective, 2/2 for sound unassorted and 2/5 for 80's.

Mace. Prices remain at 5/9 per lb. c.i.f. for whole blade, with buyers showing little interest. The spot trade is quiet with sellers asking 6/6 per lb.; broken mace is moving slowly, and prices are unchanged at from 1/- to 4/3 according to quality.

Sugar. The Board of Trade Returns for November are as follows :—

Imports of Unrefined tons	Month of November 1947	1948	January-November 1947	1948
Mauritius	8,499	25,974	8,498	124,021
Australia	—	38,419	—	124,295
Fiji	—	—	—	8,154
British West Indies	14,580	967	230,612	256,340
British Guiana	10,273	8,718	100,295	65,899
Other British Countries	—	43	—	18,281
Dutch East Indies	—	—	—	4,574
Cuba	31,059	55,791	1,107,865	749,373
Haiti	—	—	25,467	18,628
St. Domingo	—	14,225	306,952	208,215
Peru	—	—	19,669	49,057
Other Foreign Countries	—	—	2	96,618
Total	64,411	144,137	1,799,360	1,723,455
Imports of Refined	1	2	83	32
Total	64,412	144,139	1,799,443	1,723,487
Consumption	Month of October	January-October	Month of October	January-October
Refined	1	2	117	69
Unrefined	158,667	161,166	1,430,031	1,860,315
Total	158,668	161,168	1,430,148	1,860,384
Stocks (end of October)	Home Grown Beet	71,750	89,850	
Imported Refined				
Imported Unrefined	647,000	281,350		
Total	718,750	371,200		

Rum. The Board of Trade Returns for November are as follows :—

Imports proof gallons	Month of November 1947	1948	January-November 1947	1948
Union of South Africa	151,792	294,406	1,104,246	1,397,825
Mauritius	—	83,813	1,368,588	2,081,627
British West Indies	369,360	302,738	3,770,286	2,886,958
British Guiana	84,646	223,779	1,174,037	1,911,682
Other British Countries	5	3,863	553	153,428
Foreign Countries	19	15	514	5,518
Total	605,822	908,614	7,418,236	8,437,038
Exports	13,661	25,282	236,808	193,435
Consumption	Month of October	January-October	Month of October	January-October
Stocks (end of October)	442,413	229,918	2,930,020	2,690,803
	5,007,000	7,417,000		

Cocoa. The Board of Trade Returns for November are as follows :—

Imports cwts.	Month of November 1947	1948	January-November 1947	1948
British West Africa	68,700	40,529	2,077,119	1,880,204
British West Indies	2,889	—	35,988	61,973
Other British Countries	1,506	1,618	12,998	10,687
Foreign Countries	2,200	36,496	7,567	77,367
Total	73,295	78,643	2,133,672	2,030,231
Exports	34,707	882	34,707	7,630
Consumption	Month of October	January-October	Month of October	January-October
Stocks (end of October)	4,949	34,229	2,090,374	1,963,418
	8,000	8,000		

Cuban Consular Invoices

Cuban Treasury Decree No. 3649 of October 30th, 1948, reduces the fees payable for the legalization of consular invoices from 5 per cent to 2 per cent for all contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, who at present apply the said agreement to Cuba, or who may apply it in the future.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the territories for whose international relations the United Kingdom is responsible (with the exception of Jamaica), are included in the list of countries who at present apply the agreement to Cuba.

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of November production of crude oil and casing head gasolene amounted to 242,036 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the four weeks ended November 29th was 419,538 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for November was 214,649 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of November crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 513,505 barrels.

(Continued from previous page)

Sailings to Trinidad and Jamaica, in s.s. Ariguani (Captain R. A. Thorburn), from Avonmouth, December 30th :—

Miss A. R. Abrams	Mrs J. Easton	Mr. V. H. Mendez
Mr. W. Barrow	Mr. A. J. Gales	Mr. F. W. Milling
Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Beadon	Mrs. F. Grant	Sister C. Murphy
Miss D. Donaki	Mr. H. L. Henriques	Miss B. H. Nurse
Mrs. J. K. Buchanan	Miss M. Hipkins	Miss N. L. O'Connell
Miss J. M. Buchanan	Mrs. M. E. Hipkins	Mrs. R. Read
Mrs. A. M. Cart	Mrs. A. E. Holland	Mr. K. Rice
Mrs. G. D. Chapinan	Mrs. J. M. Hyder	Mr. C. Ryder
Miss N. A. Chapinan	Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Irish	Mrs. V. Smeathain
Mr. & Mrs. D. R. Cooke	Mrs. F. Kettle Roberts	Mr. K. B. Smith
Lord & Lady Courthope	Mr. & Mrs. M. Khurana	Mrs. J. D. Taylor
Mrs. D. J. Cowan	Miss L. D. Knox	Mr. & Mrs. K. Toogood
Mr. & Mrs. F. Dabinett	Mrs. H. Lalgee	Miss J. C. Trestrail
Mrs. J. H. Davies	Mrs. M. Massiah	Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Ward
Mrs. S. Duncan	Mr. & Mrs. J. McHattie	Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Warwick

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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Trinidad's New Constitution

THE new constitution for the colony of Trinidad and Tobago contained in a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies was announced simultaneously in London and Trinidad on January 19th. While it is difficult to say yet how it will appear to the people of the colony on more mature consideration, comment which is so far available seems to indicate a wide general approval, with vehement criticism coming only from those who were already committed to opposition by their support of a claim for a fully elected Legislature and an Executive Council elected by and from it—in other words complete self-government in internal affairs, subject only to certain reserve powers of the Governor.

As it is, the new Constitution provides for:—

1. *A Legislative Council* of three ex-officio, five nominated and eighteen elected members, and a Speaker appointed from outside the Council without an original or a casting vote.
2. *An Executive Council*, as the chief instrument of policy, of three ex-officio, one nominated, and five elected members. The five elected members will be elected by the full Legislature, the nominated member by His Majesty on the recommendation of the Governor.
3. *Reserve Legislature Powers*, to be used by the Governor only when a question of public order, public faith or good government is involved.
4. *A quasi-Ministerial system*, unofficial members of the Executive Council being actively associated in the work of administration of Government Departments.

The present constitution provides for a Legislative Council of three ex-officio, six nominated and nine elected members with the Governor as President and an Executive Council, nominated by the Governor, of three ex-officio members and such others as the Governor may appoint, these at present being three elected and one nominated member, with the Governor presiding.

The Executive Council at present acts in an advisory and consultative capacity only. The Governor, though bound to consult it in important matters, is not bound to accept its advice. Under the new Constitution this is fundamentally altered. Not only are the elected members in the majority but the Executive Council is to be the "chief instrument of policy" that is, it will be executive in fact as well as in name. Short of the use of the reserve powers, the Governor will be bound to accept its advice. If the elected members agree and

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vote together, this means that in all ordinary circumstances the Administration must accept the elected members' advice and act upon it, whatever the views of the official members or of the nominated member.

As the Governor, Sir John Shaw, said in a broadcast to the people of Trinidad on the evening of the announcement of the new Constitution, "It follows that the elected members of the Executive Council, themselves elected to that Council by the Legislature, will possess power and will bear responsibility; power to impose their wishes upon the Government of which, indeed, they themselves will be integral and essential parts; responsibility to the legislature and through the legislature to the people for the consequences of their actions.

"No unprejudiced critic, even if he be disappointed that more is not given, can deny that this is a great advance from the present position towards the eventual goal of giving the people of Trinidad and Tobago a final and decisive voice in their own affairs."

As for the new Legislative Council, with eighteen elected members, three ex-officio, and five nominated, the elective element, provided it can secure some semblance of unanimity, fourteen votes to be precise, can outvote the rest including official and nominated members even assuming that all oppose it. This again is a great advance on the way to full responsible Government and in the transitional period the experience and knowledge of the nominated members will be of the utmost value as a stabilizing element in the deliberations of the Council. Meanwhile those members of the Legislature who sit on the Executive Council will have the opportunity, through being associated with the work of Government Departments, of gaining direct experience and training in the conduct of public business.

It is interesting to note that the new Constitution places Trinidad in some respects ahead of Jamaica. Jamaica, though it has a fully-elected House of Representatives, has also a Legislative Council of nominated and official members acting as a second Chamber with functions akin to the House of Lords in Britain, that is as a revising and, within limits, a delaying body. No such safeguard is found in the new Trinidad constitution. Furthermore, Jamaica's Executive Council is composed of three ex-officio members, two nominated members and five members elected by and from the House of Representatives, with the Governor as Chairman having a casting vote. Thus there is no elected majority in the Jamaica Executive as at present constituted though there has been no public indication that the Governor's casting vote has had to be used to overcome deadlocks between the elected and other elements in the Council.

Trinidad is thus given a great opportunity of showing

(Continued at foot of page 32)

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE death of Mr. "Jimmy" Thomas, once the most famous of trade-union leaders but long forgotten by the world, fell by a curious coincidence on the eve of the publication of the Lynskey Tribunal's report. For the leakage of Budget secrets, which brought about his fall nearly 13 years ago, was the last "matter of definite public importance" to be investigated by this unusual and searching procedure. Nor do I remember in the interval any episode of home politics (the epithet rules out Munich crisis and the great turning points of the war) which has aroused the universal excitement with which these two cases were followed.

* * *

Much of the fascination lay in the strange character of the leading witness, Mr. Sydney Stanley, alias Recltand, alias Vachinski, etc., who, although an alien and an undischarged bankrupt, lived in a luxurious flat in Park Lane and, so it was alleged, was in the habit of collecting fees of £5,000 for his services in securing commercial men a favourable hearing from the many intimate friends he appeared to have in the high places of the Government. London, during the sittings of the Tribunal at Church House, Westminster, was full of stories of his inspired impudence. "Mr. Stanley has already sold the Church House to two different syndicates, and taken deposits on both deals." "The Government has resigned; Mr. Stanley has sent for the King, and has advised him to put all his remaining colonies in his wife's name." That was the sort of thing; there were dozens of such quips.

* * *

The report itself, when it appeared together with a huge volume of 750 foolscap pages of evidence, effectively deflated the swelling bubble of suspicion that had naturally been blown as the result of the activities of so flamboyant a personage. Mr. Stanley himself, indeed, appears in it as very much the man-eating financial spider that popular imagination had pictured. But only two public servants are found to have become seriously entangled in his web—the two who had already resigned, Mr. John Belcher and Mr. George Gibson. Mr. Belcher, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, who had been the constant recipient of lavish hospitality from Mr. Stanley, and was always ready to be genial to Mr. Stanley's friends, had admitted at his resignation that the intimacy had been indiscreet. The Tribunal go a good deal further, and find that Mr. Belcher must have known that Mr. Stanley's generosity was intended to influence his official conduct, and that in fact it did lead him to take decisions at the Board of Trade in favour of Mr. Stanley's clients. Similarly Mr. Gibson, Government appointed director of the nationalized Bank of England, though he received nothing from Mr. Stanley except a suit of clothes, was influenced in his conduct by the hope of favours to come.

* * *

After such a monstrous circulation of scandal, which had smirched the names of half a dozen ministers and officials (they are all now cleared), it is a relief to find that any corrupt practices there may have been were on

such a limited scale. If in fact, Mr. Stanley did receive fees of £5,000 (as to which litigation is pending between the witnesses themselves) certainly no cash reached Mr. Belcher. All he got was expensive dinners, a gold cigarette case, cases of wine and so forth. It is still more gratifying to be assured by the Tribunal that no improper act of any kind can be laid to the charge of any permanent official. The absolute incorruptibility of the civil service has long been regarded as the ark of the covenant of British public life. It has now been shown to be as impregnable as ever.

* * *

The *de facto* recognition of the Republic of Israel by all the powers of the Brussels Pact will, it is to be hoped, at least limit the capacity of the Palestinian conflict to disturb international relations in the west. The essential danger has lain in the fact that, while Israel has been under the patronage of an American Government highly susceptible to the organized Jewish vote, Great Britain is under treaty obligations to Egypt. In this embarrassing situation the handling of affairs on the British side has been undoubtedly weak, and when it culminated in the shooting down of five British aircraft, which had orders to fly over the Jewish lines in the desert and at the same time evade combat, an outbreak of protest was to be expected. In fact, Mr. Bevin was caught in Parliament between two fires, one from an Opposition justly indignant at the sacrifice of British lives and the loss of British prestige, and the other from a strong dissenting move on the left wing of the Labour Party itself, which has clamoured for a more favourable attitude to the Jewish cause. Some 50 Labour members who were in the precincts of the House of Commons that night abstained from voting for the Government, whose majority fell to 90. It is the most dangerous division of the ranks they have yet incurred. Mr. Bevin can scarcely escape some degree of reprobation; but he is still, on his general record, by far the most solidly successful Minister of them all, and the most respected in the country at large.

* * *

Any credit Mr. Bevin has lost in the Near Eastern swings he should abundantly regain on the European roundabouts. The successful formulation of Western Union is, we all hope, a major turning point in history. There has been much searching of international hearts on the question whether its ministerial executive body, meeting in private, should be supplemented by a general assembly, representative of the various legislatures, and holding public discussions. The latter, which was much desired by the French, has been generally regarded here as likely to become an irresponsible, and therefore dangerous, debating society. The compromise now reached in the creation of an assembly, subject to the conditions that each constituent government shall decide for itself on the mode of appointment of its national delegation. It is generally assumed that, even if the continental powers choose to send delegations representative of their parliaments in proportion to the

(Continued on page 32)

Loss of the "Star Ariel"

While on Bermuda-Jamaica Flight

In reply to a question by Air-Commodore Harvey in the House of Commons, on January 19th, Mr. Lindgren, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, made the following statement:—

"I much regret to inform the House that we must now presume the loss of the British South American Airways Corporation's Tudor IVB aircraft G-AGRE known as 'Star Ariel' on a flight from Bermuda to Kingston, Jamaica, on the morning of Monday, January 17th. The machine carried 13 passengers and seven crew.

"Search for the aircraft is continuing, and the full air-sea rescue service, in which we are grateful to have the full co-operation of the United States authorities, is in operation over the whole area.

"I am sure I am expressing the feelings of the whole House, when on behalf of my noble Friend [Lord Pakenham] and myself, I extend profound sympathy to the families of the passengers and crew of the aircraft, of whose survival I am afraid there can now be very little hope.

"A preliminary investigation has already begun and a representative of the Chief Inspector of Accidents left for Bermuda yesterday.

"As a result of this tragic loss, the British South American Airways Corporation have decided that the Tudor IVB shall be suspended from service pending a special investigation of each individual Tudor IV aircraft. My noble Friend is sure that they are taking the right course, and he is taking the necessary steps to see that all available resources are placed at their disposal."

The passengers (with one exception) and the crew of seven left London on Saturday, January 15th in the "Star Lion." At Bermuda engine trouble developed, and passengers were transferred to the "Star Ariel" which was homeward bound from Santiago. The intention was that the "Star Ariel's" passengers from Santiago should be brought to London by the "Star Lion" as soon as the engine trouble had been remedied.

The Postmaster General announced that the following air mail correspondence was on board the "Star Ariel": correspondence for Chile posted on January 12th, 13th and 14th and for the West Indies, Central America (except Mexico), Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and the Guianas, posted on January 13th and 14th.

Mr. Thomas du Buisson

Among those who lost their lives in the "Star Ariel" was Mr. Thomas Melmoth du Buisson, eldest son of Mr. J. M. du Buisson, chairman of the West India Committee, and Mrs. du Buisson. He leaves a wife and two young children.

Mr. du Buisson served in the Welsh Guards during the war and saw service in Italy. He entered the firm of Henckell, du Buisson and Co. in September, 1946, and lost his life while proceeding to Jamaica on business.

The CIRCULAR extends its deep sympathy to the members of the family.

The University College

Princess Alice Appointed Chancellor

THE Colonial Office announced on January 11th that the King has consented to accept the office of Visitor of the University College of the West Indies, and that Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, has been appointed by his Majesty as the first Chancellor.

A specially contributed article on the planning of the University College, together with a drawing showing its "ultimate" layout, was published in the CIRCULAR for May last, and we now learn that the main contract for all the buildings has just been put out to tender.

A good deal of work has been done in converting existing huts on the site for temporary use until permanent buildings can be constructed; and a start has been made on the permanent buildings themselves with the construction of houses for members of the staff of the College.

The first faculty—the Medical Faculty—has been at work since last October, with 33 students. This part of the project is divided into two parts; on the one hand the University College; on the other the related teaching hospital where students of the Medical Faculty will be given their clinical training.

The institution is planned to develop stage by stage until the West Indies can claim a university able to take its place among the great cultural foundations of the world. The capital cost of the College and hospital as at present envisaged will be about £2,250,000. A substantial part of this is being defrayed out of Colonial and Development Welfare funds.

Dr. T. W. J. Taylor, the principal, is now on his way to London to make arrangements with Princess Alice for the formal inauguration of the college. Invitations to the ceremony will be issued to British, American, Caribbean, and other universities. Mr. Philip Sherlock, whose substantive post is that of director of extra-mural studies, has been appointed vice-principal. The university colours will be scarlet in honour of the University of St. Andrews, whose principal is Sir James Irvine.

The University College Council has announced that the Faculty of Natural Science will commence in October this year.

Earl Baldwin for London Talks

It was announced on January 29th that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has asked Earl Baldwin of Bewdley to come to London to discuss with him some of the problems of the Leeward Islands. He will be leaving early in February.

In the absence of the Colonial Secretary of the Leewards, who is on leave, Major General Sir Hubert Rance, chairman of the Development and Welfare Organization in the West Indies, will administer the Government.

[The impending visit of Earl Baldwin has caused a great deal of speculation in the London newspapers, several of which published extracts from his speech of December 8th.—summarized in last CIRCULAR.—Ed.]

The West India Committee

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, held on January 20th, the following 15 candidates were admitted to membership:—

<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposer and Seconder</i>
MR. STANLEY D. JUPP (Country)	{ Mr. Alex. Elder Mr. A. L. Jupp
MR. GEOFFREY B. BAND (Country)	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor Mr. Ian R. Parker
MR. DAVID TEMPLE ROBERTS (London)	{ Mr. N. P. Sherlock Mr. A. E. V. Barton, C.B.E.
THE STANDARD LIFE ASSUR- ANCE COMPANY (Country)	{ Mr. W. M. Robson Mr. N. P. Sherlock
MR. PETER SWINTON BOULT (Country)	{ Mr. J. M. Campbell Mr. N. P. Sherlock
THE A.P.V. CO., LTD. (London)	{ McNabb, Rougier & Co. Mr. G. Arnott
MR. RAYMOND DULIEU (St. Lucia)	{ Mr. J. Du Boulay Mr. L. Deveux
MR. THOMAS FREDERICK ALEXANDER DUNCAN (St. Lucia)	{ Mr. J. Du Boulay Mr. L. Deveux
MR. MICHAEL PREVITE (Country)	{ Mr. A. M. Armour Mr. H. R. Guy
MR. HAROLD CAPEL CAMUSAC (Jamaica)	{ Mr. H. Alan Walker Mr. W. A. Coupland
MR. GEORGE BERTRAM QUAYLE, M.B.E. (Jamaica)	{ Mr. H. Alan Walker Mr. W. A. Coupland
MR. CECIL CHARLES MURRAY (Jamaica)	{ Mr. H. Alan Walker Mr. W. A. Coupland
MR. GRAHAM MILNER (Jamaica)	{ Mr. H. Alan Walker Mr. W. A. Coupland
MR. THESEUS HOTSPUR BUCHANAN (Jamaica)	{ Mr. H. Alan Walker Mr. W. A. Coupland
MR. JAMES PERRY (Jamaica)	{ Mr. H. Alan Walker Mr. W. A. Coupland

The Obituary List

The chairman referred, with great regret, to the deaths of the following members: Mr. David N. Barr (Jamaica), Mr. J. E. Bellis (Country), Mr. J. A. Bryning (Country), Mr. Cecil Farrar (British Guiana), Dr. Frank Oliphant (Country), Mr. F. K. Warren (Canada).

Executive Members in West Indies

The following members of the Executive are at present in the West Indies: Mr. J. M. du Buisson, chairman, Mr. Alan Walker, Lord Tweedsmuir, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques, Commander H. V. Lavington, Lieut.-Colonel Kenneth Previte and Mr. N. P. Sherlock.

(Continued from page 30)

strength of parties, Great Britain will be represented by a team instructed to speak and vote according to the instructions of the Government—and therefore at present drawn entirely from the Labour party.

* * *

This is after all according to the tradition of our party system, as opposed to the continental method of making up a government by a delicate balance of parliamentary groups; and it is unfair to allege, as has been suggested, that the real motive is to exclude Mr. Churchill from the assembly, lest he should dominate it. Nevertheless it is lamentable that he will not be there; for his, above all, is the name that can inspire Europe, and his the leadership that might have given this international union the impulse that is required to give it full self-confidence and cohesion.

Castries Fire Disaster

Closing of West India Committee Fund

THE treasurers of the West India Committee announce that the fund which the Committee opened in October last to assist the many cases of distress in Castries, St. Lucia, resulting from the great fire of June, has now been closed. The sum raised totalled £1,849 9s. 6d.

The fifth and final list of contributions appears below.

	£	s.	d.
Broadcast Relay Service (Overseas) Ltd. ...	25	0	0
Lemon Hart & Son, Ltd. ...	25	0	0
Jonas Browne & Hubbard, Ltd. ...	15	0	0
The Westburn Sugar Refineries, Ltd. ...	10	10	0
The Marine Insurance Co., Ltd. ...	5	5	0
Blairs Ltd. ...	5	5	0
Mirrlees Watson Co. Ltd. ...	5	5	0
Sir Bertram Jones ...	1	1	0
Miss Olive M. Wade ...	1	0	0
Mr. W. M. C. Howatson ...	10	6	

Barbados Governor for Mauritius

It was announced on February 2nd that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Mauritius in succession to Sir Donald Mackenzie Kennedy, K.C.M.G., who is retiring from that appointment.

Sir Hilary was appointed to the Ceylon Civil Service in 1920. He served in Ceylon until 1930 when he was appointed Colonial Secretary of Grenada. He was appointed Colonial Secretary of Sierra Leone in 1934, Governor of the Gambia in 1942 and Governor of Barbados in 1947.

Canada—West Indies Shipping

Representatives of the United Kingdom, Canadian and West Indian Governments were due to meet in Barbados on February 7th for a preliminary and informal exchange of views on future shipping services. It is expected that the talks will last a week.

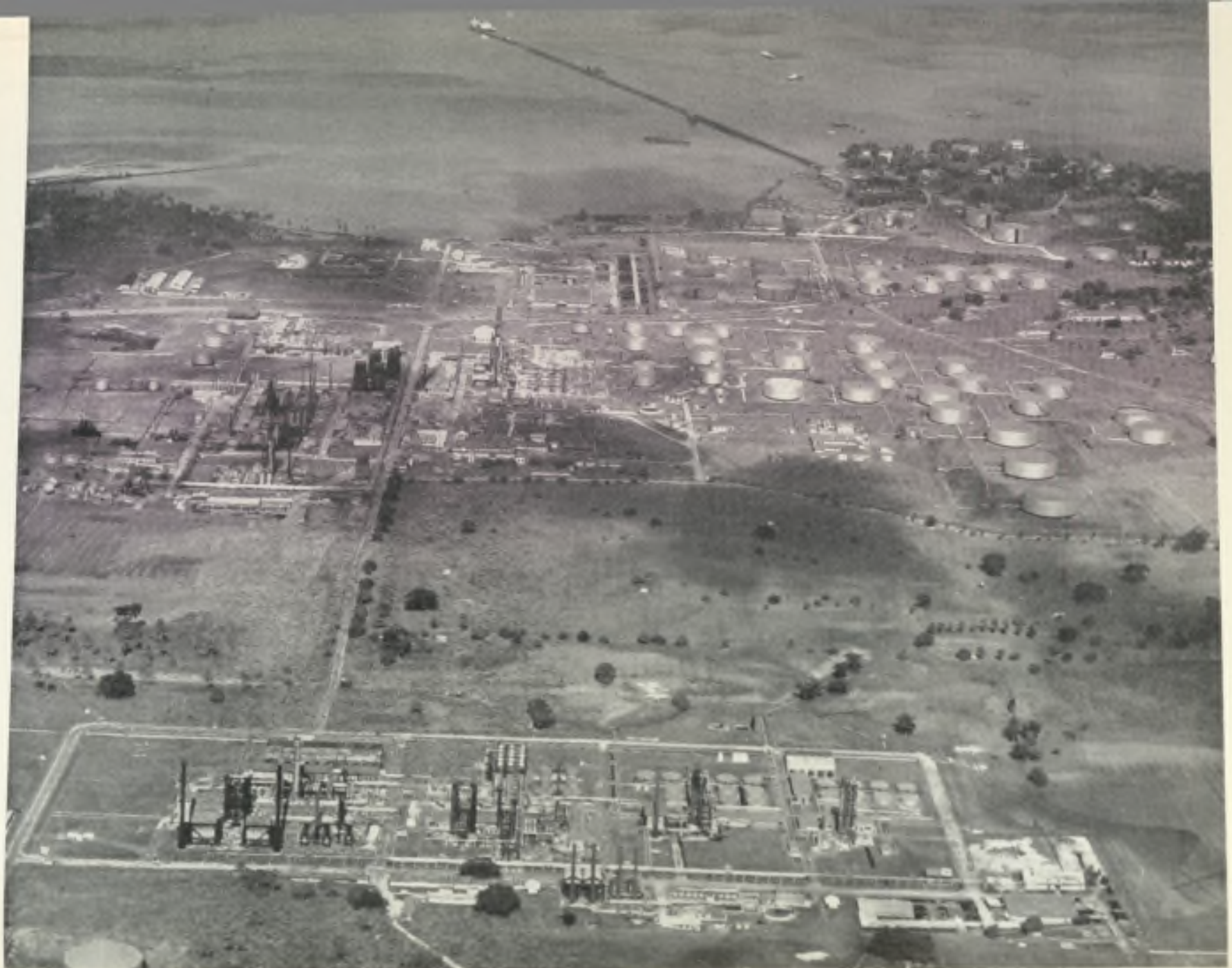
It is not intended that any formal agreement shall be negotiated at this time to replace that concluded in 1925, but interim rates of subsidy, to be paid pending the conclusion of a new agreement, will be discussed.

(Continued from page 29)

enlightened leadership in the march towards fully representative and responsible government. This cannot be done in the mood of the legislator whose comment on the new constitution was, "These Englishmen smart *eh!*", but rather in that of the Hon. Albert Gomes who, talking about extravagant and irresponsible criticism of it, added: "It would be well, however, if we conserved all the energy that might be expended in futile criticism in getting down to business in order to ensure the unity and co-operation in our community that will make this new Constitution a vehicle to carry us rapidly towards the goal of full responsibility."



PREPARING THE SITE FOR THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN, 1951



“LEASEHOLDS” REFINERIES AT POINTE-À-PIERRE, TRINIDAD

West Indian Conference

Resolutions before the Caribbean Commission

THE West Indian Conference, which met at Basse Terre, Guadeloupe from December 1st to 14th (as reported in last CIRCULAR), adopted a series of 84 recommendations for submission to the Caribbean Commission.

The first series of 14 resolutions arose out of the report of the secretary-general of the Caribbean Commission and dealt with preparations for the next conference; staff and organization of the central secretariat of the Commission; and publicity programmes and policies. They have been accepted by the Commission subject to the rules of procedure and in so far as they may be practicable and feasible.

Six resolutions dealt with the study of trade statistics and information by the central secretariat, and included a recommendation that a conference of customs officers, statisticians and others be convened as early as possible to promote uniformity in the preparation and publication of external trade data and statistics for the Caribbean. The Commission has agreed to convene such a conference this year, and meantime the administrative and financial implications involved are to be studied.

Three resolutions in regard to finance and industrial development, which are held by the Commission to require further study, were: the creation of a committee to examine and co-ordinate requests for loans from the International Bank; investigation of the possibility of creating a Caribbean Development Bank if the quantity of hard currency available should prove insufficient for the needs of the Caribbean territories; and the study of Caribbean territorial tariffs with a view to their reduction.

The Tourist Industry

Specific proposals for the creation of a Caribbean tourist interim committee to prepare the way for a Caribbean Tourist Development Association, formulated in a series of 17 resolutions, have been accepted, and the secretary-general of the Caribbean Commission has been instructed to take steps to implement the proposals.

Fifteen resolutions dealt with research activities and regional approach to research. They included recommendations that research should be restricted to problems of general interest to the area; that the permanent research staff of the Commission should concentrate on a limited number of specific fields, specialists being appointed on a temporary basis for special studies in other fields; and that the projects undertaken should be governed by a priority list to be prepared and adopted.

The conference formulated eight resolutions on transportation and communications in the Caribbean. In these they affirmed the principle that all forms of discriminatory action and unnecessary restrictions affecting sea and air transport engaged in international trade in the Caribbean should be removed; they resolved that the desirability of standardized telegraph and radio telephone tariffs at the lowest possible level, for the Caribbean area, should be brought to the attention of the conference of the International Telecommunica-

tions Union to be held at Paris in May, 1949; and they recommended that territorial governments should do everything possible to improve their existing communications facilities.

Labour Conditions

On migration of labour, and labour conditions, organization and legislation the conference submitted 14 resolutions, the general tenor of which was to bring into being better facilities for disseminating knowledge of employment opportunities, for training of workers for such openings as are available, and for ensuring equal opportunities for West Indians in immigration schemes in the Americas. Subject to further study of one or two points involving financial commitments, these have been accepted by the Commission with the exception of one (No. 67 in the list) to the effect that the population study of the Caribbean prepared for the conference by Professor Malcolm Proudfoot and the legislation annexure thereto be brought to the attention of the four national governments with a view to taking the necessary steps to facilitate migration of labour from the Caribbean territories to the Americas, and all other such countries as are inviting immigration. Doubt was expressed as to whether this was feasible or desirable, and the recommendation is to be submitted to the national sections for consideration.

The Commission endorsed a recommendation by the conference on the Draft International Declaration of Human Rights, to the effect that that work should be brought as quickly as possible to completion; that Caribbean legislatures should in the meantime be guided by the spirit of the draft declaration; and that its terms should be implemented in full as soon as possible after adoption by the United Nations.

A final set of five resolutions dealt with preparation of the agenda for the next West Indian Conference. It was recommended that the agenda should be as short as possible to permit more fruitful study, and that in addition to the secretary-general's report it should contain only one new major subject, namely, the agricultural problems of the Caribbean. These recommendations will be taken into consideration when preparing the draft agenda.

Administrator of St. Kitts

It was announced on January 21st that Mr. Frederick Mitchell Noad, Assistant Secretary, Bahamas, had been appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to be Administrator of St. Kitts.

Mr. Noad was born in London in 1895 and educated at Ascham College, Berkhamstead, and St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate. After serving with the Royal West African Frontier Force from 1915-19, he was appointed in 1920 to the Administrative Service in Nigeria. He retired in 1947 as Senior Resident, Northern Provinces, Nigeria, but was appointed in the same year as Chief Out-Island Commissioner, Bahamas. He took up his present post last year.

Dominica in 1947

IN the new series of Colonial Annual Reports, that for Dominica is issued in a separate volume. Reports for the years prior to the 1939-45 war appeared in the volume devoted to the Leeward Islands, from which, on January 1st, 1940, the island was transferred to the Windward Islands group.

The first report to appear in the new series is that for 1947, but the population statistics included are those for 1946. They show that the census of April, 1946 revealed the population of the island to be 47,702, whilst the estimated population at December 31st, 1946 had risen to 49,486, largely because of the return of Dominicans from residence abroad, especially from Aruba, Curacao and Guadeloupe. At December 31st, 1938 the population was estimated at 50,617, so that there has been no significant change in the number of inhabitants since before the war.

The production of primary commodities is the main economic activity of the colony, and of 24,000 people gainfully employed 14,300, or 59½ per cent, were occupied in agriculture, forestry and fishing. Manufacturing industries employed 1,800, commerce 1,200, and the remainder found employment in public utility and other ancillary services.

There have been increases in rates of remuneration since 1938, but as separate figures for Dominica were not given in the 1938 report no useful comparison can be made. The cost of living, as in other British West Indian colonies, has risen, and in December, 1947 the cost-of-living index figure for working-class families had reached 222, compared with 100 for September, 1939. In 1947 there were two Trade Unions in the island, with a combined membership of 6,470, and an Employers' Union with a membership of 46.

Figures of revenue and expenditure cover the year 1946. Local revenue is given as £167,294, local expenditure as £150,270, an excess of revenue over expenditure of £17,024. This compares with a deficit of £4,918 in 1938, when local revenue was £64,939 and local expenditure £69,857. Additions to local revenue in 1946 were grants from Colonial Development and Welfare amounting to £121,042, and grants-in-aid of administration totalling £15,000. Expenditure on development and welfare schemes was £113,289. The Public Debt, which at December 31st, 1938 was £201,653, had been reduced to £51,510 at December 31st, 1946.

A feature of the agricultural economy of Dominica in recent years has been the increased importance of the vanilla industry, but since the war there has been a decline in demand, which in the latter part of 1947 came to a virtual standstill with a resultant critical restriction of purchasing power in the island. The record of exports of vanilla since 1934 makes interesting reading, and may be quoted.

Year	Quantity lb.	Value £	Year	Quantity lb.	Value £
1934	797	109	1941	12,019	18,667
1935	609	152	1942	18,019	44,480
1936	4,341	868	1943	28,206	39,714
1937	9,537	4,048	1944	50,833	68,399
1938	7,504	3,755	1945	64,984	92,078
1939	9,428	4,681	1946	47,819	70,130
1940	10,301	10,301	1947	15,644	21,540

Production of limes was estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 110,000 barrels. The figure for 1938 was 58,000 barrels. Copra, the exportable surplus of which goes to Barbados for manufacture into edible oils and fats, amounted to about 540 tons. Exports of fresh fruit to Bermuda and the West Indies, adversely affected during the war by the shipping situation, revived in 1947 and amounted in value to approximately £23,000. A Dominica-St. Lucia Marketing Agency was established in Barbados during the year to secure a stable outlet for this class of production. Measures were set afoot to encourage cocoa production, which in 1947 amounted to some 250 tons. Bay oil continued to be a valuable minor industry. Production of rum attained a high level of 100,000 gallons.

A feature of the year's working was an unfavourable trade balance of £275,136, due partly to a decline in the value of exports on account of the lack of demand for vanilla; partly to the shipping situation, which made it impossible to move considerable quantities of exportable fresh fruit to outside markets; and also to exceptionally heavy import shipments of goods early in the year in fulfilment of outstanding orders from previous years.

B.S.A.A.

British South American Airways Corporation has decided that in future the functions of the chief executive shall be combined with those of the chairman and the Minister of Civil Aviation has signified his approval. The corporation has accordingly appointed the chairman, Mr. J. W. Booth, managing director.

Mr. B. G. Porter has taken over duties additional to those for which he has hitherto been responsible as administration manager, and Captain A. G. Store, who has been operations manager of the corporation, has taken over additional duties covering the technical side. Each of these appointments will carry the designation of "general manager."

Double Taxation Arrangements

Double taxation arrangements have been concluded between the United Kingdom and the following British West Indian colonies: Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

The arrangements, which have been published as Schedules to Draft Orders in Council, follow the same pattern as the arrangements previously made with other colonies.

Trinidad Company Tax

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has agreed that contributions by Trinidad companies to pension schemes for their employees will not be subject to income tax, also that in cases where employers were willing to build up their superannuation scheme or fund contribution of a lump sum payment, such payment would be deductible from the company's income for the purpose of income tax over a period of ten years.

New Constitution for Trinidad & Tobago

Secretary of State's Despatch

THE constitutional reform of Trinidad and Tobago is the subject of a leading article in this issue.

The despatch of Mr. Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to Sir John Shaw, Governor of the colony, issued simultaneously in London and Port-of-Spain on January 19th, is published in full below:—

I am now in a position to address you on the subject of the proposals which were discussed in the Legislative Council in May last for constitutional reform in Trinidad and Tobago.

2. I am aware that a decision has been eagerly and even impatiently awaited, but I should have done less than my duty if I had not given the fullest consideration to the problem in the light of the reports of the Constitutional Reform Committee and of the representations which I have received from many sections of the community.

3. I will begin by recalling briefly the recent course of events. The existing constitution, which is based upon universal adult suffrage, has been in operation only since July, 1946. In December, 1946, however, a resolution of the Legislative Council led to the setting up in February, 1947, of a Committee, with the following terms of reference:—

"To consider the reform of the constitution and to submit proposals to be forwarded to His Majesty's Government for a new constitution having regard to the fact that

- (a) within recent years certain colonies have been granted constitutions which place them ahead of Trinidad, and
- (b) it is necessary that, in keeping with the spirit of the times, the people of Trinidad and Tobago should be more fully associated in the management of their own affairs."

4. This Committee produced in March, 1948, a report signed by the chairman, Sir Lennox O'Reilly and 16 members. A minority report was submitted by Dr. P. V. J. Solomon, one of the elected members of the Legislative Council. Three other reports, dissenting from the main report on major or minor points, were submitted by other members of the Committee.

Majority and Minority Reports

5. In the majority report it was recommended that the Executive Council should be "the chief instrument of policy" and responsible to the Legislative Council, and that it should be composed of three *ex officio* members (Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and Financial Secretary), and three nominated and six elected members from the Legislative Council. The Governor would preside and have a casting vote. It was also proposed that the unofficial members of the Executive Council should be actively associated in the work of administration of Government Departments.

The Legislative Council would be composed of three *ex officio*, six nominated and 18 elected members. A Speaker would be appointed by the Governor from outside the Council and would have a casting vote only. The exercise of the Governor's legislative reserve powers would, as in the case of Jamaica, be subject to resolution of the Executive Council and the approval of the Secretary of State.

6. The main recommendations in the Solomon minority report were as follows. The Executive Council should be the principal instrument of policy, and the Governor should act on its advice in all internal matters. Its members should have full ministerial responsibility for specific departments of state. The Legislative Council should be an entirely elective body of 25 members. The Executive Council should be composed of at least nine members, elected by the Legislative Council from among its members, and should be collectively responsible to that Council, by which body it should be removable on a vote of no confidence. In neither Council should there be any *ex officio* or nominated members.

7. The recommendations in the two reports were considered by the Legislative Council, which by a majority vote agreed broadly with the recommendations of the majority report, but with certain modifications which were introduced by the present

Government of the colony, including the following:—

- (a) the elected members of the Executive Council to be increased to seven, so as to give them a majority of one over the *ex officio* and nominated members combined;
- (b) the appointed Speaker of the Legislative Council to have neither an original nor a casting vote.

8. The publication of the reports and the subsequent discussion in the Legislative Council have further stimulated public interest in the question of constitutional progress. I have received many resolutions and petitions from representative bodies in the colony. I have also had the opportunity of personal discussion with representatives of a number of important sections of opinion, and also with yourself. It is clear from the various representations which have been made to me that there is unanimity in the view that the present constitution, which gives representation without executive responsibility, is unsatisfactory, and that the time has come to take a definite step forward.

Greater Local Control

9. I agree that the stage has been reached when the people of Trinidad and Tobago must be enabled to assume greater responsibility for the control of their own affairs. As I stated in my opening speech at the Conference on Closer Association held at Montego Bay in 1947, it is one of the tasks of His Majesty's Government to see that such responsibility is passed increasingly from London to the peoples of the territories themselves, and I am anxious, whenever possible, to increase the measure of responsibility for government borne by Colonial Legislatures. The question which is now clearly posed by the reports of the Constitution Committee is whether responsible government should be reached in Trinidad and Tobago at one step, or through a further transitional stage.

10. The proposals in the majority report are based on a feeling that such a transitional stage is desirable. The supporters of these proposals hold the view that a nominated element should be retained for the present in both the Executive and Legislative Councils. In their opinion the experience and knowledge of nominated members are vitally necessary to the welfare of the colony during its present stage of development; and the presence of persons with such experience and knowledge gives strength to both Councils in their deliberations on problems concerning the well being and development of the colony. Further, they consider it desirable that before full responsibility is assumed by the elected representatives of the people, there should be a period during which the members of the Legislature, who under the constitution envisaged in the majority report would be associated with the work of Government Departments, should have an opportunity of gaining direct experience and training in the conduct of public business.

11. I am satisfied that the aim of policy for Trinidad and Tobago must be the early attainment of a constitution under which the Government will be directly responsible to the people whose affairs it controls; and I am fully aware of the earnest desire of many sections of opinion that this aim should be achieved now. At the same time, a substantial body of opinion is in favour of a further intermediate stage, and this view, as reflected in the majority report, is shared by the majority of the members of the present Legislative Council.

There is a further point of some importance. In the minority report it is recommended that the members of the Executive Council should have full ministerial responsibility and be collectively responsible to the Legislature. Experience has shown, however, that the success of Parliamentary government depends largely on the existence of responsible political parties with coherent and definite programmes. It cannot be said, however, that in Trinidad this condition is as yet fulfilled. No doubt the limitations of the existing constitution in part account for this failure. It is clear, however, that until there has been a further opportunity under more favourable circumstances for political parties to develop and work out definite programmes, the grant of responsible government would be

unlikely to succeed.

12. In these circumstances it is pertinent to consider how far the majority proposals themselves as amended by the Legislative Council go to place the elected representatives in a position of responsibility. These proposals contemplate a definite elected majority in the Executive Council, which is designed to be the chief instrument of Government policy. As I see it, this would afford the elected element full opportunity to assume responsibility forthwith for all internal affairs, subject only to provision for the use by the Governor of reserve powers in certain defined circumstances and under limitations similar to those provided in the constitution of Jamaica. (Provision for reserve powers is envisaged in both the majority and minority reports.) The majority proposals, as amended in Legislative Council, go in fact beyond the existing provision in Jamaica, which was at the time of its introduction in 1944 widely regarded as a striking advance towards responsibility. At the same time they would retain for the time being certain features which would constitute some reassurance for those who would view with hesitation the immediate grant of responsible government. I shall make some observations later upon certain of the elements by which that reassurance is provided, and particularly upon the retention of nominated members. Subject to these, and to certain modifications which, as indicated below, I propose to make, I consider that the amended majority proposals, far reaching as they are, afford a basis upon which all parties should be able to co-operate sincerely and effectively. At the same time, those proposals, if carried into effect, would provide the unofficial members of the Legislature with full opportunities of gaining the necessary experience in the administrative conduct of affairs, a feature for which the existing arrangements have not provided but which, as mentioned above, experience elsewhere has shown to be essential to the successful launching of self-government.

13. After most carefully reviewing these various considerations I have reached the conclusion that, looking to the ultimate political future of Trinidad and Tobago, the wisest course will be to accept, for a period, a constitution based generally on the proposals in the majority report, as amended by the Legislative Council. In saying this, however, I wish to emphasize the intention, so far as His Majesty's Government are concerned, that any such arrangement should be of a transitional nature, and should be designed to bring about the circumstances which would enable responsibility to be assumed without the misgivings which are now felt by many of those who would be directly concerned. At the same time, I wish to draw attention to certain respects in which, in my view, the amended majority proposals themselves require modification. One of these, as already indicated above, relates to the provision for nominated members.

The Nominated Member

14. It is an important part of His Majesty's Government's colonial policy that, as soon as it can be brought about by orderly process, in the particular circumstances of each territory, the legislatures to which the control of public affairs is entrusted should become fully elective. There is indeed no conclusive answer to the argument that a system of nomination is contrary to accepted democratic principle, and can be defended only where special considerations obtain. I have, therefore, considerable sympathy with the views on this subject which are expressed in the minority report; nevertheless I am not prepared to say that at this stage in the development of Trinidad and Tobago, the nominated element could be wholly eliminated without seriously disturbing confidence in the economic and financial stability of the colony, on which the prosperity and therefore the welfare and standard of living of the people depend. I would add, however, that nominated members should only be introduced to strengthen the experience and knowledge of the Councils in dealing with the complex issues of Government and that they should not be nominated to represent "interest" but should be appointed to serve the broad and best interests of the colony as a whole.

15. I do not believe, however, that for this purpose it is necessary to retain nominated members to the full number recommended in the majority report, and I consider that a start can be made now in applying the policy of progressive reduction. I propose therefore, that, as a first step, the numbers of nominated members in the Legislative Council should be reduced from six to five. In the Executive Council there should be one nominated member only, and the elected members should, as proposed, be

in a majority of one over the ex officio and nominated members combined. This result should be obtained by reducing the number of elected members from seven to five. This would also have the advantage of making the Executive Council a more compact body.

16. There is some support for the view that the elected members of the Executive Council should be chosen by vote of the elected side only of the Legislature. I believe it to be of particular importance, however, to encourage the view that the members of the Executive Council should be responsible to the Legislative Council as a whole, rather than to a section of that body only. I consider, therefore, that all members of the Legislative Council should have a vote in the selection of the elected members of the Executive Council. The single nominated member of the Executive Council should be nominated by the Governor because it is obviously anomalous to give an elective character in the Executive Council to a member who owes his position in the Legislative Council to nomination. He should hold office as an Executive Councillor at pleasure.

17. As regards the removal of elected members of the Executive Council, I consider that this should be subject to a two-thirds majority of the Legislative Council.

18. There is one further proposal of the majority report which requires modification. I refer to paragraph 24 of the report, which recommends that the proviso to Clause 47 (2) (a) and (b) of the Jamaica (Constitution) Order in Council, 1944, should be applied in Trinidad and Tobago. The proposal of the present Legislative Council, with which I fully agree, that the elected members of Executive Council should be in a majority of one, creates a situation quite different from that envisaged in the Jamaica Order in Council; and the above-mentioned proviso would not be appropriate. It will be necessary to provide in Trinidad and Tobago that should the Executive Council in any instance refuse to authorize the Governor by resolution to use his reserve powers, he may nevertheless do so if (except where urgency makes this impracticable) the Secretary of State's consent is first obtained.

Secretary of State's Conclusion

19. To sum up, my conclusion is that the new constitution should provide for :-

- (i) A Legislative Council of three ex-officio, five nominated and 18 elected members presided over by a Speaker appointed by the Governor from outside the Council. The Speaker will have neither an original nor a casting vote.
- (ii) an Executive Council of three ex-officio members, one nominated member (appointed by His Majesty on the recommendation of the Governor), and five elected members to be elected by the Legislative Council; and
- (iii) reserve legislative powers, to be used only when a question of public order, public faith, or good government is involved, similar to those provided for in the Jamaica constitution, but subject to the remarks in paragraph 18 of this despatch.

In addition, arrangements should be made for the unofficial members of the Executive Council to be actively associated in the work of administration of Government Departments. I propose to give further consideration, in consultation with you, to the question how this can best be effected.

Finally, a Public Services Commission should be set up. I shall address you separately on the constitution and functions of such a Commission, and I note that you will wish to inform me of the views of the Civil Service Association in this matter before final conclusions are reached.

20. I have given consideration to the position which will arise as a result of the increase in the number of elected members of the Legislative Council from nine to 18. It has been suggested that as the existing Council is not due to be dissolved until 1951, an interim election should be held to fill the nine additional seats. I am informed, however, that the existing arrangement of electoral districts on a county basis is unsatisfactory, since the allocation of seats takes no account of the distribution of population and the size of the electorate in the respective constituencies. Revision is urgently required, and I suggest therefore that you should appoint a committee forthwith to make recommendations for the fresh delimitation of electoral districts.

Meanwhile, in order that there may be no undue delay, I have given directions for the preparation of the necessary constitutional instruments to give effect to the decision in paragraph 19, to

be prepared for submission to His Majesty the King as quickly as circumstances permit. In view of the present pressure of work on my legal advisers as the result of the many constitutional changes taking place in the colonies, this will take several months but I should hope that these instruments will be ready by the time the committee, whose work would no doubt also take several months, have issued their report. The new constitution could then be introduced, the present Legislative Council dissolved, and arrangements made for an early general election on the new basis.

21. A constitution such as I have indicated will give the people of Trinidad and Tobago a dominant voice in the control of their affairs. It will place representatives elected by universal adult suffrage in a clear majority both in the Legislative Council and in the Executive Council, while still providing for the co-operation of other persons with valuable experience and knowledge. These representatives will henceforth be in a position to assume responsibility for the framing and execution of public policy. At this turning point in the history of the colony I appeal with confidence to all its people to justify this bold advance by applying their energies constructively and in harmony to the tasks of betterment which await them.

22. I shall be grateful if you will cause this despatch to be laid before the Legislative Council and published for general information in the colony.

Trade Unions in Trinidad

A Letter to "The Times"

THE following letter from Commander H. V. Lavington, R.N. (Retd.), a director of Trinidad Petroleum Development Co. Ltd., appeared in *The Times* of February 1st:—

In your leading article on January 20th dealing with the new constitution for the colony of Trinidad and Tobago you state that "it (the colony) has no organized trade unions." While agreeing with the conclusion reached in your article that the colony has not yet reached a stage in its political development when it is ready for immediate representative Government with fully responsible Ministers, I would at the same time wish to point out that the trade union movement has developed very considerably in the colony during the past 11 years. At the present time there are 10 active registered trade unions in the colony affiliated to the Trinidad and Tobago Trade Union Council.

As a representative of the employers I have personal knowledge of one of these unions, the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, which was founded in 1937 and has been recognized by the Oilfield Employers' Association since 1938 as the negotiating medium for workers employed on the oilfields. Since that date the union and the employers have signed four agreements covering wages and benefits, and the terms of these agreements have been loyally carried out by the union. At an early stage in the late war an agreement was signed with the union covering a period of two years or the duration of the war, whichever was the longer. At the time this agreement was signed the union officials certainly had not anticipated that the war would last for more than 5½ years, yet the agreement was adhered to and there were no stoppages of work on the oilfields throughout the war. I would suggest that this is a record of which any British trade union might be proud.

The Earl and Countess of Mansfield left England in the *Queen Mary* on January 19th for New York, en route for Jamaica.

The International Sugar Journal

Golden Jubilee

SERVICE to sugar is service to the West Indies, and the occasion of the jubilee of *The International Sugar Journal* cannot be allowed to pass without a proper meed of tribute to a publication which for half a century has consistently and successfully presented accurate and up-to-date information on matters concerning the industry.

The January, 1949 number is the jubilee issue, and tells the story of the gradual expansion of the journal from a small monthly of modest dimensions and scope to the comprehensive review of the agricultural, technological and commercial aspects of sugar production which it has become to-day. The list of contributors, and of authorities whose work has been recorded in the pages of the journal during the past fifty years, is an imposing one, and of itself bears witness to the high value placed by the leading workers in the industry on *The International Sugar Journal* as a vehicle for the dissemination of authoritative information on sugar.

Jubilee greetings from organizations, agriculturists, technologists, and producers, manufacturers and refiners in all parts of the sugar-producing world testify to the wide circulation and high reputation of the journal, and the editors and their collaborators are to be congratulated on the world-wide tribute thus paid to the measure of their achievement.

The CIRCULAR joins in the good wishes for the future which have been extended to them from all sides.

New Administrator of St. Vincent

Mr. Walter Fleming Coutts, District Officer, Kenya, has been appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to be Administrator of St. Vincent, in succession to Mr. R. H. Garvey, C.M.G., M.B.E., whose appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Honduras, was announced in September, 1948.

Mr. Coutts was born in November, 1912, at Aberdeen and educated at Glasgow Academy and the University of St. Andrews. He was appointed to the Colonial Administrative Service in Kenya in 1936.

Raw Cotton Commission

The Board of Trade have reappointed for a further period of one year the following part-time members of the Raw Cotton Commission: Mr. A. J. Byrne, Mr. J. Etherington, Mr. W. A. M. Hesketh, Sir R. W. Lacey, Mr. A. Roberts, Mr. C. Schofield, Mr. A. V. Symons.

Mr. J. M. Cook, chairman of Cook & Thorp, Ltd., cotton merchants, has also been appointed as an additional part-time member of the Commission.

Sir John Wise has been appointed to be an independent member, and he and Mr. J. T. Porritt will act as vice-chairmen of the Commission. Sir John has also been directed by the President of the Board of Trade to act as deputy chairman in any absence of the chairman.

Trinidad's Tourist Industry

New Passenger Centre Opened

As briefly announced in last CIRCULAR, the new passenger centre of the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board, at King's Wharf, Port-of-Spain, was opened on December 20th, by the Governor of the colony, Sir John Shaw.

In asking Sir John to declare the building open, Mr. A. W. Baddeley, acting chairman of the board, in the course of his speech said: "I would like to refer briefly to the help which Government has given the tourist industry here, and which is gratefully acknowledged. In 1935 the Government appointed a Tourist and Exhibition Board to continue the voluntary work undertaken by some ladies who in 1932 on their own initiative, under the leadership of Mrs. Nankivell, operated a Tourist Enquiry Bureau at the Customs.

"The Board, under the able chairmanship of Mr. Arthur Emlyn operated until the outbreak of war in 1939, when it naturally had to remain dormant. It returned to active existence as from January 1st, 1945, under the chairmanship of Mr. Wilfred Alston, who has been succeeded in that office by Mr. Frank Bell and, again this year, by Mr. Vernon Wharton.

"Government has been generous to the Tourist Board in the matter of funds; in the years 1946, 1947 and 1948 an annual grant of \$80,000 was made over a three-year plan; a similar figure appears in the estimates for 1949, and we hope that with the sympathetic consideration of our Legislature, this vote will be confirmed."

After dealing briefly with the functions of the board Mr. Baddeley continued: "The board now turns to the future, and hopes to persuade Government to appoint at an early date a Statutory Maracas Bay Authority for the proper and orderly development of Maracas Bay, not only for the tourists, but also for residents of the island. The development of Maracas Bay is considered of prime importance by the board, and Government is urged to give it early and earnest consideration.

"Then as a long-term policy, by the construction of suitable roads, the whole of the North Coast should be opened up; it is believed that not until the North Coast is easily accessible, will the potentialities of Trinidad as a tourist resort be fully realized.

"The amount of United States currency actually collected by the board in small transactions is now \$10,000 per annum. This goes to show that tourism is an industry, but we recognize that it is not our major industry. The major industry of Trinidad is agriculture; the wealth of the colony is in the soil, and it is by the hard work, industry, and perseverance of the average man in the country that the island will attain and remain on a sound economic basis."

In declaring the building open, the Governor said: "This reception centre is a necessary step in organizing the reception of our visitors. First impressions are of great value. The beautiful scenery which strikes the eye of the tourist as he approaches our shores has a pleasing effect, and now this agreeable building in which the traveller will be received will intensify the impression that Trinidad is a good place for a holiday.

"The initiative in suggesting that facilities should be provided for the reception of tourists at the Port-of-Spain Wharves was taken by the chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board, Mr. Frank Bell, at a meeting in 1946. The Royal Navy was about to relinquish its interest in H.M.S. *Benbow*, and this seemed to offer a good opportunity for establishing a suitable passenger centre on that site.

"Discussions ensued between the board and the competent Government departments, which gave the proposal their full support. The necessary financial provision was arranged by co-operation between the board and the Government. A sub-committee of the board, Mr. S. H. Banning and Mr. J. B. Fernandes, studied questions of design and plan; Mr. Richard Wilson was appointed architect and Messrs. Ash and Watson were given the contract to build. Mr. Wilson left the colony before the building was finished and Mr. Alfred Price of Messrs. Prior, Loureance and Nothnagel was appointed to succeed him. Work started in August, 1947, and the building was finished on November 26th, 1948. The cost was \$83,000."

Among those present at the ceremony were the Most Rev. Dr. Finbar Ryan, Archbishop of Port-of-Spain, Professor Satya Charan Shastri, India's Commissioner in the British West Indies and British Guiana, the Colonial Secretary and members of the Executive and Legislative Councils.

Guiana Stock Conversion

Holders of British Guiana Government 5 per cent stock, 1949-69 were given notice on January 28th that the stock (£2,090,000) would be redeemed on August 1st next. They were offered conversion at par into a new 3 per cent stock, 1975-80.

The offer of conversion is limited to £1,390,000 out of £2,090,000 stock; £400,000 of the new stock is shown to have been reserved for subscription in cash by the Crown Agents on behalf of Colonial Government funds and £300,000 for guaranteed conversion applications. Arrangements have been made for the balance of stock not required for conversion to be subscribed for in cash if acceptances do not reach the £1,390,000.

Beginning on February 1st, 1950, half-yearly contributions at the rate of not less than 1 per cent per annum will be made to a sinking fund for the redemption of the loan at the final date. Interest will be payable on February 1st and August 1st.

"Die-back" of Limes

A correspondent to the January issue of *The Crown Colonist* draws attention to the heavy toll taken in West Africa during recent years by the "die-back" disease of the lime fruit tree.

War conditions greatly hampered efforts to combat the disease, but it is established that seedlings grafted on lemon stocks show immunity from the disease, and the Department of Agriculture is now engaged on a large-scale campaign of replacement after burning of affected trees. It is aimed to produce 100,000 grafted seedlings, which will be available to farmers at low cost.

Canada—B.W.I. Trade

Relaxation of Restrictions

NOTES on page 18 of the January issue of the CIRCULAR drew attention to the impact of restrictions, imposed on account of the dollar shortage, on trade relations between Canada and the British West Indies, and to representations made by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to the department of trade and commerce in Ottawa in regard to the progressive exclusion of Canada's highly-manufactured goods from markets in the Caribbean.

These matters had been put before Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the United Kingdom Government, while he was in Canada in the autumn of 1948, and Canadian representatives visited London in December and held discussions with His Majesty's Government as a result of which the British West Indian governments were advised to consider whether certain relaxations could be permitted.

Those governments accepted the proposals, and on January 3rd, Mr. C. D. Howe, Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced in Ottawa that by an arrangement, which came into force in January, 1949, the West Indian colonies would permit limited importations of a number of products hitherto prohibited or severely restricted on account of the dollar shortage. Several hundreds of Canadian firms would be able, as a result, to resume trade in a market from which many of them had for several months been excluded. The new arrangement did not mean that import restrictions had in any sense been entirely removed. The dollar shortage continued to necessitate rigorous economy in all purchases from hard-currency countries including Canada, and the extent of the purchases that could be made by each of the Colonies would be strictly limited as were imports into the U.K. itself by the dollars available.

Mr. Howe explained that the scheme now adopted is more flexible than the token import plan which has been in effect for three years in the U.K. Such a plan would not have been suited to the West Indies where there are many separate areas, each with its own independent import control and its different local needs for imported products. The new arrangements therefore provide that a limited amount of additional dollars are to be at the disposal of each of the West Indian colonies to be used for increased purchases of a wide range of goods whose importation from Canada has been hitherto prohibited or severely restricted.

The market will, however, be strictly competitive. No specific quotas have been set up for individual products for individual firms. Up to the limit of additional dollars to be made available each importer will be free to purchase the goods of his choice from his preferred supplier. A relative amount of each product to be imported under the plan will be determined by the authorities of each individual colony, who are to try in each case to spread the increased purchases over a wide range of products. The benefits of the new scheme will not be restricted to Canada but will extend to other hard-currency areas including the U.S.A., it being

understood that the choice of sources of supply in each case rests with the individual purchaser.

Included in the scheme are Bermuda, Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward and Windward Islands, British Guiana and British Honduras.

"These arrangements, which are the result of friendly discussions with the United Kingdom authorities, will be very welcome in Canada," Mr. Howe stated. "They will help in some measure to maintain Canadian contact over a wide list of items with one of our oldest and most valued export markets, and are a tangible indication of the desire of the United Kingdom authorities to mitigate, as far as the dollars available to them permit, the effect of import restrictions on the traditional trade between Canada and the British West Indies. It is impossible to estimate in advance the extent to which Canadian trade will benefit. The new business will be in addition to what is already being permitted on a basis of need and I am satisfied that, though still limited, it can reach a worthwhile amount. The most important thing is, however, that sales of many products which were prohibited are now again to be permitted so that Canadian exporters will be in a position to maintain their connexions and keep their names before the public.

"To benefit by the scheme the Canadian exporter must make a real effort to sell his goods for he is going to be in competition with other sellers, other products and other countries."

It is anticipated that the items covered by the new arrangement will include cooking utensils; hand tools; office furniture (metal); lamps and lanterns (ordinary and pressure types); bottle caps; buckles and fasteners (including slide fasteners); leather and manufactures thereof, other than apparel (including luggage, etc.); brushes and mops; buttons; medicines, pharmaceutical preparations, optical and dental supplies; toilet preparations (including shaving soap, tooth paste, cosmetics, etc.); soap (toilet and cleansers); paints, varnishes, enamels; paper and manufactures thereof (except newsprint); roofing materials; belting, leather, rubber, etc.; spare parts, other than tyres for motor vehicles; toys and dolls; hosiery and knit goods, including gloves; wearing apparel, other than hosiery; gloves of rubber; footwear, leather, rubber or canvas; electrical household appliances, equipment, wiring devices and parts; batteries; pens and pencils and parts thereof, including fountain pens; apples; canned fruits, vegetables and soups; macaroni, spaghetti and vermicelli; whisky and beer; confectionery; jelly and dessert powders; and textiles.

Bar Examination Results

The Council of Legal Education announced on January 13th the result of the Hilary final examination of students of Inns of Court.

Among those who passed were: Mr. J. C. Castillo (Trinidad), Mr. V. E. Crane (British Guiana), Mr. P. L. U. Cross (Trinidad) and Mr. W. H. Swaby (Jamaica).

All four were called on January 26th, the first named by Lincoln's Inn, and the remainder by the Middle Temple.

Publications Received

Trinidad and Tobago Census, 1946, Government Press, Trinidad and Tobago, 1948. Complete report of the census made on April 9th, 1946, with full data. The census covers not only population, but also agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

Trinidad and Tobago Census Album, compiled by Noel P. Bowen and B. G. Montserin, Government Press, Port-of-Spain, 1948. A geographical, historical and economic review of the colony, with meteorological observations, vital trade and other statistics and 75 maps based on the 1946 census.

Useful and Ornamental Plants of Zanzibar and Pemba, by R. O. Williams, Government Printer, Zanzibar, price 21s. net. Obtainable from Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1. Mr. Williams, recently Director of Agriculture, Zanzibar and formerly deputy director of agriculture in Trinidad, gives descriptive accounts of some 800 useful and ornamental plants to be found in the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba. The book is illustrated by photographs, and pen-and-ink drawings of flower, fruit and leaves of many of the plants, and has an illustrated introduction by Major E. A. T. Dutton, designed to help those who are not botanists in making identifications.

The arrangement of the book follows that adopted in *The Useful and Ornamental Plants of Trinidad and Tobago*, a fourth and illustrated edition of which, revised by Mr. Williams and his son, is in course of production.

Extension Circulars, Department of Agriculture, Jamaica. No. 11, *Top-Working Citrus Trees*, by Egbert A. Tai. Notes on frameworking, top-budding and top-grafting of citrus trees, intended for those who wish to grow new varieties of fruit on existing trees. No. 12, *Manuring Vegetable Gardens*, by L. A. Powell. The principles of manuring simply explained for the vegetable gardener. No. 18, *The Peanut in Jamaica*, by W. K. Mitchell. Notes on the cultivation of ground-nuts under Jamaican conditions.

Letters from the Bahama Islands, edited by Richard Kent, and published by John Culmer, 34, North End Road, London, N.W.11. 1948. Price 18s. 6d. post free.

Written in 1823-24, and first published in Philadelphia in 1827, these letters are attributed by bibliographers to a Miss Hart, of whom, apparently, nothing but her surname is known. She appears to have visited the Bahamas and to have recorded her impressions in the form of a series of letters supposed to have been written to a friend in America by an English lady residing in the colony. The book is decorated with pen-and-ink sketches by Basil Peck.

Wall Map of the British Caribbean Colonies, published by the Central Office of Information, and obtainable from His Majesty's Stationery Offices, 1s. 1d. with postage. A coloured wall map for school use, with a general plan of the Caribbean territories showing air routes, and maps of the principal colonies with their products illustrated by pictorial signs,

Physical Recreation, Vol. I, No. 1, January-April, 1949. This is the first issue of a quarterly publication for home and overseas circulation which is to be the official journal of the Central Council of Physical Recreation. It will be published in January, April, July and October of each year, and is obtainable from the headquarters office of the Council at 6, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1. The annual subscription, which includes postage to any part of the world, is 4s.

Special articles include reviews from governing bodies controlling the various branches of sport and athletics of the records of British competitors at the XIVth Olympiad. Thirty-two of these governing bodies have agreed to contribute regularly to the journal. Another regular feature gives news about developments in the field of sport and physical recreation in all countries.

All who are seriously interested in games and athletics are catered for in this publication.

Books Reviewed

Housekeeping in the Tropics

*A Household Book for Tropical Colonies** is the second edition of a work by E. C. Bradley which already has made numerous friends in Africa for which it was originally intended. Primarily for bachelors faced with the problem of housekeeping in the "bush," it is full of useful hints for all who are going to the tropics for the first time. As far as the West Indies are concerned its value lies not so much in its comprehensive list of supplies, though even this is of use as a check for those about to set up house there—but in its approach to the catering problems seen in relation to the deficiencies of the cook whose references do him or her far more than justice. Moreover, the recipes contain just those extra tips which make them fully adaptable to the surroundings, and there are many suggestions which if followed, will result in easier living and less strain on the purse.

Old Bermuda

The Bermuda Historical Monuments Trust is to be congratulated on having sponsored this book entitled *Life on Old St. David's Bermuda*.† The author, E. A. McCallan is a native of the colony, of which he was at one time Director of Agriculture. It is a fascinating, if rambling, account of an island for long isolated from the main stream of life in Bermuda, full of survivals from the past. It is a story of the adaptation of people to circumstances, the story of the author's own people and his forebears, written with a wealth of knowledge of the land and the sea and the fruits thereof, of old customs, crafts and trades. To anecdote and reminiscence are added solid historical research, while the affection he bears the land of his birth shines through every page and cannot fail to entrance the reader.

The book itself is a model of the printer's art, well illustrated and the maps which grace the inner covers enable the stranger to find his way among the many islands of the Bermudas.

*Oxford University Press, Geoffrey Cumberlege, 1948. 7s. 6d.
†Bermuda Historical Monuments Trust, Hamilton, Bermuda. 18s. 6d.

Trinidad's Petroleum Industry

Operations in 1947

IN the latest administration report of the Mines Department of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. W. N. Foster, acting Inspector of Mines and Petroleum Technologist, gives a survey of the operations of the oil industry in Trinidad during 1947.

The scale of these operations, in all branches of the industry, was limited during the period by the general shortage of steel, and by the dollar allocations to individual companies which had to be cut during the latter part of the year. In spite, however, of the difficulty in obtaining equipment and supplies, production was slightly increased as against 1946 and drilling was more active.

A considerable amount of geological work was done in order to demarcate areas for deeper exploratory drilling. Three field parties carried out seismic work, and preliminary gravity surveys were commenced on a large scale, the area examined including parts of the Gulf of Paria.

The total production of crude oil for the year was 20,520,554 barrels, an average of 56,220 barrels per day and an increase of 1.42 per cent over 1946 production, but still more than one and a half million barrels less than in the peak year of 1940.

Production Rise and Fall

From 1933 to 1940 there had been a steady increase in production, due to increased drilling and also to a tendency on the part of some operators to concentrate on production by natural flow rather than by artificial lift. Since 1940 there has been a decline in production, due partly to the application of artificial lift to the backlog of idle wells and partly to a drop in daily average production per flowing well. The latter has amounted to a fall from 79.0 barrels per day in 1940 to 54.2 barrels per day in 1947, a drop of 31 per cent. A fall to 69.2 barrels per day in 1941 was due to deliberate restriction of flowing production to counter temporary lack of off-take occasioned by war-time conditions, and the further fall since 1941 is attributed in the report to the following four factors: (1) smaller number of wells drilled per year since 1942, resulting in an increasing proportion of older wells; (2) increasing attention to gas oil ratios, resulting in many cases in reduction of average choke sizes and hence in production rate; (3) increasing attention to bottom hole pressure determinations, necessitating the closing in of flowing wells for periods varying from several days to several months; (4) increasing number, year by year, of interspaced wells drilled into reservoirs whose initial pressure has fallen due to previous drilling.

This fourth factor is one to which the report draws particular attention, with emphasis on the fact that owing to the small amount of exploration done during the war, an annual expenditure on that account considerably in excess of \$3,000,000 per annum will have to be faced, and a dry hole percentage in excess of 10 per cent will probably result, during the next two or three years, if the colony's proved crude reserve is to

be maintained at its figure of about 250,000,000 barrels.

One hundred and sixty two wells were commenced, and 157 completed, during the year, the comparable figures for 1946 being 124 and 108 respectively. 4,537 oil wells were completed in the colony to the end of 1947, of which 3,037 were on Crown oil-rights and 1,500 on private lands. 644,689 feet were drilled in 1947 against 533,179 feet in 1946, an increase of 20.91 per cent. Owing to a successful shallow well programme in the Penal area there was a reduction in the average depth per well completed in 1947, though that of the deepest was 11,042 feet, the same as in 1946. The number of oilfield operators in the colony during the year was 14.

The total topping capacity of the refineries operating in the colony in 1947 was approximately 95,000 barrels per day; the cracking capacity 50,000 barrels per day. Crude oil run to stills during the year amounted to 25,281,000 barrels, an increase of 11.3 per cent on the 1946 figure. This included oil imported into the colony for refining. United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. commenced the installation of a vacuum asphalt plant, and plans were under consideration by Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., for increasing their facilities for handling crude oil imported for refining and re-export. Three plants for the recovery of natural gasoline were in operation during the year.

Storage capacity for crude oil and refined products amounted to 8,342,087 barrels at December, 1947, an increase of 5 per cent over 1946, and considerable additions to facilitate the handling of imported crude oil and its products were anticipated during the succeeding eighteen months.

Large Contributions to Revenue

The direct contributions made by the industry to revenue totalled \$7,076,639, being 19.9 per cent of the total revenue of the colony. Other local disbursements amounted to \$24,745,022. Since 1939 expenditure per barrel produced had increased by practically 100 per cent.

Exports of petroleum and its products showed an increase of nearly 2½ million barrels over 1946, while a rise in Gulf prices during 1947 produced a jump in value. The amounts and values for the two years were as follows:—

1946	20,432,076 barrels valued at	...	...	41,520,918
	Petroleum bitumen (company's figures)	...	...	1,438,926
	Total	...	...	42,959,844
1947	22,926,397 barrels valued at	...	...	61,897,237
	Petroleum bitumen (company's figures)	...	...	1,251,869
	Total	...	...	63,151,106

Over 23 per cent of the above total for 1947 represents the re-export value of blended or refined products of imported crudes.

Petroleum and asphalt and their products accounted

for 78.80 per cent of the colony's exports during 1947, as the following table of exports for that year shows.

	Value \$	Percentage of total
Petroleum and asphalt and their products ...	64,822,420	78.80
Sugar, molasses and rum ...	9,957,334	12.10
Cocoa ...	3,205,049	3.90
Fruits and fruit juices ...	1,052,740	1.28
Coconuts, copra and coconut oil ...	789,022	0.96
Bitters ...	378,925	0.46
Coffee ...	250,014	0.30
Other exports not enumerated ...	1,806,728	2.20
	82,262,232	100.00

Production of asphalt during the year was 87,346 tons, against 93,851 tons in 1946 and 63,118 tons in 1945.

Agreement was reached during the year on a new basis of royalty assessment on crude oil, whereby the Trinidad government will receive a 10 per cent royalty on the field storage value of the crude oil, which latter value was established as the posted field price of West Texas sour crude plus the difference in transportation tariffs from field to l.o.b. deep water terminal (i.e. 25.0—10.7=14.3 U.S. cents per barrel).

Certain changes in the form of presentation of statistics, as compared with that used in pre-war reports, have been made in the report under review, and in particular appendices E. and F., containing statements of oil produced, refined in the colony, and exported, are omitted. It was on these appendices that the statistics of production, refining and export from the inception of the industry, which were formerly a feature of this annual review, were based. During the war the issue of the report was discontinued, and the last review appeared in the issue of the Circular dated August 24th, 1939, and gave statistics covering the years 1908 to 1938 inclusive.

The following figures for the years 1939 to 1947 are comparable with the former statistics, and it should be noted that the figures for production in barrels include about half of total production of natural gasoline which was not disposed of as such but blended with crude oil at field storage:—

	Production in barrels	Quantity of crude oil refined in barrels	Quantity of refined oil exported in barrels
1939 ...	19,742,000	19,415,000	17,600,000
1940 ...	22,227,000	22,060,000	20,173,000
1941 ...	20,506,000	20,812,000	15,851,000
1942 ...	22,069,000	21,914,000	19,063,000
1943 ...	21,385,000	21,086,000	15,860,000
1944 ...	21,635,000	22,498,000	19,754,000
1945 ...	21,093,000	23,170,000	20,651,000
1946 ...	20,233,000	22,713,000	20,432,000
1947 ...	20,520,000	25,281,000	22,926,000

MR. GEORGE MUTLOW PATERSON, O.B.E., M.A., Solicitor-General, Tanganyika, who has been transferred to Sierra Leone as Attorney-General will be remembered in Grenada where he was born in 1906. He was educated at Grenada Boys' School and at St. John's College, Cambridge and was called to the bar in 1933.

The House of Rose

L. Rose and Company Limited have published an illustrated brochure giving an account of the development of the company since its foundation by Lauchlan Rose, grandfather of the present chairman of the same name, in Leith, Edinburgh, in 1865.

Prior to that date the family business had been that of shipbuilding and repairing, in connexion with which an ancillary branch dealt with the equipment and provisioning of sailing vessels.

Among other commodities handled by this branch was lime juice, which, under the Merchant Shipping Act of 1867, had to be carried by all ocean-going ships for issue to the crew. Mr. Rose was granted a patent in December of that year for a method of preserving fruit juices free from fermentation, a method which is still the basis of normal practice at the present time. He also registered the design of the well-known bottle decorated with a representation of the fruit. This, too, apart from improvement in the technique of production, has remained virtually unchanged in design.

By 1875 the business had made such progress that a branch was opened in London. In 1882 it had outgrown the original premises in Finsbury, and larger premises were acquired. Mr. Rose died in 1885, but the business, carried on by his sons, continued to expand and in 1893 additional premises in Worship Street were built.

The London premises were destroyed in the 1940 "blitz," but by that time property acquired in St. Albans immediately after the outbreak of war had been equipped for manufacture, so that no interruption in production occurred. There is now a refinery at Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire, with factories at St. Albans, Liverpool and Leith producing lime juice and lime marmalade, which has become very popular since its introduction in 1930.

At first the company obtained its supplies of lime juice for manufacture from various sources in the West Indies, but acquired its own estate in Dominica in 1893, and in 1924 took steps to establish lime plantations in the Gold Coast. The company now owns three estates in Dominica, and crops approximately three thousand acres in British West Africa. There has been a branch of the company in Durban since 1928, and at the time of the outbreak of war Rose's lime juice was being bottled in Hong Kong, Shanghai, the United States of America, Singapore and several other centres.

War-time restrictions deprived the general public of Rose's for a time, but since February, 1948 it has again been in production—alas, with a "hangover"! Only limited supplies can be manufactured because of the continued shortage of sugar.

The Journal of Comparative Legislation and International Law, Third series—Vol. XXX, parts 3 and 4, November, 1948. The Rt. Hon. Sir Sidney Abrahams recently delivered a lecture at the London School of Economics on the Colonial Legal Service and the administration of justice in colonial dependencies, which is reproduced in this issue. Professor K. C. Wheare also contributes an article on Recent Constitutional Developments in the British Commonwealth.



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *January 29th.*

WE are proud of Antigua's share in the New Year Honours. Mr. W. A. Macnie, Colonial Secretary, has been awarded the C.M.G. and Air-Commodore A. W. B. McDonald, holder of the Air Force Cross, now receives the C.B. Air-Commodore McDonald was born in South Africa but lived for many years in this island with his parents, loyal Antiguans; so we feel justified in claiming pride in this honour.

Mr. Edgar Edwards, formerly Administration Secretary, has become assistant Colonial Secretary in succession to Mr. William Archer.

Stamps commemorating the Royal Silver Wedding were issued on January 3rd and were received with enthusiasm by collectors.

BARBADOS

New Speaker. Writing from Bridgetown on January 24th, our correspondent, Mr. Keith McCowan, says: "After the opening of the 1948-50 legislative session on December 21st, Mr. K. N. R. Husbands, junior member for the parish of St. Peter, was elected Speaker of the House of Assembly. Mr. Husbands is a member of the Labour Party, and the first coloured man in the history of Barbados on whom the honour of appointment as Speaker has been conferred.

"**The Hon. H. A. Cuke**, has been reappointed a member of the Executive Committee for the 1948-50 Session. The members of the Committee appointed from the House of Assembly are Mr. G. H. Adams, Dr. H. G. Cummins, Mr. M. E. Cox and Mr. F. L. Walcott.

"**Heads of departments** in Executive Committee appointed by the heads of the House are: Mr. G. H. Adams, Finance, Budget, Taxation, Education, Housing, Legal; Dr. H. G. Cummins, Labour, Medical, Health and Social Services, Police and Prisons; Mr. M. E. Cox, Trade, Commerce, Customs and Post Office, Water and Light; Mr. F. L. Walcott, Agriculture and Fisheries, Communications, Public Works.

Sugar. "The Deputy Director of Agriculture told farmers on January 5th that a sugar production of 200,000 tons is not too much to look forward to within 10 or 15 years. The estimated yield of the current crop, the reaping of which has commenced, is 165,000 tons of sugar—the biggest crop that Barbados has ever produced.

Customs Union. "The first meeting of the British Caribbean Customs Union Commission was held on January 10th under the chairmanship of Mr. J. McLagan, to discuss the general principles arising out of Resolution 7 of the 1947 Montego Bay Conference. Representatives attended the meeting from Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad and the Windward Islands.

Conferences. "Barbados is to be the venue of two regional conferences in the near future. The first, which is scheduled to open on January 31st, will discuss the

1947 Montego Bay Resolutions dealing with the setting up of a central body of British Caribbean Primary Producers, the inauguration of a British Caribbean Trade Commissioner service in the United Kingdom and the appointment of a Regional Economic Committee. The second conference, which is due to begin on February 15th, will discuss the future of the Canada-West Indies shipping services.

Emigration. "The House of Assembly has voted an amount of £1,000 for the purpose of continuing the exploration of the possibilities of obtaining employment for Barbadian workers in the United States and elsewhere.

Central Creamery. "The Department of Science and Agriculture has discussed with land owners and dairy keepers a scheme to establish a central creamery where milk would be pasteurized for distribution. Detailed proposals for finance are receiving the attention of a committee. The scheme is an outcome of the work, carried out with Colonial Development and Welfare funds, on improved breeding, feeding and management of stock, particularly dairy cattle.

Films. "Mr. Graham Wallace, film director and script writer of the Crown Film Unit, London, arrived in Barbados on January 12th, to be followed by a small party, in order to take films on behalf of the Colonial Office. The party's main work in Barbados will be the filming of the sugar industry.

Harrison College. "Mr. H. N. Haskell, M.A., headmaster of the College, retired at the end of 1948, after 38 years professional association with the college.

"**Sir George Campbell Deane**, retired Chief Justice of the Gold Coast, died in Barbados on December 30th, at the age of seventy-five."

Legislature Opened. Miss Joan Kysh, secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee, in a letter dated January 1st, says: "The Governor opened the 1948-50 session of the Legislature on December 21st.

Shipping. "The s.s. *Stella Polaris*, with cruise passengers from the U.S.A., paid her first visit of the season to Barbados on December 24th.

Hotel News. "The new guest house at Paradise Beach Club, Black Rock, St. Michael, offers attractive modern accommodation to visitors. This guest house, which opened on December 1st, contains 18 bedrooms, all supplied with private baths. The Paradise Beach Club, approximately three miles from Bridgetown, is situated on the west coast of the island where fine sea-bathing is obtainable. Four Winds Club, St. Peter, has been closed as a residential club, and converted into three apartments, which may be rented by visitors."

BRITISH GUIANA

B.G. Tourist Committee. The Hon. W. J. Raat-gover has succeeded Mr. Francis Dias as president of the Tourist Committee.

Magistrates' Powers. Two bills passed by the Legislature towards the end of 1948 empower magistrates to impose sentences up to 12 months (six months was the

previous maximum) and to hear suits up to the value of \$250 (the previous limit was \$100).

A Bibliography of British Guiana has been compiled by the Hon. Vincent Roth for the B.G. Bibliography Committee. When published, it will be a book of several hundred pages with thousands of entries classified and cross-filed on the Dewey decimal system with author and subject indices.

Red Cross Society. The following are the officers of the B.G. branch of the British Red Cross Society: Patron, the Governor; president, Lady Woolley; deputy president, Mrs. W. L. Heape; director, Mr. Oscar S. Wight; deputy director, Mr. H. S. Wilson; assistant director (public relations), Miss Cicely Pilgrim; hon. secretary, Mrs. C. C. da Silva; hon. treasurer, Hon. E. F. McDavid; lady superintendent, Mrs. E. P. Niven; medical officer, Dr. H. Herlinger; members of council, Hon. G. H. Smellie, Hon. W. J. Raatgever, Mrs. N. A. Worley.

Wallaba may become a valuable source of paper pulp as the timber industry of British Guiana is developed under the aegis of the Colonial Development Corporation. Mr. Denis Atkinson, head of the commercial mission which has been investigating the possibilities, has been particularly interested in the wallaba forests, and the financial resources available to the Corporation would make it possible to establish the production of wood pulp as a major industry.

Reaping Loans have been made available to rice farmers by the local government, through Co-operative Credit Banks, on the basis of a maximum of \$6 per acre of paddy to be reaped. Five bags of paddy are to be deposited at a Government mill for every acre.

DOMINICA

Postal Service. Writing from Roseau, on December 31st, a correspondent signing himself "Wintergreen" says: "Our postal service with the outside world is really awful, but it may improve in 1949 as we are promised an air-service."

Emigration. "Our young men continue to depart to work in the oil refineries of Curacao and Aruba. This, although carefully controlled, appears inevitable and is certainly a loss to the economy of Dominica."

"The month of December has been one of incessant activity in all sections of our island life. Carollers have been singing through the nights their familiar songs; our Legislative Council has yielded a record output of Ordinances making for a better control and regimentation of our daily life; labour and capital appear to regard each other more amicably, and with the passing of the hurricane season our minds are relaxing more into the existence of 'easy street.'"

Lacatan Banana. "The banana known as Lacatan, the type desired from us by the U.K. market, appears to be giving trouble as to its identity. First it was reported as growing wild here, then followed its identification as 'Porto Rique' and now we have sent our Agricultural Superintendent, Mr. de Verteuil, and Mr. W. H. Shillingford to Jamaica to ascertain what Lacatan really is and to learn of its culture."

Candied Peel Exports. "Our export of candied peel to the U.K. appears to have received a check, due it is said to an adverse report from home on the quality. Others attribute it to 1949 import licences not being available yet. There is no difficulty here as to export

licences from Dominica; we charge no export duty on the peel—and we do not miss much that we may tax."

JAMAICA

Big Kingston Fire. According to a press telegram, a fire on the night of January 26th destroyed the factory and offices of Caribbean Products, Ltd., a local company producing more than half the island's consumption of refined coconut oil, lard and margarine, and a substantial part of its soap requirements. The damage is estimated at £150,000.

Sugar Estimates. The latest revised estimate for the 1949 sugar crop is 228,700 tons, which is 1,200 tons more than the last estimate made in December, and approximately 34,500 tons more than was produced in 1948.

Film Rights. Owing to the fact that, under a recent law, Kingswood Films have monopoly rights to make films in Jamaica, the Government of the island had to issue special permission to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, in a *Gazette* notice, to make a film of "Robinson Crusoe" in the island. The permission lasts for one year only.

Welcome for Cruiser. The Governor and the Mayor of Kingston joined on January 30th in an official welcome and presentation to the officers and men of the cruiser H.M.S. *Jamaica*, which has recently joined the America and West Indies squadron. Victoria Parade Square was thronged with citizens, who cheered the naval ratings and their own local forces and police guards of honour, while the Jamaica military band, wearing their ancient Zouave uniforms, provided colour and music. An address to the officers and men of the cruiser was read by Mr. Clinton Hart, clerk to the Legislature, and presented by the Governor, Sir John Huggins, who traced the history of Royal Navy ships named Jamaica and praised the part played by this cruiser in the last war.

Currency Plan Rejected. The Jamaica currency committee, according to *The Times* correspondent in Kingston, has decided to reject a proposal for currency unification in the West Indies, and for abandonment of the pound sterling in favour of a West Indian dollar. The committee suggests, however, that the matter be reconsidered if the West Indian Federation comes into being.

TRINIDAD

Central Library. A Bill recently issued provides for the establishment and maintenance of the Central Library of Trinidad and Tobago under government control, and the creation of a Central Library Board of seven members nominated by the Governor, with power, with his approval, to co-opt.

The Central Library, which operated at first under grants from the Carnegie Corporation and later under the British Council, will thus become a government institution.

Princess Elizabeth Home. The main building fund for the home for physically and mentally handicapped children in Trinidad, to be established as a wedding present to the princess, has been closed at \$70,064, but contributions from the public towards the equipment and maintenance of the home will always be welcome.

A sub-committee, consisting of Dr. J. E. A. Boucaud,

acting Director of Medical Services (chairman), the Hon. Audrey Jeffers, Mrs. V. B. Walls and Councillor R. E. Vignale, will consider and report on the type of building to be erected, its equipment and staff, and site, which is to be in Port-of-Spain.

Legislative Council. Mr. Henry Arthur Bennett, general manager of Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd., has been appointed a nominated member of the Legislative Council. He replaces the Hon. W. M. V. Ash, former manager of United British Oilfields of Trinidad, who left the colony with his family last October for Canada, to take up an appointment with the Shell company there.

New Company Registered. Paramount Enterprise, Ltd., a company with a nominal capital of \$100,000 has recently been registered in Trinidad. It will carry on business as merchants, general commission agents, wholesale and retail dealers in motor vehicles and bicycles. Its capital is made up of 800 ordinary shares of \$100 each, and 200 8 per cent cumulative preference shares of \$100 each.

The directors of the company are Mr. Pedro Phillip, business manager, Mr. John Bones, barrister-at-law, and Mr. Cristo A. Darmanic.

College Company Formed. Trinidad may soon have another secondary school, probably at Arima. This hope may be realized as the result of the formation of a \$50,000 company—The Alma Tutorial College, Ltd.—designed to establish and carry on schools or colleges where students may obtain a sound general education. The company will also provide for the delivery and holding of lectures, exhibitions, public meetings, classes and conferences calculated, directly or indirectly, to advance the cause of education. The capital will be comprised of 2,500 shares of \$20 each. The registered office will be situated at Mount Pleasant, Arima. The directors are Mr. William L. McLachlan, director-secretary, Mr. Harold A. Eckel, company director, Mr. David D. A. Lawrie, business manager, Mr. Edmund P. Wallace, business manager, and the Rev. William T. Hindley.

(Continued from next column)

or was it to be run entirely by the Colonial Office.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that there would be the closest consultation with colonial governments and added that if any members had any suggestions they would like to see embodied in the exhibition he would be very happy to receive them.

West Indian Air Services. Mr. Parker asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what air services existed within British Guiana and between British Guiana and the British West Indies; and by whom they were operated.

In a written reply of January 19th, Mr. Creech Jones stated that British Guiana Airways (a company controlled by the colonial Government) operated weekly services within British Guiana from Georgetown to Potaro, and from Georgetown to Kamakusa; fortnightly services from Georgetown to Good Hope in the Northern Savannah, and from Georgetown via Wichabai to Lumid Pau; and a monthly service from Georgetown to Apoteri.

This company also operated a special weekly service from Georgetown to St. Vincent at the request of the Government of St. Vincent.

British West Indian Airways (a subsidiary of British South American Airways) operated a weekly service from Barbados to Georgetown and three services a week from Port-of-Spain in Trinidad to Georgetown. The Pan American Airways service from New York via San Juan and Trinidad to Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, called at Georgetown once a week.

West Indies at Westminster

Leeward Islands: Governor's Speech. Sir P. Macdonald asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he had considered the speech delivered by the Governor of the Leeward Islands on December 8th; whether he approved of it; and what action he proposed to take.

In a written reply of January 26th, Mr. Creech Jones said it was customary for a colonial governor to comment on the affairs of the colony, as he saw them, in opening the budget session of the Legislature, and the terms of such an address did not require the approval of the Secretary of State.

Franchise in St. Kitts. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what action had been taken as a result of the resolution of January 12th, 1948, passed by the Legislative Council of St. Christopher Nevis, demanding the introduction of adult suffrage, a fully elective Legislative Council and the abolition of property qualifications for membership of that body.

Mr. Creech Jones, in a written answer dated January 26th, said that he was in communication with the governor, and hoped to be able to make an announcement when he had received the reply.

Development Corporations. Mr. Parker asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what steps he was taking to set up development corporations for British Guiana and British Honduras including representatives of those colonies and of others which would benefit from the implementation of the Evans Report.

In a written reply dated January 19th, Mr. Creech Jones said that it was unlikely that development corporations would be established in those two colonies for the present, since most of the investigatory work required in connexion with the implementation of the Evans Commission recommendations would be undertaken by the Governments concerned.

Institute of Jamaica. Mr. Driberg asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies recently if he was aware that there was a long waiting list of children and adolescents anxious to enrol at the Junior Centre of the Institute of Jamaica; and if, in view of the importance of the educational and social influence of this centre, he would urge the Government of Jamaica to give it the maximum possible financial and other encouragement.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that there were two Junior Centres administered by the Institute. The larger, in Kingston, had a waiting list of 400 children whom it was hoped to enrol during the next three months. He understood that the Government of Jamaica was already supporting those centres to the extent which its finances permitted.

British Honduras Settlement Commission. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he would expedite action on the recommendations of the Settlement Commission with regard, particularly, to the expansion of sugar, banana, cocoa and citrus growing in British Honduras, in view of the fact that those crops had already been grown successfully in the colony.

In a written reply dated January 29th, Mr. Creech Jones assured Mr. Skinnard that those recommendations were receiving their urgent study and action was being taken on them where practicable without delay. It could not be overlooked, however, that major developments of that sort required much careful preparation.

Colonial Exhibition. Sir Ralph Glyn asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on January 19th whether he would make a statement regarding the impending Colonial Exhibition; and what body had been charged with the undertaking.

In reply, Mr. Creech Jones said that as part of a campaign to increase public knowledge of the colonies, arrangements were being made for a Colonial Exhibition to be staged on behalf of the Colonial Office by the Central Office of Information at their exhibition hall, in Oxford Street, for six weeks from the third week of June next. The exhibition will present a general picture of the colonies and is designed particularly to show the relationship between Great Britain and the colonies.

Sir Ralph then asked whether special steps were to be taken to bring the Colonial Governments themselves into the Exhibition,

(Continued in preceding column)

Company Reports and Meetings

St. Kitts (London) Sugar Factory, Ltd.

The directors state in their report for the period from December 3rd, 1947 to September 30th, 1948, that the balance on the profit and loss account brought forward from December 2nd, 1947 was £95,361. From this is deducted £33,728 for transfer to capital reserve and £22,750 for a dividend paid on December 30th, 1947. To the remaining sum of £38,883 is added £11,977, income tax of prior years, no longer required, and £32,438, the profit after payment of income tax, for the period, which produces £83,298. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 17½ per cent, free of income tax, which will absorb £22,750, leaving £60,548 to be carried forward.

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.

In their report for the year ended September 30th, 1948, the directors state that the profit for the year, after providing for taxation in Trinidad and the United Kingdom, amounted to £330,299, which, with the balance brought forward of £157,351, makes a total of £487,650. Against this there is chargeable £130,000 for transfer to general reserve, £55,000 for an interim dividend of 6d. per 5s. unit of stock, tax free, and £110,000 for a proposed final dividend of 1s. per unit, tax free, leaving a balance of £192,650 to be carried forward.

The property over which the company holds oil rights consists of 5,687 acres in the Fyzabad and Siparia districts of Trinidad.

During the year, 70,403 feet were drilled. Production amounted to 3,110,000 barrels of crude oil and 3,266,000 gallons of casing head gasolene and was obtained from 312 wells. Deliveries amounted to 3,141,000 barrels of crude oil and 3,237,000 gallons of casing head gasolene. Ninety-six per cent of the cost of the wells has been amortized, and the whole of the wells stand in the accounts at £138,823.

Kern Oil Co., Ltd.

In the course of their annual report, for the year ended May 31st, 1948, the directors state that the production from the Trinidad properties declined to 443,850 barrels, against 489,559 in the preceding year. No new wells were drilled, but reconditioning work on old wells proceeded and preparatory steps towards resumption of drilling were taken by the assembling of plant and equipment and by geological study.

In the Trinidad section of his annual statement the chairman, Mr. G. W. JVEY says: "Major R. J. Maitland, G.M., was appointed general manager of the Kern Trinidad field on December 1st, 1947, and from November, 1947 to March, 1948, Mr. F. M. Ziegler, the managing director of the Trinidad company, was also in residence in the camp. Especial attention was directed to the organization and equipment of the production division, but the beneficial results of this were not felt until after the close of the year. Since then the improved set-up is arresting the rate of decline of production and should also reduce the cost per barrel.

"The rise in crude oil prices has afforded this subsidiary an increase of revenue over 1946-47 despite, *inter alia*, an increase in the rate of royalty payable under our Crown leases and increases in wages under an agreement with the workers' union effective in December, 1947.

"In February, 1948, the managing director negotiated an extension of our Perseverance lease, securing our enjoyment of this property until 1987. Mr. Ziegler returned to the island for several weeks in November last to elaborate plans for the opening of a new drilling programme and his report is receiving the full attention of the directors with a view to the earliest possible resumption of exploitation of our two main areas in Trinidad.

"Out of the Kern Trinidad profits the directors have applied £50,000 in writing down the expenditure on Northern Division leases, leaving a balance under this heading of £39,939.

"Taxation relief on certain expenditure as granted under the provisions of Part III of the United Kingdom Income Tax Act, 1945, has not so far been allowed by the Trinidad Government although representations have been made in order that comparable allowances may be given upon expenditure incurred on the discovery and winning of access to assets of a wasting nature such as oil deposits. It is to be hoped that this anomaly will in due course be corrected."

Trinidad Sugar Estates

The directors state, in their report for the year ended September 30th, that the net profit, after providing for all charges and

depreciation, amounts to £45,156, to which is added the balance brought forward of £15,240, making a total of £60,396. From this is deducted £22,600 for taxation reserve, £5,000 for transfer to general reserve, and £5,000 for the staff pensions fund, leaving a balance of £27,796. Out of this the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 7½ per cent, less tax, which will absorb £8,044, leaving to be carried forward £19,752.

The crop for the year under review was 9,426 tons compared with 8,453 tons in 1947, the tonnage of canes crushed being 96,314 against 83,982. Estate canes showed an increase of 10,500 tons and farmers' 1,800 tons. The labour supply during the crop period was adequate and all canes available were reaped.

Due to the larger production of sugar and an increase of £3 per ton in the price of sugar the sales rose by £50,000. On the other hand expenditure in Trinidad shows an increase of £28,000 due to higher wages, rising cost of supplies and increased tonnage of canes handled. Levies of £2 15s. per ton on sugar exported have been provided for rehabilitation, price stabilization and labour welfare funds as in 1947.

There has been credited to profit and loss account a stock reserve of £2,000 which was created many years ago when the price of sugar was very low. This has never been drawn upon and is no longer considered necessary.

The chairman, Mr. E. CASSELETON ELLIOTT, speaking at the annual meeting in London on January 28th, said: "The crop for the year under review showed a very welcome increase of nearly 1,000 tons due to the larger tonnage of estate canes which reached the highest figure yet obtained from estate cultivations but the tonnage of farmers' canes continues to lag behind the pre-war level. The acreage of estate canes reaped was 2,130 compared with 2,050 in 1947 and the tons of cane per acre 33.05 against 29.24. Juice, however, was disappointing, 10.22 tons of cane being required to make a ton of sugar compared with 9.93.

"The average price realized for sugar after allowing for the levies of £2 15s. per ton being made under the Trinidad sugar industry special funds ordinance 1948 was £28 1s. compared with £25 7s. 6d. in 1947 but the cost of production rose from £22 12s. 8d. to £23 5s. The increased profit for the year is due to the additional 1,000 tons of sugar obtained.

"The financial position of the company continues to be sound, the surplus of current assets over current liabilities and provisions being £156,394.

"I visited the estate again in the spring of last year and I found that very good progress was being made in the rehabilitation of the factory. A contract has been entered into for the building of a new office, dispensary and various staff houses at a total cost of about £25,000. Most of these buildings have recently been completed and it is expected that the balance will be taken over from the contractors very shortly. The electrical generating plant installed in the factory in 1947 worked very well last crop and many of the minor units in the factory have now been fitted with electrical drive. Arrangements have been made with the Trinidad Electricity Board for the provision of a standby supply of power as an insurance against any breakdown of the generating plant during the grinding season.

"The crop for 1949 is expected to be a little larger than last year provided that the weather, labour supply and juice are normal. The weather during the summer and autumn in Trinidad has been rather wet which has handicapped the planting programme but frog hopper damage has been small and the canes to be reaped are in good condition. I am pleased to be able to report that there will be an increased tonnage of farmers' canes for 1949, and it is hoped that this will continue.

"The total world production of sugar is practically back to its pre-war level but increased supplies of colonial sugar are urgently required by this country. The Ministry of Food has announced that it will take all supplies of export sugar from the colonies up to and including 1952 crop at a price to be arranged annually. The Ministry of Food has just announced that it is prepared to pay for the 1949 crop the same price as last year."

St. Kitts (Basse Terre) Sugar Factory, Ltd.

In their report for the year ended September 30th, the directors state that the surplus was £164,596, of which £77,367 was to be allocated to "A" shareholders, £4,931 to staff bonuses, £162 to "B" shareholders and £82,136 to contractors. The sum of £77,367 at the credit of "A" shareholders has been carried to "A" shareholders appropriation account. Taxation absorbs £45,762 and the directors recommend that the balance of £31,605 be paid to the "A" shareholders.

St. Kitts (Basse Terre) Sugar Factory, Ltd.—(continued)

When reaping was due to commence there was every indication of a record crop, but owing to strikes, which delayed the start by thirteen weeks, and incendiarism the eventual output of sugar was only 31,393 tons.

All raw sugar for export was sold to the Ministry of Food at £24 10s. per ton c.i.f., plus £2 15s. per ton to be held by the St. Kitts Presidency as special funds for rehabilitation, price stabilization and social welfare.

The first payment for canes was 28s. 8.8119d. per ton. The contractors' share of the surplus amounts to 6s. 2.4435d. per ton, making a total price of 34s. 11.2554d. per ton of cane.

The results of the past five years are shown below:—

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Canes ... tons	213,053	225,477	268,194	286,231	266,954
Sugar ... tons	27,622	28,543	33,513	34,357	31,393
Sucrose in Cane %	14.03	13.59	13.47	13.13	12.90
Fibre in Cane %	13.71	13.29	13.62	13.86	13.39
Sucrose in					
Megass ... %	2.22	1.97	2.16	2.25	2.53
Purity of Juice %	84.27	84.04	84.50	84.10	84.18
Mill Extraction					
Sucrose ... %	95.92	96.31	95.84	95.48	94.95
Boiling House					
Recovery ... %	92.49	92.87	92.94	91.94	92.18
Total Recovery of Sucrose ... %	88.72	89.45	89.08	87.79	87.52
Yield of Sugar					
96 deg. ... %	12.96	12.66	12.50	12.00	11.76
Tons of Cane per Ton Sugar					
96 deg. ...	7.71	7.90	8.00	8.33	8.50
Sale Price of Sugar per ton, f.o.b. ...	£14 15 7	£16 19 6	£18 17 8	£20 15 6	£23 12 1

Mr. M. S. MOODY STUART, the chairman, says in his annual statement: "At this time last year, in view of the dry weather we had experienced generally, I only felt justified in anticipating a very fair crop.

"All preparations were made to start crop on January 19th, but a few days before that date the union called a strike of estate labour and then, as this did not prove 100 per cent successful, they called out the factory labour at midnight on January 17th.

"Early in February, the Colonial Office sent out Mr. E. Parry, a man widely experienced in mediation and settlement of labour disputes, to enquire into and report upon the immediate causes of the dispute. This was no easy task to tackle single-handed, but Mr. Parry produced a comprehensive report, which was published on March 2nd. Unfortunately, this by itself got us no nearer to a commencement of reaping, and it was not until April 17th that an agreement to start work, subject to arbitration, was reached with the union. This arbitration is now in progress.

"Grinding started on April 20th, and finished on September 8th with a total of 31,393 tons of sugar.

"There were many cases of incendiarism, not only during the strike but after the crop had started. It is estimated that 52,000 tons of cane were burnt, of which 21,000 were sent to the factory and this itself was penalized owing to poor quality. During all these months the weather was extremely dry and cane tended to dry out and lose weight. Had it not been for the delay in starting and the cane fires, there is every reason to think we would have topped 38,000 tons of sugar. Approximately 7,000 tons of sugar, worth say £150,000, was therefore lost—a severe blow even to a prosperous island like St. Kitts, directly affecting every class of the community and the Government."

Mr. Moody Stuart then referred to Lord Soubury's Commission of Inquiry into the sugar industry, which visited the island in August, adding, "It was thought advisable that I should be available in the island while this Commission was sitting and I was present in St. Kitts during the whole of their stay."

The chairman continued, "The effects of a year such as we have just passed through are not exhausted with the current crop, but are felt for the following year or two. Nevertheless, in spite of the late finish and short growing period we may look for a fair crop in 1949, when we should reap from a slightly larger acreage.

"Once crop was started it was important to get through it as quickly as possible, and our thanks are due to the manager and

the staff, both inside and outside the factory, whose watchfulness reduced time lost for stoppages to a very low figure, in spite of the high grinding rate maintained."

The Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd.

The directors, in their report for the year ended September 30th, state that the credit balance brought forward amounted to £54,052, to which is added provision for taxation in prior years, no longer required, amounting to £12,422, making a total of £66,474. To this is added the interest of £1,558 on the balance brought forward, and from the total of £68,032 is deducted the sum of £5,373 for provision for taxation, investments written off, etc., leaving a balance of £62,659.

The directors consider that in view of the poor prospects for the coming crop, and of the capital commitments [approximately £111,000], the payment of a dividend would be inadvisable, and recommend therefore that the above balance of £62,659 be carried forward.

Owing to the drought experienced during 1947 and the early part of the present year, and to strikes, which delayed the commencement of crop by nine weeks, the sugar produced only amounted to 12,174 tons.

All raw sugar for export was sold to the Ministry of Food at £24 10s. per ton c.i.f., plus £2 15s. per ton, to be held by the Antigua Government as special funds for rehabilitation, price stabilization and social welfare.

The first payment for contractors' canes was 34s. 10.9224d. They were paid 30s. per ton on account and the balance of 4s. 10.9224d. per ton of cane has now been paid. As the company has incurred a loss on its operations for the year, the directors regret that no further amount is due.

The bulk of peasants' canes has been paid for at the rate of 33s. 11d. per ton of cane.

Below is a summary of results for the past five years:—

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Canes Ground tons	121,488	147,697	196,932	178,129	101,275
Sugar ... tons	16,280	20,663	26,023	22,736	12,174
Sucros in Cane %	14.66	15.13	14.19	13.68	14.23
Fibre in Cane %	13.61	14.55	15.93	16.82	17.44
Sucros in					
Megass ... %	1.67	1.67	1.68	1.68	3.84
Purity of Juice %	84.62	86.69	86.99	85.31	84.34
Mill Extraction					
Sucrose ... %	97.19	97.08	96.53	96.18	90.57
Boiling House					
Recovery					
Sucrose ... %	90.29	91.44	92.63	93.13	89.56
Total Recovery of Sucrose ... %	87.76	88.77	89.42	89.57	81.11
Yield of Sugar,					
96 pol. ... %	13.40	13.99	13.21	12.76	12.02
Tons of Cane per ton Sugar,					
96 pol. ...	7.47	7.15	7.57	7.83	8.32
Sale Price of Sugar per ton, f.o.b. ...	£15 10 10	£17 1 2	£19 5 7	£21 1 10	£25 4 7

In his annual statement the chairman, Mr. M. S. MOODY STUART, says: "In my remarks last year I said that we were facing a poor crop, but how poor I could not tell. It turned out worse than I then contemplated, even taking the gloomiest view.

"The rainfall for 1947, at 28.84 inches was, with the exception of 1930, the lowest in sixty years, and the months of November and December, which are so important to the following crop, were the driest on record. As a result, the average of estates' cane was 11.95 tons per acre and the total sugar produced was only 12,174 tons. For a smaller crop we have to go back to 1931 when, as the result of the 1930 drought, we made 4,442 tons and the cane averaged 5.75 tons per acre.

"Bad as the crop was, there is little doubt that improved methods of cultivation and fertilizing, together with the introduction of new canes more drought-resisting than the older varieties, saved it from being as bad as 1931. For this result we must give credit first and foremost to Mr. P. E. Turner, who has acted as consulting agronomist since 1933, in the early years under the auspices of the Advisory Department of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, later as adviser to the Sugar Cane Investigation Committee of Antigua and for the past five years as sugar agronomist on the staff of Development and Welfare in the West Indies; much credit is also due to those in charge of the Cane Breeding Station in Barbados who are con-

stantly producing improved varieties of cane.

"It had been planned to start crop on February 11th, but on the 6th of that month notice was given that factory labour would strike as from midnight on February 8th so the crop was held up. After some considerable delay an arbitrator was appointed by the Acting-Governor, but his award was not accepted by labour and the strike dragged on. Finally a settlement was reached and crop started on April 15th, after a shut-down of nine weeks. These weeks were weeks of hot dry winds, during which the cane dried out, lost weight and deteriorated in quality. Thus nearly 3,000 tons of sugar worth about £70,000 were lost. Had this been saved more money would have been spent on wages. Government would have got more revenue and the heavy loss incurred by planters would have been reduced. In fact, the whole population in the island would have benefited directly or indirectly.

"The figures for the year in the summary of crop results are some indication of the quality of cane with which we had to deal.

"During July, the island was visited by a commission, under the chairmanship of Lord Soulbury.

"The terms of reference of this commission were:—

To examine and report on the organization of the sugar industry, including means of production, profits and their distribution, wages and conditions of work and other matters, including ownership of land which the commission may consider it advisable to include in their investigation.

"They were not directly concerned with any labour dispute past or present. The commission went very thoroughly into every aspect of the sugar industry and their report is awaited with interest.

"After the first few months of the year there were some light showers which could do little good and the drought did not really break till the end of September—even since then rains have not been general, falling on one part of the island or another, but generally giving each area its quota, so that, though the next crop cannot be a good one, we can look for a substantial improvement over this year.

"The drought inflicted severe hardship on the population of Antigua, quite apart from its effect on the sugar crop, for the various dams and reservoirs were dried up so that at one time the water supply in the city of St. Johns was restricted to one hour's service in three days. These dams are dependent for their supply on rainfall, and when the soil gets thoroughly dried it requires a very heavy fall to start filling them again. There is no doubt it would be advantageous if more attention were paid to the guttering of houses and to the provision of rainwater tanks, as the light showers which were experienced put quite a lot of water into the tanks of those far-sighted enough to possess them. Water supply is certainly a most urgent problem in Antigua. Drilling in the past has always ended in disappointment, but as the result of a visit of an expert, fresh tests are being made. If these are not successful, the provision of catchment areas for villages might be considered.

"I must express our appreciation of the work of the staff, who watched over the factory during the period of the strike and kept essential services of water and lighting going. When work was resumed they were faced with many difficulties in the factory, for the poor quality of the juice made steady running impossible and there were many stoppages of the mills in order to enable refractory juice to be worked off."

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of December production of crude oil and casing head gasoline amounted to 243,995 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the five weeks ended January 3rd was 534,768 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for December was 223,065 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of December crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 534,770 barrels.

B.W.I. Shooting Council

Mr. J. A. Sutton, hon. secretary and treasurer of the British West Indies Shooting Council, which was formed at a conference held in Georgetown, British Guiana, on September 23rd last, invites the attention of West Indians resident in Britain to the formation of this body and hopes for their support.

The council, which is affiliated with the National Rifle Association of Great Britain, has as a main object the sending of representative West Indies shooting teams to Bisley in 1950 and future years, to compete with the Dominions and the Mother Country in the Senior Kollapur and Mackinnon events.

The business of the council will be conducted by a strong committee of management, consisting of the chairman, Captain R. Johnstone (Trinidad Rifle Association), the elected vice-president, Major J. M. Cave (Barbados Rifle Association), and two representatives each from the Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad Rifle Associations and the British Guiana Local Forces Rifle Club, with Mr. J. A. Sutton (B.G.L.F. Rifle Club) as secretary/treasurer.

The Governors of the four colonies have been invited to become patrons of the Council. The Area Commander, British West Indies, is *ex-officio* president, and the four presidents of the colony associations are *ex-officio* vice-presidents.

The present address of the Council is Eve Leary Barracks, Georgetown, Demerara (P.O. Box 111).

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions, transfers and new appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

BOWEN, N. P. E. (Registrar and Marshal of the Supreme Court, Trinidad), Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Trinidad.

DUFFUS, W. A. H. (Resident Magistrate, Jamaica), Magistrate, Nigeria.

McSHINE, L. A. M., M.B., F.R.C.S. (Medical Officer, Grade C, Trinidad), Medical Officer, Grade B, Trinidad.

MAVNIER, E. A. (Temporary Assistant Commissioner of Commerce and Industries, Jamaica), Deputy Commissioner of Commerce and Industries, Jamaica.

SILVERA, W. D., M.B., F.R.C.P. (Medical Officer (Specialist) Jamaica), Senior Lecturer on Pathology, University College, Ibadan, Nigeria.

TAYLOR, P. P. (Director of Public Works, Cyprus), Director of Works and Hydraulics, Trinidad.

TERRIER, A. E. (Assistant Engineer, Grade I, Public Works Department, Jamaica), Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Jamaica.

YOUNGLAO, L. P., M.B., B.A.O. (Senior Medical Officer, Windward Islands), Senior Medical Officer, British Honduras.

New Appointments

BROWN, A. J., M.R.C.S., Medical Officer (Out Islands), Bahamas.

DAVIDGE, F. E. F., Head Teacher (Out Islands School), Bahamas.

FLEMING, B. J., Architect, St. Lucia, Windward Islands.

HUMFREY, B. B., Assistant Superintendent of Police, St. Lucia, Windward Islands.

MICHAJSKI, E., M.B., Medical Officer (District Services), Trinidad.

Members of the West India Committee are invited to further the work of the Committee by introducing suitable candidates for election.

West Indian Passenger List

British South American Airways

Passengers for Bermuda and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Lion (Captain J. W. Rees), from London airport, January 1st:—

Dr. H. H. Brous	Mr. I. S. Friedmann	Miss J. M. Trebble
Mrs. P. M. Dickinson	Dr. A. C. Parnell	Mr. A. R. Woods
Mr. E. Emlerson	Lord Strabolzi	

Passengers for the Bahamas, in aircraft Star Ariel (Captain K. J. Loveless), from London airport, January 3rd:—

Miss S. Kassiou Mrs. H. Sheridan

Passengers for Bermuda, the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Elizabeth of England (Captain E. T. Kippenberger), from London airport, January 6th:—

Miss E. Ashley	Miss B. Graham	Mrs. A. J. Miles
Miss D. J. Bishop	Mr. & Mrs. G. K. Harris	Mr. Pitchford
Mr. J. Crooks	Mr. T. Hunter	Mr. & Mrs. P. L. Shaw
S/Ldr. & Mrs. H.	Mr. J. Leblanc	Mr. E. Smith
Davenport	Rev. K. E. Macdonald	Mr. J. Welsh
Mr. W. N. Gallagher		

Passengers for Bermuda and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Panther (Captain R. C. Alabaster), from London airport, January 8th:—

Lady S. Brooke	Mr. G. Lane	Mr. A. W. Stewart
Mrs. M. C. Burrows	Mr. D. S. McCord	Mr. E. H. Swift
Mr. B. C. Crouch	Mr. R. Patterson	Mr. A. L. Trump
Dr. C. F. Hickling	Mr. R. J. Potter	Mrs. E. Witherell
Mr. H. C. James	Mr. A. E. Smith	

Passengers for Bermuda, and the Bahamas, in aircraft Star Leopard (Captain G. M. Alcock), from London airport, January 10th:—

Lady Amphill	Mr. G. Curtis	Mr. A. J. Lucas
Mr. F. F. Arnold	Mrs. E. Gartside-Tippings	Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Stewart
Mr. R. J. Bundy	Major G. T. Horne	

Passengers for Bermuda, the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Star Ariel (Captain D. M. Walbourn), from London airport, January 13th:—

Mr. P. W. Andreae	Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Dickson	Mr. G. A. Peat
Mr. T. Atkinson	Mr. W. Howard	Mrs. F. Reid
Mr. H. Carr	Mr. & Mrs. H. Johnson	Mrs. M. Sherlock
Mrs. B. J. Colman	Miss J. Lewis	Miss D. S. Ware

Passengers for Jamaica, in aircraft Star Lion (Captain J. C. McPhee), from London airport, January 15th:—

Mrs. R. Beathan Green	Mr. T. M. Du Buisson	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. J. C. Boothroyd	Miss J. D. Hodge	Mr. E. V. Stevens

Passengers for Bermuda, the Bahamas and Jamaica, in aircraft Elizabeth of England (Captain A. H. Woolcott), from London airport, January 17th:—

Mr. V. Duffill	Mr. J. D. Nicholas	Mr. E. A. Redpath
Mr. W. J. Garnell	Mr. P. Pensabone	Capt. A. G. Store
Mr. F. H. Martin	Mr. B. G. Porter	Mr. & Mrs. S. P. Tyack
Mr. W. A. Meynell		

Passengers from the Bahamas and Bermuda, in aircraft Star Mist (Captain A. G. Store), at London airport, January 2nd:—

Mr. W. Cash	Mr. W. Hayes	Miss V. Stott
Mr. S. Devon	Capt. T. Kfarlan	

Passengers from Bermuda in aircraft Star Panther (Captain A. H. Woolcott), at London airport, January 5th:—

Mr. & Mrs. C. Edgecombe	Mrs. J. D. Hidalgo	Mr. R. Norris
Mrs. R. Edgecombe	Miss M. Joachim	

Passengers from the Bahamas and Bermuda, in aircraft Star Ariel (Captain J. Wright), at London airport, January 8th:—

Mr. & Mrs. G. Bankoff	Cmdr. J. H. Bradley	Miss M. Larnard
Mr. W. Bridgewater	Miss S. Doncombe	Mr. J. M. Stow

Passengers from Jamaica, the Bahamas and Bermuda, in aircraft Elizabeth of England (Captain P. Sleight), at London airport, January 10th:—

Mrs. M. Dent	Mr. H. Shapp	Miss K. Zajik
Mr. G. Farquhar	Mr. A. Van Comelant	Mrs. K. Zajik
Miss H. I. Schardt		

Passengers from Jamaica, in aircraft Star Lion (Captain K. J. Loveless), at London airport, January 11th:—

Mr. E. Gilbert	Miss R. Holt	Lt.-Col. Watson
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Jamaica Banana Producers' Steamship Co.

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Jamaica Producer (Captain P. D. Allen), from London, December 23rd:—

Mr. & Mrs. P. Berridge	Miss J. Glass	Miss D. Sainsbury
Mr. W. H. Blake	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hall	Mr. & Mrs. R. Shephard
Mr. & Mrs. K. Briggs-Bury	Mr. J. Kealey	Mrs. Stannard
Mr. & Mrs. D. Butler	Mr. & Mrs. S. Martin	Mr. & Mrs. L. Tattersfield
Mr. & Mrs. J. Darcy	Miss M. Rice	Mr. C. Webster
Miss Figueroa	Miss C. Rudley	Mr. F. West
Mrs. C. Figueroa	Mr. & Mrs. Rudnight	Miss R. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. W. Fletcher		

Booker Line

Sailings to British Guiana, in s.s. Enid (Captain O. Njerve), from Liverpool, December 18th:—

Miss M. N. Bass	Mr. P. Pierre	Miss R. M. Sharp
Mr. J. T. Clarke	Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Sharp	Mr. & Mrs. H. R. Tucker
Mr. C. Fung-a-Fatt		

Sailings to British Guiana, in s.s. Arakaka (Captain J. A. Carter), from Liverpool, January 18th:—

Mr. I. W. Astorga	Miss E. P. Harley	Mr. W. C. Marsh
Mr. S. W. Bolden	Mr. M. R. Johnson	Miss E. M. Thompson
Miss M. F. Canteron	Dr. C. R. Jones	Lady J. Woolley
Mrs. D. M. Edghill	Mr. & Mrs. I. I. Lewis	Miss M. I. Wight
Mrs. M. Etwaroo	Miss R. I. Lewis	

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. Arakaka (Captain S. Armitage), at Liverpool, December 30th:—

Mr. L. C. Faerber	Mr. & Mrs. I. McRobert	Misses I. & L. Shaw
Mr. D. Houksworth	Miss B. Millington	Mr. & Mrs. K. C. Shaw
Mr. W. Lang	Miss F. P. Richmond	Mr. B. Singh
Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Low	Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Ryder	

Fyffes Line

Sailings to Trinidad and Jamaica, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), from Avonmouth, January 13th:—

Mrs. L. E. Baker	Mrs. G. C. Goude	Miss M. V. Marr
Miss P. Belleville	Miss C. M. Gun-Munro	Mr. & Mrs. C. Nemeth
Mr. F. W. Blackman	Miss E. A. Hamilton	Mr. & Mrs. A. Olier
Mrs. L. Boys	Capt. & Mrs. H. S.	Mrs. B. E. Oliver
Mr. E. H. Brindley	Harrison-Wallace	Miss C. Palmer
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Browne	Mr. H. C. Hill Baker	Mr. M. E. Ransaran
Mr. & Mrs. C. T. Camacho	Mr. R. H. Hillson	Mr. N. W. Skeete
Mrs. L. M. Cronyn	Lt.-Col. & Mrs. Holden	Mr. P. E. Stevens
Mrs. I. I. Da Costa	Mrs. H. Hosen	Mrs. J. I. Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. H. Dale	Mrs. E. Jordan	Mr. A. G. Sutton
Mr. & Mrs. D. Dawson	Misses M. & R. Jordan	Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Twyman
Mrs. A. M. Dinn	Miss O. Jupp	Miss M. D. Weston
Mr. & Mrs. F. Gallagher	Mr. B. W. Kirkwood	Mr. & Mrs. W. M. White
Lt.-Col. & Mrs. Galloway	Mrs. M. A. Lee	Mr. & Mrs. M. Zwierz
Mr. R. H. Garvey	Sir Harry C. Luke	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Eros (Captain R. C. Vigurs), at London, December 27th:—

Mr. A. Bartlett	Mr. & Mrs. Graham	Mr. F. Pegington
Mrs. DeLacy Bingham	Miss H. Malcolm	Mr. R. Sanderson
Mr. & Mrs. Duffus	Mr. R. Mendez	Miss I. Wilson
Mr. K. Fairbourn	Mr. R. Otley	Miss S. Wilson
Mr. Glenroy	Miss A. Parnell	Capt. W. Wood

Home arrivals from Trinidad, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), at Avonmouth, January 4th:—

Miss A. S. Almu	Mr. & Mrs. A. Embleton	Mr. & Mrs. I. Menham
Mrs. I. Andrews	Miss M. Embleton	Miss W. C. Pershaugh
Mr. J. Bourne	Mrs. L. D. Foster-Sutton	Miss K. M. Robertson
Mrs. G. E. Burland	Mr. & Mrs. T. G. Gahan	Sister R. Sheppard
Sir Alan and Lady Burns	Mr. P. Greig-Smith	Mr. & Mrs. G. Watts
Mrs. L. J. Chapman	Mrs. F. Larson	Misses J. & C. Watts
Mr. & Mrs. J. Craigen	Dr. L. Lomiez	Miss G. C. Wrath
Mr. N. Dawson	Mr. E. Maer	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Manstee (Captain H. Roberts, O.B.E.), at London, January 13th:—

Mrs. M. E. Calver	Capt. S. C. Farmer	Mr. O. S. Stearnett
Mr. C. A. Chambers	Mr. J. L. Oldfield	Mr. W. E. Westney
Mr. K. C. Collins	Mrs. I. V. Selbachmidt	

Home arrivals from Bermuda and Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain G. S. Gracie), at Avonmouth, January 19th:—

Mr. R. Beveridge	Mr. H. S. Flynn	Mr. & Mrs. D. R. Seales
Mr. F. W. Brewster	Mr. & Mrs. J. Laverick	Miss M. L. Thursfield

Mr. F. G. Allen	Misses H. & F. Graham	Mr. J. H. Park
Mrs. A. E. Bell	Mrs. S. E. Hussey	Miss D. M. Russell
Mr. T. Bradbury	Miss G. M. Lamb	Major The Lord Percy
Mr. & Mrs. W. Darbyshire	Miss B. E. Latty	Seymour
Mr. D. R. Davis	Mr. W. Levy	Major H. U. Slack
Mr. C. N. Ebanks	Rev. & Mrs. H. Martin	Mr. W. Stanton-Brown
Mr. & Mrs. C. Edwards	Rev. J. E. Mills	Mrs. V. Starnes
Major-Gen. G. J. Farmer	Mr. R. A. Page	Mr. A. C. Wilcox
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Fox		

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Chirripo (Captain W. G. Lock), at Avonmouth, December 16th:—

Dr. & Mrs. P. M. Drabble	Rev. & Mrs. P. E. Holmes	Mr. F. J. Reid
Mr. A. H. Campbell	Mr. I. J. King	Mr. G. R. Woodhouse
Mr. O. L. Deans	Mr. E. G. McEachron	

Engagement

WALLACE—BLAGROVE. The engagement is announced between Roland Wallace, of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika, eldest son of Major and Mrs. G. L'E. Wallace, of Thames Ditton, Surrey, and Phyllis, younger daughter of Major and Mrs. John Blagrove, of Salisbury, S. Rhodesia, lately of Cardiff 11all, Jamaica

The Markets

February 1st, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below :—

Dividend for Latest Year		Latest Quotation		Price Year Ago	
		82	82	78½	80½
3½	Consols	103½	104½	103	104
	War Loan				
20	Angostura Bitters	85/-	95/-	65/-	75/-
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	41/3	46/3	40/-	45/-
	Antigua Sugar Factory	12/-	13/-	20/-	20/6
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	42/6	44/-	45/6	47/-
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	54/-	58/-	68/-	72/-
14	Booker Bros. McConnell	90/-	95/-	105/-	110/-
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	29/4½	31/10½	30/-	32/6
5	British Guiana Cons. Gold 3/9	1/3	1/9	2/-	2/6
8½	Caroni Ltd 2/-	3/9	4/3	3/6	4/6
6	Caroni Ltd, 6% Pref.	23/1½	25/7½	23/9	26/3
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	5/6	6/6	5/3	6/3
12½	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	11/-	12/-	10/9	11/9
10	Limber & Trinidad Asphalt. Ord	48/1½	50/7½	46/3	50/-
	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	1/6	2/6	2/3	3/3
8½	Royal Bank of Canada 8/0	150/-	170/-xd	155/-	175/-
17½	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	70/-	75/-	72/6	77/6
3	Stc. Madeleine Sugar	17/6	18/9	19/-	21/-
10	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	20/-	22/-	20/-	22/-
	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	2/9	3/9	3/-	4/-
14	Trinidad Leaseholds 5/-	31/-	32/6	32/-	34/-
16½	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	27/9	29/3	34/-	35/-
6	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 6% Pref.	22/-	24/-	23/6	25/6
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/6	6/3	6/-	7/-
8½	United British Oilfields 6/8	23/9	25/-	26/3	27/6
5	West Indies Sugar	20/7½	21/10½	25/-	27/6xd
6	West Indies Sugar 6% Pref.	23/9	25/-	24/-	26/-

* Free of income tax.

Rum. The Board of Trade Returns for December are as follows :—

Imports	proof gallons	Month of December		January-December	
		1947	1948	1947	1948
Union of South Africa		124,931	118,484	1,220,857	1,515,508
Mauritius		227,142	443,163	1,599,723	2,521,410
British West Indies		440,344	297,623	4,170,049	3,177,730
British Guiana		18,552	294,622	1,188,338	2,207,739
Other British Countries		3	6,025	558	160,681
Foreign Countries		9	6,000	523	11,519
Total		810,981	1,185,917	8,120,048	9,594,586
Exports		19,913	9,725	256,726	203,743
Home Consumption		299,567	334,012	3,229,475	3,024,804
Stocks (end of November)		5,058,000	7,853,000		

Cocoa. The Board of Trade Returns for December are as follows :—

Imports	cwt.	Month of December		January-December	
		1947	1948	1947	1948
British West Africa		542	136,733	2,077,571	2,016,937
British West Indies		—	—	35,988	61,973
Other British Countries		401	1,644	13,427	12,331
Other Foreign Countries		1	—	7,491	68,879
Total		944	138,377	2,134,477	2,159,879
Exports		—	4,658	34,707	12,315
Home Consumption		73,294	69,912	2,153,668	2,035,830

West Indian Imports

Licensing Regulations

Trinidad. The following amendments have been made to the particulars given on page 248 of the November, 1947 issue of the CIRCULAR about the treatment accorded to goods of United Kingdom origin :—

The following items should be added to the list of goods which require individual import licences : Manufactured and semi-manufactured gold ; cotton textiles manufactured in Germany and processed or finished in the United Kingdom.

The item "Unmanufactured and semi-manufactured iron and steel" contained in the list of goods which require individual import licences includes Customs Items Nos. 289 to 309 and 313.

Grenada. All goods of United Kingdom origin may be imported direct from the United Kingdom under an Open General Licence with the exception of the following items for which import licences will still be required :—

All manufactured foodstuffs in reserved commodity list ; canned beans ; cereal products (cereal filler, oat products, macaroni, semolina, breakfast cereals) ; dairy products (butter, cheese, evaporated dried whole milk, sweetened condensed milk, skimmed milk powder) ; dried fruits ; glucose ; milk-based infant foods ; dried lentils ; sugar (as sugar) ; meat, all types including processed ; laundry soap.

British Guiana. The following amendment is to be made to the list of goods of United Kingdom origin for which individual import licences are still required : Add the item "Fully and semi-manufactured gold."

Indian Import Relaxations

Notification No. 19—I.T.C./48 issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, provides for the admission into India, under Open General Licence No. XI, of cigars from the United Kingdom and sterling and soft-currency countries, excluding South Africa.

Imports of Unrefined	tons	Month of December		January-December	
		1947	1948	1947	1948
Mauritius		8,237	49,338	16,735	173,295
Australia		20,872	61,574	20,872	198,624
Fiji		—	9,417	—	17,571
British West Indies		7,515	—	238,128	256,333
British Guiana		4,921	11,799	105,217	77,702
Other British Countries		—	—	—	5,495
Dutch East Indies		—	—	—	4,616
Cuba		23,027	47,613	1,130,892	794,327
Haiti		—	—	25,461	18,628
St. Domingo		8,362	4,423	315,315	212,540
Peru		—	8,565	19,669	57,626
Other Foreign Countries		—	—	3	96,619
Total		72,934	192,631	1,872,292	1,913,375
Imports of Refined		4	2	87	33
Total		72,938	192,633	1,872,379	1,913,408
Consumption		Month of November		January-November	
Refined		1	2	118	70
Unrefined		110,281	117,316	1,540,305	1,977,918
Total		110,282	117,318	1,540,423	1,977,988
Stocks (end of November)					
Home Grown Beet		148,800	153,700		
Imported Refined		—	—		
Imported Unrefined		601,050	307,850		
Total		749,850	461,050		

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LXIV MARCH, 1949 No. 1215

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CARIB. ESTRAND LONDON

March, 1949.

The Leewards Imbrogio

THE West India Committee does not meddle in politics, either in the Colonies or in the United Kingdom. The appointment of a Socialist politician as Governor of the Leeward Islands a year ago, therefore, called for no special comment from it and it made none. It makes none now. It was not consulted and would not expect to be consulted about any such appointment. Neither has it made any representations to the Colonial Office or to anyone else in regard to the administration of the Leeward Islands by Lord Baldwin. It is necessary, however, that this should be made plain, since in newspaper reports both in Antigua and elsewhere, there have been clear implications that the Committee, which seems, in the mind of the writers of these reports, to be more or less formally associated with what they call "white planters," has been responsible for the Governor's recall.

The Committee has one sole object under its Royal Charter, namely, by united action to promote the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade of the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras and thus increase the general welfare of these territories. It is not concerned with questions of colour. Its members are of all races and creeds and of diverse stations in life. It seeks improvement of the general welfare through improvement of economic conditions. In fighting, as it has just been doing, the case for an increase in the price of export sugar for 1949 with the Minister of Food, for example, the Committee has been fighting for the maintenance of the improved wage rates and conditions which have obtained in the sugar industry during the war and since. It knows that without a realistic price for sugar which will more than cover costs of production, plus an assured market so that future developments can be undertaken with confidence, there will be social and economic disintegration in the West Indies and that black and white, poor man and rich man will alike be vitally affected.

Governors come and Governors go, controversies rage about them, but life in the West Indies goes on. Black and white must live together. Both have their contributions to make to the general well-being; both make them. By and large they have solved the question of living together very well. Any one, therefore, who, by word or deed, exacerbates racial feeling, does a disservice to the West Indies. Whether done by those occupying public positions, agitators, or merely by the

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Yahoo one finds in every community, it betokens irresponsibility but alas, breeds dissension.

Let us hope, therefore, that whatever solution is found to the Leeward Islands controversy, it will be one that will lead once more to happy relations among all classes of the community, and in which dignity, humanity, fairness and firmness, qualities so much appreciated by West Indians in those who are in positions of authority or leadership find their due place.

Sugar in 1949 and After

IN the January CIRCULAR, under the above heading we announced that the U.K. Government had rejected the request of British West Indian sugar producers for an increase of £3 a ton in the 1948 price of £27 5s. c.i.f. for export sugar of the 1949 crop.

Renewed representations have since been made to the Minister of Food but these have again failed. The British West Indies Sugar Association has therefore been compelled to accept the Minister of Food's decision but only under vigorous protest and with full insistence that the price of £30 5s. c.i.f. asked for is required adequately to cover costs in present circumstances.

As regards the possibility of a further long-term assurance of outlet for a period of at least ten years at annually negotiated prices, representations on this question are still proceeding with the U.K. Government.

Settlement in Guiana and Honduras

Mr. Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies, presided at a lunch-time meeting of the Royal Empire Society on February 16th, when Sir Geoffrey Evans, chairman of the British Guiana and British Honduras Settlement Commission gave a talk on the recommendations of the Commission. He drew attention to the salient points in the recommendations, which were fully reported in the CIRCULARS of November and December, 1948, and emphasized the detailed planning that must be done before settlement on any substantial scale was feasible.

As we go to press, Mr. Creech Jones has just announced in the House of Commons that Lord Baldwin will be returning to the Leeward Islands. He had indicated to Lord Baldwin his views on policy and the measures to be taken to promote public confidence in the administration.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE return of the King to London at the end of February is taken as a welcome sign that a definite phase of recovery from his serious illness has been passed. He is, however, by no means fit to resume his usual strenuous routine, and when the recipients of New Year Honours were summoned to Buckingham Palace for investiture, His Majesty performed the ceremony seated. There is as yet no hope that the King can fulfil his expressed wish to carry out his postponed visit to Australia and New Zealand; and I understand it is unlikely that he will ever be permitted by his doctors to undertake the exhausting overland tour originally planned.

* * *

Meanwhile, a notable event in the social life of London is expected very shortly. By the middle of March Clarence House, adjoining St. James's Palace, will be out of the hands of the builders who have been modernizing it, and ready for Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh—not forgetting Prince Charles—to move in. For the first time since the death of King Edward VII in 1910 we shall see in working order that traditional British institution, the family establishment of the Heir to the Throne—the secondary court of the younger generation. Princess Elizabeth should stand out more than ever as the accredited leader and representative of the young. Prince Philip is already beginning to be prominent, owing to the King's disability, as His Majesty's informal deputy on many of the less solemn occasions.

* * *

Parliament has just emerged from its sombre annual task of reviewing and passing the Estimates of national expenditure. They reveal a gloomy prospect. The Civil Estimates, swollen by the unexpectedly enormous demand for "free" medical attention under the National Health Scheme, amount to £2,040 millions, which is £270 millions more than was estimated last year and £49 millions more than was actually spent. The Service Estimates, not unexpectedly in view of the threatening animosities between the two sides of the Iron Curtain, are also up—by £70 millions. Consequently the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to provide in his Budget for a total expenditure of over £3,300 millions—about 16 times what was considered before 1914 to be alarmingly high—and the sanguine people who at this time of year always speculate on the chances of some relief of taxation have been reduced to despondency and silence.

* * *

Yet in spite of rising prices and crushing taxation the signs of a steady recovery from war conditions are now unmistakable. They may not go quite so far as to justify the optimistic public statement of a junior Minister that recovery is now complete. That statement had to be promptly disowned by Sir Stafford Cripps himself; for indeed we still cannot maintain our solvency without an annual subvention of £235 millions from the United States. That, however, is much less than in previous years, and the deficit is being reduced annually at a rate that affords reasonable hope that we shall be

able to pay our own way by the time the Marshall Plan comes to an end in 1952.

Internally, the improvement shows itself by the gradual reappearance of commodities of which we have been deprived for 10 years. Jam is no longer rationed, and from April sweets and chocolates will also be freed. We have just been told that we may buy suits without coupons—but not yet shirts. Eggs are creeping back; there is talk of letting us have two each per week. There is a certain amount of rice in the grocers' shops. But cream is still forbidden to be sold; and if any of the famous English cheeses—Stilton, Wensleydale, Cheshire—are being made, they are practically all going for export.

* * *

American public men have spoken in warm terms of the success of British efforts for recovery; and, though these efforts have had little to do with party, it would be unfair to deprive the Government of a good deal of the credit. A marked rise in their stock has just been shown at a by-election in South Hammersmith, which was recognized on both sides to be critical. Labour had a general election majority of something over 3,000 on a small poll; but there had been such a large influx of new voters into the constituency that this gave little guidance. Both parties had excellent candidates, and both deployed their biggest guns in support, the Conservatives winding up on the day before the poll with a processional drive round the constituency by Mr. Churchill himself. In the result, however, Labour held the seat with a majority of 1,613. This result is considered of great importance, because South Hammersmith contains a large number of those lower-middle class voters whose conversion to Socialism is thought to have been chiefly responsible for bringing in the Labour Party in 1945. If the Conservatives are to recover control next year it is essential that they win numerous urban constituencies of just this type. Their failure in South Hammersmith has caused them considerable despondency, with corresponding elation among their opponents.

* * *

On the day the South Hammersmith result was announced London was diverted by the spectacle of a large cavalcade of horsemen, many of them in hunting pink and accompanying their progress with hunting cries, riding among the motor buses along Piccadilly. They had come up from the west country to protest against the Private Member's Bill, which was under discussion in the House of Commons that day, to put an end to "blood sports." The Bill in fact dealt mainly with the hunting of stags and the coursing of hares, for its promoters regard these as the outstandingly cruel sports, and hoped to get greater support for their measure if they postponed the question of fox hunting to another Bill, to be introduced later in the session. A great deal of propaganda has been let loose on both sides on the question, and it was argued with great enthusiasm in the House of Commons, in a debate that

(Continued on page 59)

A Brief Visit to Jamaica

Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir returned to London last month after a brief visit to Jamaica. Asked by a representative of the CIRCULAR for any news regarding crops, Lord Tweedsmuir said:—

Through the kindness of the Jamaica Imperial Association, my wife and I were able to spend from January 20th to February 6th, in the island. Through the good offices of the Association, and many busy men who gave up their valuable time to show us round, we were able to see a good cross section of Jamaica's economy.

The cropping season for sugar has started well, with an almost complete absence of labour troubles. The rise in price of sugar bags from 7d. pre-war to 3s. each is causing a good deal of concern, especially as Jamaica has only four ports from which sugar could be shipped in bulk, should they be forced to adopt that expedient. It is not possible to say whether the suggestion for replacing sacks by bags of heavy paper is practicable.

The Lacatan banana, which can withstand Panama disease, is being extensively cultivated, but as yet not in nearly large enough quantities to replant the ravaged areas, many of which have incidentally, been turned over to other forms of production.

There is a move on foot to extend the long-term contract for bananas from four years to ten, which citrus has been granted, and for which the sugar industry is also petitioning.

As far as secondary industries go, the quarrying of gypsum for building material is making headway. The disastrous fire at the plant of Caribbean Products Ltd. has cut heavily into the island's supplies of soap and fat.

Politically it has been a quiet year, but the forthcoming General Election will probably start to generate the usual political excitement.

Two New Ships

REFERENCE has been made in the last two issues of the CIRCULAR to three vessels—two new and one reconditioned—which will shortly be serving between England-France and the West Indies.

The building of two further new ships has now been announced—the *Amakura* for the Booker Line service between Liverpool and Demerara, and the *Fort Dauphin* for the French Line service between northern France and the West Indies.

The *Amakura*, which is being built at the South Bank shipyard of Smith's Dock Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough, is almost a sister-ship of the *Arakaka*, built at the same yard in 1946, and arrangements had been made to launch her on March 1st. The naming ceremony was performed by Mrs. Campbell, wife of Mr. C. A. Campbell, a director of Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd., and mother of Mr. J. M. Campbell, its vice-chairman, but owing to the exceptionally rough weather, the launching was postponed for 24 hours.

On the same day the *Fort Dauphin* was successfully launched from the Linthouse shipyard of Alexander Stephen and Sons, Ltd., Glasgow, the naming ceremony being performed by Madame de Malglaive, wife of M. P. de Malglaive, chairman in the United Kingdom of Compagnie Generale Transatlantique Ltd.

Trinidad Pitch Lake

Local Company Secures Control

LIEUT.-COLONEL KENNETH E. PREVITÉ, a director of Previté and Co. Ltd., of London, who arrived in Trinidad at the beginning of February to conduct negotiations in connexion with the purchase from the Barber Oil Corporation of their interests in the Pitch Lake, announced in Port-of-Spain, on February 10th that the negotiations had been concluded.

In a statement to the local Press, Colonel Previté said:—

Some 60 years ago a start was made to develop the commercial possibilities of the famous Pitch Lake.

The partners in this commercial enterprise were Mr. A. L. Barber, of Philadelphia, U.S.A., whose interests are now merged into the Barber Oil Corporation, of New York, and Mr. J. W. Previté, who was the founder of his family business, Previté and Co. Ltd., London.

With the consent of the Trinidad Government, Previté and Co., with supporters in England and Trinidad, have now formed a new company in Trinidad—The Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. Ltd.—which has purchased the Pitch Lake interests from the Barber Oil Corporation.

Thus, for the first time since the "Lake" was developed into a commercial proposition, the industry is controlled by a Trinidad company, which is wholly British owned.

The Barber Oil Corporation still retain their oil and property interests at Brighton, parting only with the asphalt side of their business (plant, equipment, pier, etc.) to the new asphalt company.

The new company, whose offices are at 22, Abercromby Street, Port-of-Spain, has as its chairman Mr. James Forbes and as general manager Mr. William M. Ross. Lieut.-Colonel Kenneth Previté will be in general charge of the industry, both in Port-of-Spain and London, the firm of Previté and Co. being retained as a wholly owned subsidiary of the new asphalt company.

Trinidad Sugar Industry

THE following statement regarding the outlook for the island's current sugar crop was issued by the Sugar Manufacturers' Association of Trinidad (Inc.) on February 9th:—

Grinding operations have started at all factories except Hindustan, and the weather is ideal for reaping; the quality of the juice is good. With the exception of a few scattered fires, labour is working well, and should the present conditions continue, there is every prospect that the increased estimated total sugar production of 142,450 tons will be exceeded.

With the increased rate of grinding, however, manufacturers are showing signs of anxiety with regard to storage space, of which a shortage is anticipated during March. The total quantity of sugar which will be available for export in 1949 is in the region of 122,000 tons.

Unless the shipping space provided during the next few months is considerably in excess of present indications, a shortage of storage accommodation will cause a very difficult situation.

World Cocoa Prices

A Severe Fall

DURING the past three months there has been a severe fall in cocoa prices and the position is causing much concern in the West Indies and other producing areas.

In the course of a long article dealing with the decline, the *Gordian*, of Hamburg, in its issue of February 10th says:—

"To-day the position is such that one may speak of a complete collapse of the international cocoa markets. From November 17th to January 26th the quotations for Bahia superior and Accra good fermented at New York for spot, dropped from 41.50 c. to 23 c. and from 41.50 c. to 22.25 c. respectively. This is a drop of almost 50 per cent, and the fall is even greater in the quotations for cocoa for shipment. . . . It seems, however, as if New York is determined to continue this struggle for supremacy until the desired goal has been reached. As it has the support of the European countries the producers are actually faced by a united front.

"The New York trade and the interested industry consider that a price of 15 to 20 c. for raw cocoa is adequate. Naturally they quite realize and concede that the peace-time level must be exceeded because the initial expenses of the producers have risen as is the case with all other agricultural products. Freight rates have likewise increased and a respective allowance must be made. An increase of 800 to 1,000 per cent, however, is quite unjustified. Even at 18 c., the price paid during the war would have been doubled. Producers object to this by saying that the price paid during the war was a compulsory rate which forced them to work at a loss and that they could only make good this loss since the end of the war.

"Some years have elapsed since hostilities ended, and even if the above argument is justified the producers can hardly take the standpoint that the larger profits must be assured for all time. Brazil adapted itself to the North-American course, and Bahia is offering goods at 24½ c., c.i.f., New York, but even at that there was little inclination to buy. Accra also reduced prices; cocoa for shipment in February-March is quoted at 147s. 6d. Good fermented Nigeria is offered at 145s. per 50 kgs. c.i.f. Continental ports.

"It would surely be of benefit to the producers if they would meet the New York market to the fullest extent. It is the only way in which to re-establish the equilibrium of the world cocoa markets. The fact must be accepted that the international purchasing power has declined since 1948. It became obvious last year that a large number of countries were no longer able to take up the allocated goods for lack of the required foreign exchange. This scarcity of foreign exchange is likely to increase in the course of the current year. This will principally affect products that are not vital as food, and to some extent this is true of cocoa.

"However, it is not only the world cocoa market that is on the decline with regard to prices. In the course of the last few weeks tea prices fell, and the New York coffee market is characterized by increased reluctance to buy. Tea and coffee, however, are stimulants whilst cocoa can be replaced by sugar goods."

Sugar in Australia

Increase in Production Suggested

DURING a meeting of the executive of the Australian Sugar Producers Association, held recently at Mackay, a number of important questions of current concern to the industry were dealt with.

The executive, states the *Australian Sugar Journal*, gave consideration to problems associated with the possibility of increasing sugar exports from Australia, and noted a recent statement by the Minister for Agriculture and Stock that the State Government (Queensland) would be giving consideration to what expansion of mill capacity was needed and the districts in which it was desirable to expand sugar growing in future.

The executive expressed the opinion that the formation of any firm plans for expansion must await receipt of detailed knowledge of the results of the Premier's negotiations in London.

It was pointed out by the members during discussion that the matter of expanding production involved many questions such as:—

(a) To what extent have developments such as the planting of improved varieties in the last ten years increased the normal productivity of existing assignments since the 1939 mill peaks were established.

(b) The provision of priorities for steel, galvanized iron and the many other items of plant and equipment required for any programme of expansion.

(c) Whether re-adjustment of mill peaks is now necessary in the light of present circumstances and any expansion proposals.

(d) Means of safeguarding the economic stability of the industry in any programme of expansion.

After a lengthy discussion the following resolution was carried:—

"The executive holds the view that any scale of expansion likely to be desirable in the immediate future can be achieved without the construction of new mills and that the Government should not contemplate at this stage any projects involving the erection of new mills.

"Further, the executive urges upon the State Government that no plans for expansion, either as to the scale or method of expansion, should be formulated except after detailed investigation by a commission of inquiry, which would give an opportunity for all sections of the industry to appear before it and express their views and advise the commission of all facts relevant to their inquiry.

"The executive suggests that the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board, which already is authorized by statute to make recommendations in relation to mill peaks should be constituted into such a commission of inquiry and authorized to inquire into all matters related to proposals for expansion.

"Further, the executive holds the strong opinion that should the Central Board not be appointed to this task, the investigating commission should be composed of men experienced in the affairs of the sugar industry.

"Also, that the State Government be requested to consult with the sugar associations in formulating the terms of reference of any commission of inquiry."



THE HUNTING AND COURSEING BILL: FARMERS "MARCH" THROUGH LONDON

[See page 60]



THE NEW MONYMUSK SUGAR FACTORY IN JAMAICA

[See page 60]



A BAUXITE TRANSFER STATION AT CARENAGE, TRINIDAD

[See page 60]

Commons Discuss Jamaica Problems

"Immense Importance" of Bulk Buying

THE debate on Jamaica in the House of Commons on February 4th has been widely quoted in both the Press at home and throughout the West Indies. The speeches from both sides of the House showed that the Jamaica problem is understood and appreciated, and unusual realism was added to the debate by Mr. Creech Jones's remarks as to the need to "stimulate public opinion in the West Indies in regard to family planning" and to Mr. Gammans's statement that when people in the tropics have more money "the first thing they buy with it is leisure."

As space in the CIRCULAR is strictly limited it is not possible to give more than a brief outline of the proceedings, the report of which occupies 61 columns in *Hansard*.

The debate was initiated by Mr. Driberg who spent several weeks in Jamaica last autumn. As Jamaica had had partial self-government since 1944, said Mr. Driberg, he realized that some of the matters with which he would deal would not be directly within the administrative responsibility of the Secretary of State. The Government of Jamaica formed in 1944, had taken over an appalling legacy of poverty, squalor and ignorance, which must in a general way be our continuing concern. The advertising brochures described Jamaica as a tropical paradise, and its natural endowments were matchless in their beauty. In many of its aspects, however, it would be truer to describe it as a tropical slum.

Mr. Driberg then quoted figures in connexion with adult illiteracy, illegitimacy, and unemployment, and dealt briefly with the recent Evans Report, and drew the conclusion that the solution in that report would make no real contribution, in the near future, to the problem of unemployment and over-population in Jamaica.

Plight of ex-Service Men

Turning to the plight of the ex-Service man, Mr. Driberg said that as far as he could see their resettlement had been gravely mishandled. He felt that something drastic had to be done about the continuing pool of unemployed and suggested that H.M. Government should consider sponsoring a scheme to assist those ex-Service men in the West Indies, chiefly in Jamaica, who were willing to do so, to return to this country and enlist again in the Forces. He also suggested that the Secretary of State might look into the matter of discrimination regarding commissions in the Jamaica Battalion.

Mr. Driberg had some hard words to say regarding the tourist industry which, he said, was not a socially educative or useful industry. It was a monstrous anomaly that a luxury hotel should have been built in 1947 at a time when hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants of Jamaica were living in wretched housing conditions in the most unsanitary surroundings.

Touching on the agricultural aspect of the economic problem, and in particular to soil erosion, Mr. Driberg said that new methods were now being worked out by the

excellent agricultural research officers to replace the old-fashioned contour ploughing, but the educational work to be done in that particular field was enormous. Every Friday night hundreds of carts piled high with large and small timber arrived at Kingston from the country, but it was never, or hardly ever, replaced by new trees.

He was afraid that the land settlement scheme under which a number of ex-Service men were settled had been largely a "flop." The Jamaica Government during the last three years had acquired 17 properties for the scheme at a cost of roughly £500,000 but he was afraid that that money must have been largely wasted. The most hopeful agricultural development was the co-operative project known as Lucky Hill where there was not only the economic and technical interest but also a real social basis to the work.

Mr. Driberg closed his speech by paying a tribute to the vision that had inspired the University College of the West Indies and to the excellent choice of principal [Dr. T. W. J. Taylor]; to the Institute of Jamaica and to the British Council for its most impressive work in the sphere of cultural and general education; to Lady Huggins, wife of the Governor, for her work among women.

Two Main Categories of Problems

Mr. Gammans, the next speaker, thought that Mr. Driberg had set out many of the problems quite fairly and exhaustively, but what he had not said was what ought to be done about them. As far as he, Mr. Gammans, could see, the problems resolved themselves into two main categories—matters which were within the competence of the House of Commons, and those which were not and never could be. It was one of the fallacies of this modern age that we believed that we could solve any human problem if we passed enough acts of parliament and spent enough money. Many of the fundamental problems of Jamaica were beyond our competence on this side, and it was as well to say so otherwise a debate of that sort, which was certainly not on party lines, could do more harm than good, because it raised expectations which could not possibly be fulfilled.

Drawing attention to some of the points with which the House could not deal, the first, he said, was over-population, which to his mind was the largest single factor in the economic situation in Jamaica. They could not do much either about what Mr. Driberg had referred to as social apathy and to that vast range of social matters that came within the social purview rather than the political field.

One of the fundamental difficulties was that people in the tropics set for themselves a too low standard of living. Anyone who ignored that human problem of people setting for themselves too low a standard and not being willing to work harder to raise that standard, was ignoring one of the great problems to which Mr. Driberg had referred. What happened was that when people had more money the first thing they bought with it was leisure. He did not say that he blamed them, but to

pretend that that was something that could be remedied by an act of parliament or by anything that they in that House could do was to ignore the whole nature of the problem. Another thing which very largely lay beyond the competence of the House concerned the evil of illegitimacy. He thought that they all agreed that they could not have a sound economic life based on a bad social life. He was glad to hear Mr. Driberg pay tribute to the work of Lady Huggins. It was only public opinion in the West Indies itself which could help solve some of the problems. Another direction in which the House could not do very much concerned hurricanes and hazards of nature.

We could, however, do a lot to raise the standard of agriculture; if we could double the output of the land under cultivation, that would be the best single contribution that could be made rather than engage in any spectacular scheme for putting more people on land that might not be suitable. There was another direction in which we could help the West Indies, especially in these days of bulk buying, and that was by seeing that the people got a proper price for their crop. Mr. Gammans pointed out that we were buying the sugar crop and asked if we were paying the world price or a fair price. It was on this single crop that the economy of Jamaica depended.

We could also help with secondary industries, but that would depend in no small degree on communications and also on something which Mr. Driberg had not mentioned—federation.

“Dreary” Shipping Report

Turning to shipping, Mr. Gammans thought that the last report on shipping in the West Indies was a most dreary document and completely defeatist. It was a scandal that people had to wait anything up to nine or ten months to get passages to the West Indies and at present there seemed not much hope of getting anything better because not many ships were being built. He asked if it were worth while offering something as a subsidy and if it were possible to try to improve the inter-island shipping which to-day was practically non-existent.

After supporting the suggestion made by Mr. Driberg about the armed forces and suggesting that a labour corps might be recruited in Jamaica for opening up areas such as East Africa, British Guiana and British Honduras, Mr. Gammans concluded:—

“We can help in some directions, and we ought to help but a greater part of the serious problems which face them, social and personal, must be solved by the people of Jamaica themselves.”

Mr. Michael Foot, the next speaker, said that he wished to direct his remarks in particular to the economic prospects of the island and what we could do to assist in that matter. Mr. Foot then proceeded to deal at considerable length with the system of bulk buying. The advantages of the system, he considered, were fully appreciated by the primary producers in Jamaica and in many other parts of the British Empire. In Jamaica, for instance, it had enabled the Jamaica banana producers to deal with the most critical situation with which they had been faced. They were also able to discover that from this kind of bulk purchase arrangement if they had long-term arrangements they would

be able to make provision for the future.

The great question that had arisen in Jamaica was whether or not the system of bulk purchase under long-term contracts was going to continue.

Mr. Foot then proceeded to read a letter from the chairman of the Central Committee of Primary Producers in Jamaica and a resolution passed at a recent meeting leaving no doubt that primary producers were in unanimous favour of the system of long-term agreements for the bulk purchase of those export commodities, the production of which it was the desire of H.M. Government to extend.

Mr. Foot then referred to certain newspapers which had attacked the system of bulk purchase persistently during the past three years and had refused to publish the views of producers in Jamaica on the matter.

Commonwealth on Planned Basis

Mr. Foot said in conclusion: “The fact is that we cannot have a British Commonwealth in this century except on a planned basis. If we go back to a free market in sugar and in these other commodities, then it means that there is going to be a return to those disastrous days in the West Indies which called for the report of the commission set up by the Government during the war or just before the war. There will be a return to those conditions if we return to a free market, and if we had the kind of political distress provoked by the economic decay which would be produced by a free market, then all our plans for colonial welfare, for the federation of the West Indies, and the rest, will be broken.

“Therefore, I believe that if this policy can be worked out in greater detail and presented to the nation more imaginatively than it has yet been presented, this Government will be doing a great work for the British Empire. The system of long-term bulk purchase is in fact the biggest single economic development in Imperial and Commonwealth relations that has taken place during the past decade. It puts out of court most of the old systems, and it does, as the people in the West Indies have unanimously stated in this document which I have read to the House, offer them, if the Government will abide by their principles, better hope for the future and the prospect that they will be able to play the part we want to see them play in our Commonwealth.”

After brief speeches by Sir Peter Macdonald, Mr. Harold Davies, Mr. Crawley, Mr. Beverley Baxter, and Dr. Morgan—who confined his remarks to the position of the sugar industry in St. Kitts—Mr. Creech Jones replied on behalf of the Government.

After congratulating Mr. Driberg on his speech, Mr. Creech Jones pointed out that they were hampered in the debate by the fact that they had made very considerable concessions to Jamaica in respect of responsibility. There were some times he said, when it was a very difficult task which they imposed on their Colonial Governor, Sir John Huggins, in trying to permit of no pressure which would in any respect undermine the self-reliance and growing responsibility of the people of Jamaica.

Mr. Creech Jones then dealt with the complicated social and employment problems of Jamaica and referring to the subject of federation said that the economic and social problems of the individual territories

in the West Indies could never be solved on the basis of their narrow frontiers.

Out of the monies available under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, Jamaica had received an allocation of no less than £6,500,000. Accordingly, Jamaica had prepared a ten-year programme on the basis of an expenditure of something like £20,000,000.

Dealing with the question of bulk purchasing, Mr. Creech Jones said: "Here I should like to give, with all the emphasis at my command, the completest support to the view which has been put forward by my hon. Friend the Member for Devonport (Mr. Foot) in the importance which he attaches to bulk purchase. It is of immense importance to the producers of Jamaica and, indeed, of the other West Indies that such a system should be fully worked out. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer was able to make a pronouncement at the end of the last Session in which he made it clear that, so far as British Government policy was concerned, he would be attracted to the creation of long-term contracts in the hope that Colonial producers could go ahead with capital developments, with reasonable certainty in regard to markets and with reasonable certainty in regard to prices."

After dealing with the banana industry and the ravages of the Panama and leaf-spot diseases and referring to the number of new enterprises being started in Jamaica, Mr. Creech Jones turned to the problem of population and said that something must be done to stimulate public opinion in the West Indies in regard to family planning, otherwise all their efforts in the economic and social fields would be defeated.

Family Planning

Interrupted at this point by Mr. Gammans, who asked for fuller information, Mr. Creech Jones said: "I know that this matter is one of very great delicacy which possibly arouses a great deal of religious feeling. I merely point out that public opinion in these territories needs to be aroused in regard to the size of families and the danger of over-population in order that there may be a social opinion which will bring this problem into control. I did not say that this was the responsibility of Government. I merely indicated that this is a social problem of an extraordinarily threatening character, and unless it is tackled by the people themselves there can be no real solution to the problem of their standard of living."

There could be no hope of any escape from the problem by large scale emigration to other parts of the world. In the past Jamaica was relieved to some extent by the ability of Cuba, Panama and the United States to absorb some of the surplus population; that was not the position at the present time. As regard British Guiana and British Honduras the Settlement Commission had suggested that some 100,000 persons could be settled in those colonies over a period of ten years; but that would make very little difference to the essential economic problem. He added: "While we will go full steam ahead with the majority of the recommendations of the report on British Guiana and British Honduras, we cannot hope to secure for Jamaica for a long time to come any substantial relief as a result of the application of these recommendations."

Importance of Banana Industry

He continued, "The real hope for employment in Jamaica is in the expansion of agriculture, because from the figures I have had before me I cannot hope for a very large absorption of labour into the small and ancillary industries. The success, therefore, of agricultural expansion depends very largely upon our ability to make good the loss in the banana industry. Sugar production has been to some extent expanded, new crops are being introduced and an expansion is taking place also in citrus fruits; but unless we can make good the enormous loss in bananas, we cannot be too encouraging about the future.

In connexion with shipping, Mr. Creech Jones said that since the publication of the Clement Jones report there had been many representations from interested firms and people putting forward proposals for overcoming the difficulties. Those proposals had been referred to the West Indian Governments for their consideration and the matter would be discussed that month at a Conference in Barbados.

Mr. Creech Jones proceeded to deal with the subject of commissions in the Jamaica battalion and then paid a tribute to the work being done by Jamaica Welfare, and to the cultural activities associated with the Jamaica Institute and the British Council, which were worthy of the fullest support that the Government could give.

He concluded by dealing with the subject of co-operation in Jamaica and in connexion with the Lucky Hill experiment said that it would be the policy of Government to give the utmost encouragement that it could. The University College was being widely supported by the people of the West Indies. It was a hopeful sign and it would be the policy of Government with the Central Services which had been created at the Colonial Office to help further the progress of Jamaica in every way possible.

To Lecture in the West Indies

Professor R. Pears, O.B.E., M.C., Vice-Chancellor and head of the Department of Adult Education in the University of Nottingham, left London on February 26th for a six weeks' lecture tour in the West Indies.

He will spend three weeks in Jamaica and British Honduras where he has been invited by the new University College of the West Indies to conduct a course for part-time extra-mural teachers, and will also visit Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada and Antigua to lecture on educational subjects for the British Council. His tour will end on April 12th.

(Continued from page 54)

cut across party lines, although the support for the Bill was predominantly from Labour men. There has, however, been steady opposition to it from all classes of country people, and the Government, evidently anxious about rural votes in next year's election, gave their followers a stern warning that it was unacceptable. So the Bill was defeated by a majority of two to one; and, since this was decidedly the better supported of the two measures, it is now taken for granted that the Bill to abolish fox hunting will be stillborn.

Sugar Estate Housing

Progress in British Guiana

A RECENT report by Dr. G. Giglioli shows the tremendous progress made in recent years, in the face of many difficulties, in regard to housing on sugar estates in British Guiana.

The complete absence, during the last 30 years, since the cessation of indentured immigration in 1917, of any legal obligation on the part of the estate owners to provide housing accommodation for their labourers, has only recently been clarified. Meanwhile, estate owners have continued to offer accommodation free of rental, or opportunities to house themselves to their resident populations, a considerable proportion of which does not work for the sugar industry but engages in private trades or other occupations. Moreover some of those who do are prepared to offer only a certain amount of work per week and non-resident labour recruited from the villages has to be employed. The result is, on some plantations, over-population, labour shortage, and recruitment of outside labour, a curious paradox.

The present position is that of a total estate population of 71,480, some 29,327 or 41 per cent live in privately owned houses on estate lands, as a result encouragement given to them to build their own homes on lands made available at nominal annual rentals. In many cases financial assistance was also granted. The remaining 59 per cent totalling 42,153 live in estate owned houses, either ranges, one- or two-family houses, or four-family section dwellings of approved types. The aim of policy is to do away with the ranges which everyone now recognizes as obsolete and unsuited to modern ideas.

With the clarification of the legal position of estate owners and following on a memorandum on housing prepared by the Comptroller of Development and Welfare in the West Indies, the estates have accepted the obligation of rehousing a "nucleus" population consisting of key workers and a minimum of essential whole-time labourers. For those, housing will be tied to the job and to the person. The Government, on the other hand, have now agreed that the responsibility for the extra nucleus population lies with them. It is contemplated that this section of the present day estate population should be resettled as owner-occupiers on land controlled by Government, and the estates have undertaken, wherever circumstances permit, to make suitable lands available for this purpose at nominal prices or rentals, and moreover, to provide drainage through the estates' drainage system whenever possible.

The way is now clear, therefore, for progress with the immense job of resettling some tens of thousands of people, with a resultant clearing out of the obsolete ranges and other unsuitable housing.

According to the report, however, finance is likely to provide an obstacle to the Government's carrying out speedily its side of the bargain. The estates, however, are proceeding actively to implement their undertakings wherever suitable conditions exist. Areas are being laid out while the old policy of settlement in properly planned leased-lot areas is being pushed; existing leased-lot areas have been extended and new ones laid out. In addition many estates continue to offer financial assistance to encourage residents living in

condemned housing to move in to the resettlement areas.

The report continues: "Obviously finance is the main factor which will decide the speed at which this urgent rehousing problem will be solved. Without Government's assistance the process will inevitably be painfully slow. Unless the surplus population is removed, also the reorganization of the 'nucleus' population will be inevitably held up. Meanwhile, money inevitably expended in patching up the old time obsolete and condemned housing is money wasted. It is to be hoped that a considerable portion of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund now becoming available will be allocated to rehousing: it could not be employed better."

The proportions of the problem can be gauged by the fact that the "nucleus" population is reckoned to be made up of 5,062 family units of which 1,988 units have still to be rehoused. But there remains another 6,555 families of non-essential occasional or part-time workers and non-workers to be resettled—these being the Government's responsibility though the lands will be provided by the estates. In some cases the rehousing of the remainder of the "nucleus" population must await Government action to resettle the redundants.

The urgency of the problem is added to rather than diminished, however, by the excellent work done by Dr. Giglioli in malaria control by D.D.T. Endemic malaria has been the main factor holding back natural increase in the population of the estates. With this factor removed there may be expected to be an immediate increase in the birth rate and a drastic fall in infant and general mortality. Dr. Giglioli estimates indeed that in the next 15 years the estate population will, as a result, increase from its present 71,480 to 100,000.

The Pictorial Pages

THE photograph reproduced in the first of the pictorial pages in this issue was taken in Piccadilly on February 25th, and shows farmers from Gloucestershire and Worcestershire in the course of their "march" through western London to protest against the Private Member's Bill which sought to prevent the hunting of deer, badgers, and otters, and the coursing of hares and rabbits. Their protest is referred to in the "Londoner's Notebook" on page 54.

The photograph in the top half of the second page shows the New Monymusk factory of the West Indies Sugar Co. Ltd., now nearing completion at Vere, Jamaica. It will go into production about the end of March. As pointed out in the CIRCULAR for January, it is the largest sugar factory in the British Commonwealth.

The picture in the lower half of the page shows the bauxite transfer station now being constructed at Point Timbladora, Carenage, Trinidad, to which reference was made in the CIRCULAR of January, 1948. The Alcoa Steamship Co., of America, are erecting the station at a cost of \$6,000,000 to handle bauxite from Guiana. There will be 15 storage tanks—each holding 5,000 tons of bauxite—10 of which are shown in the picture. On the right is the pier—680 feet long—and in the distance the Five Islands.

British Guiana Ten-Year Plan

Governor's Review

IN his address to the British Guiana Legislative Council on December 14th, 1948, the Governor, Sir Charles Woolley, dealt with the colony's Ten-Year Development Plan, which he had discussed with the Secretary of State for the Colonies during his recent visit to the United Kingdom.

Sir Charles reported that he had been able to obtain the Secretary of State's general approval of the Plan, and of the financial arrangements necessary to implement it, subject to certain minor adjustments in view of changed circumstances such as, for example, "the very welcome advent of the Colonial Development Corporation to British Guiana." These adjustments would be brought before the Legislative Council at the proper time.

Particulars of the Plan, as put before the Council by the Governor in broad outline and round figures, are as follows:—

It comprises a total proposed expenditure over the next ten years, but mostly within the next five years, of about \$26,000,000, of which some \$9,000,000 is to complete schemes already in hand. In round figures, this expenditure is to be met from the allocation to the colony of \$12,000,000 by His Majesty's Government under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, by the utilization of some \$4,000,000 from the colony's accumulated surplus revenue and unappropriated balances on the 1945 loan, and, finally by the raising of a new public loan of \$10,000,000.

Under medical and health services provision of \$330,000 approximately is made for much needed additions and improvements to the Georgetown hospital. \$50,000 is provided for a new wing to the tuberculosis sanatorium, \$54,000 for cottage hospitals at Wakenaam and Mahaicony, and \$50,000 for extensions and improvements to the public hospitals at Bartica, Suddie, Berbice and Mabaruma. \$40,000 is provided for improvements to the mental hospital and \$20,000 for the leprosy hospital. \$20,000 is provided for a school dental service. Other items are substantial sums for the control of social diseases and better health services throughout the colony and bring the total proposed capital expenditure under this head to some \$700,000.

Large Expenditure on Education

The capital expenditure on education proposed under the Plan amounts to no less than two and a quarter million dollars during the ten-year period. Provision of \$400,000 is included for the new Queen's College now in course of construction and there is provision of \$700,000 for primary school buildings which will provide an additional 14,000 places for children.

"Large as this figure is, I must point out that it will by no means meet the needs of our now rapidly increasing and healthier child population. Indeed it is now estimated that if every child of school-going age in British Guiana is to be provided with elementary school education, we shall require not 14,000 but 20,000 more places and within the next five years. We shall

require also, for these children, some 500 new teachers, the annually recurrent cost of whose salaries will be something between \$200,000 and \$300,000, quite apart from the cost of their training. Under present arrangements we are turning out no more than 20 trained teachers a year and we shall have to consider ways and means for providing greater training facilities for which there is at present no new provision in the Development Plan. Apart from the provision for Queen's College at the one end and elementary education at the other, provision is also made in the Plan of some \$300,000 for prevocational training and vocational training for men, a comprehensive scheme for which has been drawn up and is now under examination. A further \$130,000 approximately is provided for the establishment of senior schools in the colony. Falling short as this programme may be of our full requirements during the next ten years, it is ambitious as it stands, and its full implementation must depend to some extent on increased national income in future years."

Housing Schemes

The Plan makes provision for the expenditure during the first five years of \$1,000,000 on urban housing, and for a Town Planning Adviser who has been appointed. In making this announcement Sir Charles expressed the hope that Government's efforts and assistance in this matter would stimulate building societies and private enterprise to come in. "As to rural areas, \$400,000 is included for new schemes still to be formulated and a further \$250,000 is provided to assist housing schemes for part-time labour on all sugar estates, the land required being provided, as I hope, by the estates at a nominal price. This figure represents but a contribution from Government, and I trust with the Main Development Committee that the Sugar Industry Welfare Fund which at present stands at \$650,000 and whose annual income from the levy should be around \$330,000 if our sugar exports are maintained, will also be devoted (among other purposes) to the provision of assistance for housing development for sugar estate employees. Apart from this scheme I am gratified to learn, now that building materials are more readily available, that the sugar estates themselves are pushing ahead with their own housing schemes for their full-time employees. 274 houses have already been completed on estates this year and a number of club rooms and improved recreational facilities provided. The response by estate workers to this scheme has been very gratifying and I am assured that the programme of rehousing will be resolutely proceeded with in 1949. Leaving aside the sugar estates, provision is also made in the Plan of some \$800,000 for land settlements, notably at Cane Grove, La Bonne Mere, Vergenoegen and Anna Regina, all of which are already well under way. Provision of \$125,000 approximately is also made for rural housing in the islands of Leguan and Wakenaam in the Essequibo estuary. Apart from all this provision I trust that very considerable sums will be available for housing by means

of loans from building societies and, in rural areas, from Co-operative Credit Banks. There are already welcome signs of increased building activity by private enterprise, and in Georgetown alone new buildings and additions to existing buildings this year have provided accommodation for nearly a thousand persons. Extended use is also being made in the rural areas of facilities provided by the Co-operative Credit Banks and loans for new housing and repairs amounted to \$52,500 in 1947 and have increased substantially this year."

Proposals of a developmental nature put forward in the Plan give first place to the extension of drainage and irrigation facilities on which agriculture in British Guiana so largely depends. They include the provision of \$10,500,000 (in addition to some \$1,750,000 already spent) to cover major schemes affecting a total area of 130 square miles or 83,000 acres of cultivable land. These schemes are: the Crabwood Creek rice expansion scheme (completed); the Bonasika scheme; the Bloomfield-Whim scheme; the Mahaicony-Abary rice expansion scheme; the Torani Canal construction; and the empoldering of an area of 47,000 acres known as Block III in the Corentyne district, of which 26,000 acres will be available as cattle pasture. While in England the Governor arranged for the services of an expert consulting engineer to advise on the Bonasika and Torani schemes, and make surveys of the bars in the Essequibo and Berbice rivers. Further provision of approximately \$5,000,000 for the second five-year period covers schemes of major drainage and irrigation works in the districts Mahaica and Mahaicony and Abary-Hopetown, which will benefit an area of 100,000 acres.

Agriculture and Fishing Industry

The agricultural and fisheries section of the Plan envisages the expenditure, all of it in the first five-year period, of some \$1,750,000. Among the important items included is \$450,000 for the purchase of agricultural machinery for a hire pool service. Over \$250,000 worth of such machinery has already been purchased and is in use. Complementary to this expenditure are importations also made by the Rice Marketing Board of machinery costing nearly \$200,000 for sale to agriculturalists. During the year 200 pieces of such machinery, including combines, ploughs, tractors, harrows and angle dozers were imported and practically all of them are also in use. Very substantial provision is also made in the Plan for cane farming development, rehabilitation of the coco-nut industry, peasant farming investigations and agricultural education generally including the award of agricultural scholarships. There is further provision of \$100,000 for livestock improvement, and for the establishment of a fish market in Georgetown in connexion with the development of the fishing industry. Dr. Hickling, Adviser on Fisheries to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has promised to advise in this matter. Finally, the agricultural plan includes \$250,000 under the head rice milling which, it is intended, should be used for loans for the expansion and improvement of existing milling facilities. The proposals of the Evans Commission for the establishment of a Rice Corporation in British Guiana impinge on the suggestions in regard to rice production put forward in the Development Plan, and the Governor

promised a subsequent review of the question of the future organization of the rice industry.

In regard to forestry also, developments since the formulation of the Ten-Year Plan have introduced a need for reconsideration. The Plan provides \$1,000,000 for forestry development in the Bartica triangle and \$500,000 for the establishment of a Development Corporation. The decision of the Colonial Development Corporation to operate in British Guiana has induced a change of plan, and it is the intention of the local government to seek Legislative Council approval for investment in whatever organization may be established in the colony by the Corporation, and for government representation on the local board of directors. The local government will, in general, insist that the Corporation, and all other operators, shall conform in every way with the government's forest policy, and also recognize that the colony's own timber needs must come first.

Georgetown-Atkinson Field Road

More than \$3,000,000 are provided in the Ten-Year Plan for reconditioning of the road from Georgetown to Atkinson Field, a project which was also strongly recommended by the Evans Commission, and for reconstruction of the road from New Amsterdam to Crabwood Creek. For blazing and improvement of trails and the construction of new airstrips in the interior the sum of \$160,000 is allotted.

A point made by Sir Charles Woolley is the fact that, leaving aside the \$1,000,000 for forestry development, the total provision in the Ten-Year Plan for interior schemes is no more than \$200,000. Development of the interior, however, has been fully considered by the Evans Commission, whose report, together with the Ten-Year Plan, can be regarded as constituting an overall plan for the development of the colony as a whole.

With reference to the Commission's report the Governor said that the Secretary of State had already decided provisionally to earmark £2,000,000 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Reserve Fund as a contribution towards implementing the Commission's proposals for British Guiana and British Honduras, in order that an early start may be made. Sir Charles was anxious to lose no time in establishing a fully staffed and equipped agricultural station near Potaro. This, which is intended in the Development Plan and was strongly recommended by the Evans Commission, would be the centre for investigational and experimental operations. There is, however, an immense amount of preparatory work to be done, and there should be no illusions about the time it will take to bring to fruition those proposals of the Commission which prove to be practicable.

Considerable time would be needed to consider all the problems involved, not the least of them the shipping and marketing problems, before proposals for banana plantations on the lower Essequibo could be implemented. Plans for the opening up of Mazaruni must take priority over those for Rupununi, which latter, for the next few years at any rate, will have to be based on what is possible for the area in the absence of a first class through road. Although there were signs of ease-ment in regard to supplies of material and equipment,

difficulties in regard to qualified technical staff remained as acute as ever. While the Guianese had trained, and are training, in numbers to be doctors, dentists, barristers and solicitors, there was not a single Guianese qualified in forestry, mining or geology; only one qualified veterinary officer; five qualified civil engineers; and in Queen's College there were no Guianese science masters. One was training in forestry and one in mining, four in veterinary science and nine in civil engineering, but there is need for more Guianese to seek careers in the technical professions to provide personnel to carry out development plans.

While in London the Governor had discussed with the Secretary of State the question of constitutional reform. His view, that the interests of British Guiana would best be served by the appointment in due course of an independent commission to make recommendations on the franchise, composition of the Legislative Council, and related matters, had been accepted by the Secretary of State, who will be prepared to appoint such a body at the appropriate time.

Cocoa in the Gold Coast

Swollen Shoot Disease

THE appointment of a commission of three plant pathologists, of high repute, and drawn from countries not commercially interested in cocoa, to visit the Gold Coast and report on the eradication of swollen shoot disease, was reported on page 235 of the November, 1948 issue of the CIRCULAR.

The report of this commission has been published as a white paper*, and endorses without reservation the recommendations of the staff of the West Africa Cacao Research Institute. The commission stresses that with this type of virus disease the basic method of control is to remove all possible sources of infection. This means cutting out not only diseased cocoa trees, but also "contact" trees and the species of forest trees which are known to be capable of serving as reservoirs of infection. All other measures of sanitation and rehabilitation, control of mealy bug, and so on, can only be additional to the cutting out, which, if it is to save the cocoa culture, must be done accurately, thoroughly and continuously, and without delay. The research programme at the West Africa Cacao Research Institute is regarded as essential to the maintenance of the cocoa industry in the Gold Coast and it is recommended that the work should be expanded and increased; also that the programme of education of cocoa farmers should be materially extended.

This report will not have relieved the apprehensions of cocoa planters in the area; nor can they be expected to take kindly to measures which involve still further loss in crop with no certitude of compensating benefit in the near future. Those concerned with their education in these matters will have a rough row to hoe. The epidemic is one of the greatest problems of its kind facing farmers anywhere, and cocoa planters in regions free from this scourge have much to be thankful for.

*Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Swollen Shoot Disease of Cacao in the Gold Coast. Colonial No. 236, H.M.S.O., 1948. 3d. net.

West Indies in Commons Debate

The Future of St. Lucia

IN the course of a debate in the House of Commons on February 24th, when certain supplementary estimates for the Colonies were under discussion, Mr. Rees-Williams (Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies) made the following statement in regard to the St. Lucia fire disaster:—

"I next turn to St. Lucia. As the Committee may know, in June, 1948, a fire broke out at St. Lucia, which had the same effect in Castries, the capital town, as the fire of London had in the City of London in the reign of King Charles II. It had a very devastating effect. I believe the fire of London broke out in a baker's shop. This fire at St. Lucia broke out in a tailor's shop. The main town of Castries was destroyed almost entirely; four-fifths of the town was destroyed by that fire. It caused damage amounting to approximately £2 million and it rendered 400 families homeless. Those people have found temporary accommodation in the town and also in some old military premises just outside the town which were placed at their disposal. Some of them, of course, have joined friends in other little villages round about. As the Committee can imagine, there has been a very considerable disturbance in the family life of Castries.

"Those who are now living with friends are suffering from a housing situation which is unparalleled by any thing we know in this country. They are living in highly overcrowded conditions. Relief funds have been made available by other West Indian Governments, by private individuals and also by the West India Committee. His Majesty's Government feel that it is imperative upon the Government—and I am sure the people of this country will feel the same way—to come to the assistance of this little island.

"We have granted £35,000 for the purpose of erecting temporary housing, making grants to enable business premises to be restored, and to cover the cost of emergency supplies of food and clothing which were flown in immediately after the fire. That was a temporary payment to cover immediate first-aid matters which arose. The issue of that sum was made under the Civil Contingencies Fund and the sum now required is to enable that fund to be re-imbursed before March 31st. I am glad to say that discussions have almost reached completion on the financing of the cost of rehabilitation which does not, of course, affect this Vote. I hope that shortly my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be in a position to make a comprehensive announcement on the question of rehabilitating and rebuilding Castries. I hope it will be rebuilt on a plan which will make it a model town in that part of the world."

Help for British Honduras

Referring to British Honduras, he said:—

"The next item on the Vote is that relating to British Honduras. When the 1948 Estimates for British Honduras was approved, though a deficit seemed probable, it was impossible to foresee accurately what would be the effect of certain proposed increases in revenue. It was hoped that the colony might balance its budget, and for this reason no grant-in-aid was

in fact provided for. As a matter of fact, I am glad to say that the revenue has increased. It has been increased by some £22,000, and also the colony has been relieved of certain charges on loans for hurricane relief, but certain unforeseen expenditure of a miscellaneous nature has been incurred, such as expenditure on public works, including the cost of roads and certain repairs made necessary by an exceptionally heavy storm of rain during June. In order to enable the colony to balance its budget, therefore, it is necessary to provide them with a grant-in-aid of £35,000.

"Certain questions will undoubtedly be raised as to the policy in British Honduras with regard to the unemployed. I have certain figures; if the Committee are interested, and if the matter is raised, my right hon. Friend or I will be prepared to deal with it at a later stage. The schemes which we have in mind, and which will be affected to some extent by this sum, include steps to deal with the immediate problem of unemployment in British Honduras. They are schemes of a nature which will help to solve or relieve the immediate problem, but, of course, in the long run there must be an improvement in the basic economy of the country. These are only what might be described as patchwork schemes, and until we tackle the main problems in the country there can be no real attack upon unemployment. As the Committee know, we are getting down to that now.

"The main plan is to build up the agricultural economy from scratch, and to make it a flourishing industry. There has been very little agriculture as we know it in British Honduras, because they mainly buy their food from outside. A new Governor has recently gone to British Honduras. Before he left we had a long conversation with him in the Colonial Office, and we were very pleased to note his great interest in these matters, including economic development. We know that he is studying the results of the work of the rehabilitation committee which has been operating in the West Indies, and the results of which may be applied to some extent in British Honduras."

Replying later to questions, Mr. Rees-Williams said:—

"I was asked questions by the hon. Member for Hornsey (Mr. Gammans) and my hon. Friend the Member for East Harrow (Mr. Skinnard) about unemployment in Honduras. At the end of November, 1948, there were 543 civilians and 102 ex-Service men registered as unemployed. Various schemes are in operation or will shortly be put into operation. There is an agricultural settlement on an estate known as the 'Baking Pot' on which a number of ex-Service men have been settled and it is expected that the numbers will have risen to about 100 by the end of the year. I was asked about reclamation in Belize. Work there has begun on certain land which will absorb about 50 men in about 10 weeks and work on the roads which should provide for about 80 for four months and work on feeder roads under the 10-year development plan. I am sorry that it was not understood by the hon. Member who challenged me on this that the Vote here is really for a grant-in-aid to balance their budget and for schemes which are in operation.

"There are plans under the Evans Report which I hope will be presented to the House in the near future. We have done a tremendous amount of work on that

and are trying to establish all the various projects suggested in that report, but it is not easy. The Government are starting a dairy farm for which they have bought 1,500 acres. But one of the problems is that people have no agricultural background and we have to import people with an agricultural background to enable this work to be done even on such a thing as dairy farming, which needs very little knowledge. I hope that before long we shall be able to inform the House of the present position of the Evans Report recommendations. The road which was mentioned and also the timber schemes all fit into the general picture.

"With regard to St. Lucia and the building, which the hon. Member for Mid-Bedford (Mr. Lennox-Boyd) referred to, I can assure him that that will be announced to the House very shortly. We shall be in a position to tell the House exactly what is proposed with regard to its rehabilitation, and I venture to think that the House will find that we are making very generous terms. St. Lucia will have a very fine city when the plans have been carried out."

Gold Coast Lime Tree Disease

Mr. Thomas Reid, in the House of Commons on February 2nd, asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies to what extent the lime tree disease called die-back is threatening the lime industry in the Gold Coast.

Mr. Creech Jones stated in reply that sample surveys conducted at six-monthly intervals over the last four years had shown a mortality rate from die-back of about 10 per cent of the surviving trees every six months. Research on the disease, which was being vigorously conducted by the Gold Coast Department of Agriculture, indicated that sufficient resistance to ensure an economic crop might possibly be obtained by growing limes budded on rough lemon stock; rehabilitation measures had begun on that basis.

Mr. Reid then asked whether the remedy was not to cut out the trees as in the case of the coco-nut disease, and, if that was the case, whether the trees were being cut out to save the industry.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that these steps were being taken. The Agriculture Department had the matter under its most vigorous attention, and a plant pathologist was actually at work on the research necessary for saving these crops.

Puerto Rico Rum

Senor Teodor Moscoso, president and general manager of the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Co., announced at the recent annual dinner of the National Association of Alcoholic Beverage Importers of America, that a campaign to promote the sale of Puerto Rican rum is to be launched in the United States. It will cost \$2,000,000 per annum, and the money will be spent on extensive advertising. It is hoped that the scheme will lead to a revival of the rum industry of the island.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"HAN' mek rope, rope tie han'."

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MR. ROBERT GAVIN has been appointed a member of the Secretary of State's Colonial Labour Advisory Committee.

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A SON was born to Mrs. Forbes, wife of Mr. Arthur J. Forbes, at Georgetown, British Guiana, on January 6th. Mr. Forbes is the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. James Forbes, of Trinidad.

* * *

THE REV. CLIFFORD F. GRANT recently returned to Trinidad to spend part of six months furlough from his missionary work in India. Mr. Grant is the fourth son of the late Mr. T. Geddes Grant, and of Mrs. Grant, of Port-of-Spain.

* * *

MR. E. P. ARROWSMITH, Administrator of Dominica, arrived in London by air recently. His visit, a brief one, is for the purpose of discussing with the Colonial Office the ten-year plan for Dominica and other matters affecting the island.

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MR. WILLIAM J. LUSTY, chairman of John Lusty, Ltd., manufacturers of turtle soup, sailed in the *Cavina* on February 24th for Jamaica. The object of his visit is to secure for his firm an increase in the supply of turtles. While on the other side he hopes to pay a visit to the Cayman Islands.

* * *

SIR JOHN SHAW, Governor of Trinidad, recently announced in the Legislature that all the unofficial members and the Director of Surveys have been appointed members of a committee, with the Attorney-General as chairman, to revise the electoral constituencies preparatory to the introduction of the new constitution.

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MR. LESLIE CHARLES HARRIS, of Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, has been temporarily appointed to the Colonial Service as Valuation Commissioner, Land Valuation Commission, Jamaica. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 1944. Mr. Harris is County Valuation Officer, Surrey County Council.

* * *

MR. VICTOR E. BRUCE, secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Council, arrived in Britain on February 2nd for a six weeks' visit under the auspices of the British Council during which he will visit and see the work of youth organizations. Mr. Bruce, who is 28, was appointed to government service in June, 1940, and is at present in the Registrar General's department.

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MR. DOUGLAS CUNLIFFE FOSTER, who was married on February 2nd to Miss Mary Patricia Smith, is a director of Gillespie Bros. and Co. Ltd., and the younger son of a former chairman of the company, Mr. Percy G. C. Foster, and of Mrs. Foster. Miss Smith is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Smith, of Cheadle,

Cheshire. The ceremony took place at the Parish Church, Knutsford.

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MR. ANDREW WILSON ARMOUR, who entered the service of Booker Bros., McConnell and Co. Ltd. in 1882, recently relinquished his seat on the board on account of advancing years. In announcing his retirement the directors state: "Throughout his 66 years with us, Mr. Armour has been a most loyal and devoted servant and a colleague whose wise counsel was greatly valued by his fellow directors." The CIRCULAR extends its best wishes to Mr. Armour in his well deserved retirement.

* * *

MR. H. P. URICH, supervisor of branches for the Royal Bank of Canada in the British West Indies, retired on January 31st. Mr. Urich began his banking career with the Union Bank of Halifax in the West Indies and subsequently served in Cuba, Venezuela, British Honduras and Costa Rica. He was appointed manager at Port-of-Spain in 1925, and in 1946 assumed the position now relinquished. His fine personal qualities and business ability have won for him high esteem in all quarters.

* * *

MR. E. P. S. BELL, K.C., Solicitor-General in the Federation of Malaya, whose appointment as a Puisne Judge in the High Court, Tanganyika, was recently announced, is well known in the Leeward Islands. He is son of the late Lieut.-Colonel Edward Bell, formerly Chief Inspector of Police in the Leewards. Mr. Bell began his career in the Colonial Secretary's office, Antigua, in 1920, and later served in Dominica and St. Kitts-Nevis, and then in St. Lucia where he was Attorney-General from 1936 to 1938 when he proceeded to Palestine as Crown Counsel.

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PROFESSOR K. S. DODDS, D.Sc., head of the department of Botany and Genetics at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, has been appointed principal scientific officer of the Empire Potato Collection, Commonwealth Bureau of Genetics, Cambridge. Dr. Dodds joined the staff of the College in 1937 as lecturer in Botany, and he was appointed to the professorship in succession to Dr. E. E. Cheesman, in 1947. Dr. Dodds has made valuable contributions to our knowledge of the cytogenetics of various tropical crops, notably cacao and bananas.

* * *

It was announced on March 1st that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Erskine Rueil La Tourette Ward, Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal, Barbados, to be second Puisne Judge in British Guiana. Mr. Ward, who was born in Barbados in 1900, was educated at Harrison College, Barbados, and St. Edmund Hall, Oxford. He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1924 and practised in Barbados before his appointment as Police Magistrate in that colony in 1931. He was appointed Judge, Bridgetown Petty Debt Court, in 1936 and Registrar in 1938. He was appointed to his present post in 1944.

Publications Received

Report of the Caribbean Commission for 1947. Contains in summary form an account of the activities of the organization for that year, most of which have already been referred to in the CIRCULAR.

The Harrisonian, December, 1948. This issue contains the farewell message of the retiring headmaster, Mr. H. N. Haskell, who had been with the college since 1910, and headmaster for 25 years. The magazine also contains a photograph of the tablet recently erected to the memory of a former headmaster, Canon H. A. Dalton, with an account of the unveiling ceremony.

The Pocket Guide to Nassau and Business Directory 1949. This is the third edition of a useful guide, published by William W. Cartwright, 75, East Street, Nassau, Bahamas, at 2s. It contains all that the average visitor will require to know about New Providence—of which island Nassau is the capital—and there is a brief description of the principal Out Islands. The 24 illustrations are well chosen.

The International Sugar Journal, vol. LI, No. 602, February, 1949. Articles in this issue deal with sugar cane mosaic, Tate and Lyle's new research laboratory at Keston, Kent, and the commercial recovery of sugar cane wax from factory mudds. Also included is a paper on technical practice in the Barbados Sugar Industry submitted to the Jamaica Association of Sugar Technologists by H. C. Nurse and the Hon. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett.

Dr. Martin-Leake reviews recent work on weed control in Hawaii by the use of chemicals, and discusses possible repercussions of such operations on soil fertility.

Particulars are given of patent No. 587,121 taken out by George Fletcher and Co., Ltd., of Derby, for a means of obtaining progressive control of the heat delivered per unit time to the vessel of an evaporator of the sealed downtake type according to the fluctuations in the liquor level.

Bulletin of the Imperial Institute, 1948, Vol. XLVI, No. 1. A special article in this number by Dr. Charlotte Leubuscher deals with the processing of copra, oil palm products, and groundnuts, and describes the results of research carried out under the sponsorship of the Colonial Economic Research Committee, and made possible by a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

Results of the examination of shark liver oils, from Trinidad are recorded in another article. The samples proved to be rather crude in respect of free fatty acid and stearin content, and came within a category which does not conform with Ministry of Food standards, and would require refining. Valuations (as at May, 1947) ranged from £1 5s. per gallon to £10 per gallon. The Vitamin A content of the best samples was adequate.

The Spiny Lobster Industry of the Caribbean and Florida. Fisheries Series No. 3, Caribbean Research Council, Caribbean Commission, 1948. This is a comprehensive scientific and practical memoir on the habits and biology of spiny lobsters and on the methods and scope of the fishing industry based thereon in the Caribbean area. It has been compiled by Dr. F. G. Walton

Smith, Director of the Marine Laboratory, University of Miami, who combines scientific attainment with practical experience of the industry in Florida, the Bahamas and British Honduras.

The common Caribbean species is *Panulirus argus*, which occurs on the Western Atlantic shores from Rio de Janeiro in the south to Beaufort, North Carolina in the north. It is only caught in sufficient quantity for commercial export off Florida, the Bahamas, Cuba, and British Honduras, but there are possibilities of developing the industry in other areas (as witness the annual report of the Turks and Caicos Islands for 1947, quoted on page 273 of the December, 1948 issue of the CIRCULAR).

The information contained in this publication should be of material assistance to those interested in the development of the Caribbean crawfish industry.

Book Review

Banana Odyssey

*Empire in Green and Gold** is the story of the development of the banana trade in Jamaica, Cuba, Santo Domingo and the countries bordering the Caribbean from Mexico to Colombia. It is, more particularly, the story of the beginnings and growth of the United Fruit Company to its present position as the colossus of the banana world.

The banana is comparatively young as a factor in world commerce, but its development in that regard profoundly influenced the economy of Central America. The various enterprises which finally merged to make the modern United Fruit Company, and later that concern itself, not only became great land holders, huge employers of labour, store-keepers, railroad and seaport and shipping operators, but were powerful factors in local government as well.

The book deals fully with the early struggles to ship bananas to Boston from Jamaica in the old sailing ships, the founding of the Boston Fruit Company by Captain Lorenzo Dow Baker, his association with Andrew Preston, the steady expansion of the trade, the link-up with Minor Cooper Keith, like Rhodes, builder of an Empire through railroads, the first dealings with Ackerley and Stockley and later with Sir Alfred Jones and Elders and Fyffes, which eventually became a subsidiary of United Fruit.

It is a tale of tremendous endeavour in growing, shipping and selling, but the impression that remains is of how far from domination man still is over the forces of nature. Tropical rains, hurricanes, disease and the thousand and one hazards that face the agriculturalist all over the world still command the situation. The banana is no product to have in one's basket exclusively. That lesson has been hardly learned and some of the most interesting passages of the book deal with the efforts now being made to diversify agriculture in Central America. Abaca, rubber, rice, *Derris*, lemon grass, soya beans, bamboo, are all now successfully growing or under experiment on former banana lands rendered useless by Panama disease. Perhaps they may yet prove even more important than their predecessor.

*By Charles Morrow Wilson; Henry Holt & Co., New York. Price 83.50.

Sea Island Cotton Goods

Effect of Purchase Tax in U.K.

THE following letter, dated February 3rd, regarding the decline in the demand for Sea Island cotton goods in the United Kingdom, has been sent to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Advisory Committee in England of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association:—

I am instructed to inform you that the Advisory Committee in England of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association has recently conducted extensive enquiries amongst spinners, manufacturers and merchants concerning the demand and market prospects for goods made from Sea Island cotton.

It appears that of late there has been a marked decline in the demand for these commodities and this gives my committee cause for concern.

As you will recollect, prior to the war a substantial and growing trade in this country had been built up in men's underwear, shirtings and similar materials made from Sea Island cotton as the result of the efforts of this Association working in co-operation with manufacturers and merchants. During the war the whole production of Sea Island cotton was acquired for the war effort by H.M. Government and this trade was suspended. Since the war production for civilian uses of shirtings and similar materials has been resumed and in addition the production of a wide range of new materials has been undertaken such as muslins, organdies and poplins.

Owing however to their high quality and relatively high prices Sea Island cotton materials have not so far been included in the utility ranges of goods in this country and have in consequence to bear the heavy purchase tax. The effect of this has been to preclude the revival of any appreciable trade in Sea Island cotton goods in the home market, since the high price makes them unsaleable. The Committee are informed that a strong potential demand exists for shirtings, underwear and similar goods and for the new materials and that if purchase tax was removed immediate expansion in the demand might be expected to ensue, but while the purchase tax continues this cannot occur.

Until recently export markets have absorbed the greatest part of the production, but of late the demand has slackened and serious difficulties are arising. The dollar markets which have hitherto taken large quantities of materials are no longer buying, while in other countries, notably France, buyers and manufacturers who wish to acquire supplies of Sea Island yarns and materials are unable to do so, because they cannot obtain import licences from their governments.

The situation appears to the Committee to be a matter for anxiety; they are informed that unsold stocks are accumulating in the hands of manufacturers and dealers, and although, in the immediate future disposal of raw material from the West Indies seems assured owing to the forward buying policy adopted by the Raw Cotton Commission, it is obvious that this cannot long continue if the produce cannot be absorbed by the cotton industry.

The effect on the West Indies would be very serious since Sea Island cotton is the principal export of certain dependencies and plays a highly important part in the economy of a number of others. Further it might be expected to lead to unemployment in the cotton industry in this country.

In the circumstances the Committee consider that the position should be brought to the notice of the Secretary of State. They feel that if the purchase tax was remitted it would provide an adequate outlet for produce which at present is difficult to dispose of, and would avert the dangers which are threatened.

They therefore respectfully ask that the matter should be considered and trust that the Secretary of State may be able to see his way to transmit their representations to the proper quarter with his sympathetic support.

Kew Bulletin, No. 3, 1948. A further instalment of Dr. E. E. Cheesman's observations on classification of the bananas deals with the two species *Musa basjoo* and *M. nageansium*.

Dollar Deficit in the Bahamas

WRITING on the Bahamas tourist trade in the January 29th issue of *Foreign Trade*, Mr. R. V. N. Gordon, assistant Canadian Government Trade Commissioner in Jamaica, states that the dollar deficit for the Bahamas for the year 1948 will be below the 1947 figure of \$6,405,100.

Measures, he says, have been adopted to prevent the black market in pounds which occurred during 1947-48, when it was estimated that only 60 per cent of the tourist dollars spent in the Bahamas passed through official channels. Legislation now prohibits the importation of Jamaica and Bermuda Government notes in excess of £5 by any one person into the Bahamas.

The large and small hotels, says Mr. Gordon, are doing good business, but prices are very high, ranging up to \$250 a day for a penthouse suite in one of the larger hotels. Meals also are expensive, running from \$4 to \$5 for an ordinary dinner.

"These prices" he continues "will have to be reduced if the volume of traffic and trade is to be maintained next season, a fact that is generally recognized by those connected with the tourist industry. There has already been a decline in the demand for house rentals during the 1948-49 season, though there has been no reduction in prices to date.

"Restrictions imposed on the importation of Canadian and United States goods, in an effort to conserve dollars, are severe, though to a lesser extent than in certain other islands of the British West Indies, owing to the complete dependence of the Bahamas on imports of all kinds, and the necessity for providing luxury goods for the tourist industry. Shortages have occurred in some lines, however, as the import control authorities are attempting to divert trade from traditional North American suppliers to the sterling area, and slow deliveries from the United Kingdom have resulted in lowered inventories in some cases. Prices of British goods are mostly higher than Canadian and American prices, and there has been some complaint about the quality of goods from the United Kingdom not being up to standard.

"There is little unemployment in the Bahamas at the present time, owing to the prosperous condition of the tourist industry and the high level of construction. Several thousand Bahamian labourers were employed in the United States during the summer and fall months under contract labour, which helped ease the employment situation during the slack off-season months. As a result of these favourable conditions, labour unrest has not been a problem during the past year. Although the cost of living is high, the labouring class is relatively well off, as wages are the highest paid in the British Caribbean."

Tropic Proofing. An official publication dealing with the results of extensive investigations of methods of protecting materials and equipment from the deteriorative effects of storage and use in tropical climates. It will be of particular interest to exporters. Obtainable from H.M.S.O., price 9d. net.

Jamaica Trade in 1948

Dollar Deficit Halved

THE annual review of trade conditions in Jamaica by the Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, for the year 1948, the first instalment of which appeared in the issue of *Foreign Trade* dated February 5th, reports a steady deterioration in general trade conditions throughout the island during the year, brought about, to a large extent, by the stringency of hard currency preventing purchase of goods in the cheapest markets and a consequent rapidly increasing cost of living. From 207.22 in January, 1948 the cost-of-living index rose to 251.78 in December.

By reason of the slowing down in trade there was accumulation of stocks on hand and congestion of goods and merchandise on the docks, with consequent deterioration in the payment of collections and a tendency in some quarters to repudiate drawings. The Commissioner looked for some improvement in the position from new money which would be brought into circulation with the start of the sugar crop and the progress of the tourist season. Tourist bookings for January, however, had been disappointing, while it was reported that cruise ships due to call at Jamaica in the early months of the year were considerably under-booked. The new Tower Isle luxury hotel, with 60 rooms, was opened on January 15th, 1949.

Jamaica's dollar deficit had been greatly reduced during the year, owing to drastic cuts in dollar imports other than food and paper. The actual figures were: deficit 1947, \$39,667,000; deficit 1948, \$20,587,000; but the 1948 deficit would be further reduced by the proceeds of sales of Jamaica sugar to Canada, for which Jamaica is paid in sterling and the dollars go to Great Britain. Canadian statistics put the value of imports of Jamaica sugar during the first ten months of 1948 at \$5,828,641.

The principal items of Jamaica's dollar expenditure in 1948 and 1947 were as follows:—

	1948	1947
	\$	\$
Food	15,283,000	14,863,000
Lumber	515,000	1,299,000
Iron and steel manufactures	925,000	1,036,000
Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments	299,000	780,000
Electrical goods and apparatus	589,000	1,173,000
Manufactures of Wood	584,000	1,607,000
Machinery	1,681,000	2,029,000
Cotton yarns and manufactures	846,000	3,853,000
Apparel	229,000	597,000
Footwear	129,000	996,000
Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	977,000	1,534,000
Paper, cardboard, etc.	1,408,000	1,314,000
Vehicles	572,000	2,773,000
Personal travel	783,000	1,495,000

Features of the position stressed by the Trade Commissioner are the fact that under the austerity programme the trade balance with Canada was much more favourable to Jamaica in 1948 than previously; that under the West Indies trade arrangement the total amount of dollars provided would not permit much more than "token" shipments to keep brand names on the market, which with Jamaica practice of distributing dollars equitably among traders provided

little opportunity for new lines or new manufacturers to gain a foothold; and that the United States is regaining her pre-war position under the operation of the "no discrimination" clause in the expenditure of dollars for imports.

Special inducements in the form of duty and tax concessions were offered during the year to encourage the introduction of new industries into the colony. Projects in progress and under consideration included a cotton textile mill; a cement factory; production of fertilizers from deposits of bat manure; production of gypsum building material; manufacture of buttons; production of cigarette tobacco; a motion picture industry; a bottling plant for rum; and a commercial fishing industry.

Malaria Control in British Guiana

DR. G. GIGLIOLI contributes to the December, 1948 issue of *Timchri*, the Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, an account of the results achieved in the control of malaria in that colony by the use of D.D.T.

These results have been spectacular, and have been given much publicity, sometimes of a kind likely to mislead the lay reader into the belief that the malaria problem has now been completely solved.

This is not so, and Dr. Giglioli points out that "British Guiana has been fortunate: the spectacular results obtained in this colony could not in fact be duplicated at will in every other malaria stricken country. The very characteristics which made *Anopheles darlingi* an exceptionally dangerous malaria carrier, have also been the cause of its downfall."

This species has a selective preference for human blood and a habit of biting and resting in houses, and not in the open. These characteristics render it especially vulnerable to D.D.T., when the insecticide is applied as a residual film to the interior of all the houses of a community. Other species, less selective in their biting habits and which bite and rest in the open, though responsible for a lighter incidence of malaria, present a more complicated control problem as only a small fraction of the mosquito population will enter houses and make contact with the insecticide. In such cases antilarval measures and surface water control must be associated with house spraying, operations which greatly increase costs and in British Guiana would be extremely difficult and prohibitively expensive. Fortunately in that colony these measures are not required. While cases of malaria may be expected at intervals as a result of the activities of other species, control of *Anopheles darlingi* has already resulted in malaria having ceased to be a disease of the community as a whole as it was up to quite recently. As this latter species is the main malarial carrier of all tropical South America, east of the Andes, it is reasonable to believe that the control technique successfully used in British Guiana will be applicable to that area, but for other parts of the world, with malaria carriers of different habit, other techniques will have to be worked out.

D.D.T. house spraying, as practised against *Anopheles darlingi*, has also brought about control of *Aedes aegypti*, the carrier of yellow fever, in the treated area, and a partial control of *Culex fatigans*, the carrier of filariasis.

U.K. Tobacco Supplies

The Commonwealth Economic Committee published in February the first post-war issue of *Tobacco Intelligence**, which is to appear quarterly.

This publication gives a review, with statistics, of world trade in tobacco, and shows the extent to which Commonwealth and Empire countries have been able to fill the gap in United Kingdom imports of tobacco caused by reduction of imports from the United States of America on account of the dollar position. In 1948 some 35 per cent of the United Kingdom's total tobacco imports came from Commonwealth and Empire sources, against 28 per cent in 1947 and 24 per cent in 1938. The Commonwealth Economic Committee point out that the Commonwealth and Empire proportion is in fact greater than is suggested by the figures since United States shipments are increasingly in the form of unstripped leaf, whereas a large part of Commonwealth and Empire supplies consists of strips.

The statistics recorded in the publication include the following particulars in respect of Jamaica:—

<i>Gross U.K. Imports of Unmanufactured Tobacco</i>			
1948	...	Stripped	... 33,000 lb.
		Unstripped	... 226,000 lb.
		Total	... 259,000 lb.
1947	...	Stripped	... 54,000 lb.
		Unstripped	... 85,000 lb.
		Total	... 139,000 lb.
1938	...	No particulars. Any imports included under the heading "other countries."	

U.K. Imports of Manufactured Tobacco (Cigars)

1948	1947	1938
232,000 lb.	409,000 lb.	6,000 lb.

Exports of cigarettes from the United Kingdom are also recorded, and include the following figures of exports to the British West Indies:—

1948	1947	1938
220,000 lb.	231,000 lb.	191,000 lb.

Immune Banana Experiments

Mr. H. J. Page, principal, Professor K. S. Dodds, Professor R. E. D. Baker, and Mr. N. W. Simmonds, of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, attended the third meeting of the Banana Research Committee of the British West Indies Banana Research Scheme (of which Mr. Page is chairman) in Jamaica on January 31st.

Professor Baker and Mr. Simmonds recently returned to Trinidad from an expedition to study and to collect bananas growing in East Africa, for use in the breeding programme at the Imperial College, and in Jamaica, the object of which is to breed a banana which, unlike Gros Michel, is immune from Panama disease, and otherwise as good as that variety for the export market. The results of that expedition, and the progress of the breeding work, were reviewed at the meeting in Jamaica.

*Obtainable from The Commonwealth Economic Committee, 2, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, London, S.W.1. Subscription rate, 41 per annum, post free.

Hawaii Sugar Prices

Producers' Difficulties

Mr. J. E. Russell, the retiring president, speaking at the annual meeting of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, termed his annual accounting "realistic rather than pessimistic" and noted that economic conditions had placed the industry in a difficult position, says the January issue of *Sugar*. Chief of these he listed the low price of sugar, both in relation to costs of other commodities and to production costs, and the strike which tied up west coast shipments for more than three months. He said: "On most plantations existing wage scales are above those that can be maintained without a substantial increase in to-day's market price of sugar. The present rates were initially agreed upon when raw sugar was selling for \$126.40 per ton and in the hope that approximately that price level would continue. Present depressed prices have thrown our wage costs badly out of balance. Some plantations have labour costs estimated at 63 per cent of the per-ton sugar price, and the average labour cost to-day for all plantations is about half the total income from sugar.

"Sugar continued to hold its position in 1948 as Hawaii's largest industry. It furnished year-round employment for over 25,000 persons during the year. In 1947 a direct tax bill of \$17,234,576.86 was paid by the sugar plantations of Hawaii and subsidiary companies, of which \$7,156,231.52 was paid to the Territory of Hawaii. Two out of every five dollars of produced wealth in the Territory comes from sugar production.

"As to the future, aggressive steps are being taken to acquaint the public and government agencies with the crucial condition of the domestic sugar industry. We hope to join in a programme intended to tell the American public that the price of sugar is low in relation to all elements entering into its cost of production, and particularly low in relation to the price of most items entering into the American family budget. With other domestic sugar producers we have presented to the Secretary of Agriculture what we believe to be convincing evidence that the price of sugar this year has not been in proper relationship with prices in general, as contemplated by the Sugar Act. We are hopeful that his responsibility to 'fairly and equitably maintain and protect the welfare of the domestic industry,' will induce him to frame a 1949 estimate of national consumption that will result in an average price of sugar for the year in keeping with the increasing cost of production. Only by such action can the plantations be assured of returns more nearly equal to those now realized by producers of other basic farm products."

British Guiana Sugar Inquiry

The commission appointed to investigate conditions in the sugar industry in British Guiana has concluded its work and left for London in the middle of February.

The commissioners visited every estate and investigated the working conditions of labourers in every stage of sugar production.



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

SIR HUBERT RANCE. Writing from St. John's on February 21st, our correspondent, Miss Helen Goodwin, says: "We are pleased to welcome Sir Hubert and Lady Rance who are now in Antigua and will shortly visit St. Kitts. Sir Hubert is acting as governor of the colony during the absence of Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, at present in England. Their charm and friendly hospitality, and their interest in local affairs during their short stay in the island have been much appreciated.

Race Meeting. "On the 17th, Sir Hubert and Lady Rance attended our race meeting at Cassada Garden, after which Lady Rance gave away the prizes. It was a very happy meeting and all events were closely contested. The Dewar Cup goes again to St. Kitts, being won by Dr. Lake's 'Alamein.' The cups were very evenly distributed. Mrs. Moody Stuart's 'Clipper,' a well-known and popular competitor, won the Lavington Cup, Mrs. R. N. Smith is now the proud holder of the Mountgay Cup, and Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin of the Brown and Co. Cup. The weather, which has been cold and windy with frequent showers, was kind to us, and the sun shone brightly all day.

Mount Joshua, the home of the late Major Joseph Dew and formerly of the Jarvis family, has been bought by Mr. Bernard H. Lofts Constable."

Cotton and Sugar. A correspondent, in a letter from St. John's, of February 16th, says: "Reaping of the cotton crop has been started and it is estimated that the output should be in the neighbourhood of 550,000 lb. lint, the largest crop for some years. Exceptionally high winds are hindering picking somewhat. Negotiations in respect of the reaping of the cane crop are expected to commence this week and it is hoped that an agreement satisfactory to all concerned will be reached at an early date.

Weather. "Up to the present, weather conditions are very favourable and should there be no set-backs the 1950 crops should show an improvement on the present ones.

"Lord Baldwin left for England on January 31st. It is understood that he has been called home to join in discussions regarding affairs of the Leeward Islands and wild speculations as to the reason for his call to London has brought this small island into news headlines in many places.

"The Mill Reef Club, which project was started about February, 1948, is now practically completed and is officially to be opened on the 17th. Several members are now in residence."

BARBADOS

Shipping. Miss Joan Kysh, secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee, in a letter dated February 1st, says: "A party of 175 American tourists

spent the day in Barbados on January 20th, when the s.s. *Stella Polaris* paid her second visit of the season. The m.v. *Interpreter* of the Harrison Line called at Barbados for the first time on January 13th. This new vessel can accommodate eight passengers.

"An exhibition of paintings of the West Indies by Robert James MacLeod, sponsored by the Barbados Arts and Crafts Society, was held at Queen's Park from January 10th to 15th. Bogumil Sykora, world-famous cellist, accompanied by Gerald Hudson, gave a concert at Combermere Hall on January 27th. Celebrating their 30th anniversary, K.L.M. Royal Dutch Airlines gave a showing of their Technicolor travel film "Bound for The Caribbean" at the Drill Hall, Y.M.C.A. and Y.M.P.C.

Entertainment Facilities. "An addition to the entertainment facilities of the island was the opening of the Plaza Cinema at Oistins, Christ Church. The Colony Club, St. James, another attractive residential club, has been opened under the management of Mr. Campbell Greenidge."

BRITISH HONDURAS

Fire in Belize. Captain M. S. Metzgen, in a letter from Belize dated February 15th, says: "At about 11 o'clock p.m. on February 12th, a fire broke out in Belize in the vicinity of the Palace Theatre. It started at the 'Coronation Bar,' and the entire building and stock-in-trade were destroyed. Two small adjacent buildings were also wiped out. The Palace Theatre was damaged; and the entire stock of films valued approximately \$50,000 was entirely reduced to ashes. The total loss is estimated at \$100,000 or £25,000.

"The fire brigade did excellent work and a good deal of credit is due to the Gloucester Regiment for their prompt co-operation. The fire assumed serious proportions and might have wiped out a large portion of the southern side of the city but for the mild prevailing wind at the time. No lives were lost; but ten persons were injured as a result of the stampede from the nearby theatre."

DOMINICA

Egg Price. Writing from Roseau, on January 31st, a correspondent signing himself "Wintergreen" says: "Eggs in Roseau sell for 4d. each and there is plenty of land available for poultry culture but progress in that direction is always met by the whispered words 'predial larceny.' Our experts in poultry culture consider it the broad path that leadeth unto bankruptcy.

Colonial Governors. "Mr. Winston Churchill said some years ago that he would like his colonial governors and administrators to stay longer on the job. Outsiders with colonial experience think with him that the continual changes and transfers prevent them from acquiring a good knowledge of the countries over which they have surveillance.

"Smuggling, as one would expect in Dominica,

resolves itself into a long-drawn fight between smugglers and police. The other night the police seized a canoe and cargo near St. Joseph's but at the trial the magistrate dismissed the case. The consignee came forward and claimed the goods, which had been shipped from the windward side of the island. The alleged smugglers got back their canoe.

"The Legislative Council has enacted quite a number of Ordinances making for our better governance. Thus we have one to amend the Lunatics Act, the usual one sanctioning our deficiency in money in 1946, another to incorporate the Reformed Methodist Church—a U.S.A. concern which has done great work here—two tackling income tax and others whose names elude me.

Canonesses of St. Augustin. "Five of the Canonesses of St. Augustin, whose good work amongst us is so well known, have received their certificates of naturalization and taken the relative Oath of Allegiance.

Finance Committee Minutes. "Our government has introduced an excellent innovation as it now publishes the Minutes of the Finance Committee. This gives us more or less an idea how the money goes."



Cottages for the factory workers at New Monymusk, Jamaica.

JAMAICA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *March 1st.*

Following last month's incident when the Trade Controller refused to comply with the ruling of the Executive Council permitting the entry of certain items from dollar countries, the Government has appointed a Trade Control Board of seven members. The chairman is Mr. Simon Bloomberg, the Collector-General, assisted by the Secretary of the Finance Board, the Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, the Secretary for Economic Affairs, and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce. The former Trade Controller, Mr. G. C. Gunter has resigned.

Mr. Nathaniel Davis, president of Aluminium Ltd., Montreal, states that the processing of bauxite by a small plant may start soon.

A new industry to manufacture "Bellrock"—plaster of Paris extracted from local gypsum—has started operations. It is expected to assist in solving the problem of erecting cheap houses.

The adverse trade balance fell by nearly £500,000 in 1948 by exports jumping £1,250,000. But it is reported that the Executive Council referred back to

the Committee the Budget estimates providing for a deficit of £1,500,000 with instructions to reduce by £500,000. A statement by the Island Treasurer that Jamaica can bear more income tax has aroused editorial, legislative and public criticism.

Interesting visitors include Lord Milverton, Lord Beaverbrook, Mr. Noel Coward and Joe Louis, who fought some exhibition rounds.

Lord Trefgarne told a press conference that development plans for Jamaica would probably involve an expenditure of £3,000,000. Projects include a cannery and cold storage.

Government is asking the Legislative Council for approval of a 5,000 acre irrigation scheme at Clarendon involving £100,000.

The General Election is expected in January, 1950.

TRINIDAD

Sugar. Our correspondent, Mr. Keith McCowan, in a letter from Port-of-Spain dated February 22nd, says: "The Trinidad sugar factories are in full operation and yields are surpassing expectations. The estimated outcome of the current crop is now 140,000 tons of sugar, an

increase of some 8,000 tons over the preceding estimate.

Copra. "The copra supply position continues to be grave and there is at present no prospect of Trinidad being able to resume the exports of coco-nut products to the British Caribbean area which were discontinued in April, 1948, and which it was contemplated would be made under the current British Caribbean Oils and Fats Agreement.

Cement. "Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd., of England, who have for over 10 years been investigating the possibility of establishing a cement industry in Trinidad are no longer interested in promoting the industry, under present conditions.

Trade. "Trinidad had an adverse trade balance of \$3,610,546 in December, 1948, according to the latest Customs figures. Imports for the month totalled \$13,108,685 and exports, including re-exports, \$9,498,139. The United Kingdom supplied the major portion of the colony's requirements, and was also the biggest buyer.

Shipping. "Port-of-Spain's \$1,000,000 slipway, built to carry 1,800 tons, has had to be restricted to a load of

(Continued on page 76)

West Indies at Westminster

Jamaica Battalion. Mr. Creech Jones, in a written reply of February 3rd, to a question by Mr. Driberg, stated that the Jamaica Battalion would continue in existence until March, 1950, and a further extension would be considered in October this year. The Battalion was a local full-time colonial unit for the purposes of internal security in the colony.

Colonial Development Corporation. Answering a question by Mr. Skinnard on February 9th, regarding the Colonial Development Corporation, Mr. Creech Jones said that the recommendations which had been made regarding British Honduras by the Evans Commission had been referred to the local Government and discussions were proceeding between the Corporation and the Government.

Mr. Creech Jones answered in the negative when Mr. Skinnard asked whether it was intended to have a separate subsidiary development corporation for British Honduras.

Leewards' Grants. In reply to a question by Mr. Swingler, Mr. Creech Jones stated that no grants in aid had been paid to the Government of the Leeward Islands during the preceding nine months. The Colonial and Middle Eastern Services Vote this year provided for a grant-in-aid of £20,000 for Montserrat, and part or all of this may be issued before March 31st. Some £150,000 had already been spent in the Leewards under the C.D. & W. Act, 1945, pending the receipt and approval of the colony's Ten-Year Plan.

Rice in Trinidad. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what steps were being taken to encourage rice-growing in Trinidad, especially in the Caroni area, where this crop was grown as a war-time expedient.

In a written reply dated February 9th, Mr. Rees-Williams, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, said that a committee was being appointed by the Governor to study the possibilities of large scale rice-planting in Trinidad. Mr. Rees-Williams would inform Mr. Skinnard of the terms of reference of the committee as soon as possible.

West Indies Sugar Price. Mr. Rankin asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was aware that the sugar producers and workers of British Guiana and the Barbados House of Assembly had asked that the British Government should pay a higher price for West Indian sugar; whether he was in consultation with the Minister of Food on the subject; and what action he proposed to take.

Mr. Creech Jones, in a written reply dated February 16th, answered in the affirmative, adding that he was aware of those representations, and he had been in continuous consultation with the Minister of Food on the subject.

Leewards' Hospital Facilities. Mr. Creech Jones, replying to a question by Mr. Harold Davies, said on February 9th that general hospitals in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat and cottage hospitals in St. Kitts, Anguilla and the Virgin Islands provided between them one bed for every 334 members of the colony's population. In addition, leper homes in Antigua and St. Kitts provided for about 100 inmates, and homes for the aged and infirm are maintained by Government in Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat. The Leeward Islands' Development plan provided for a new hospital in Antigua to replace the existing building at Holberton. The scheme was being examined in the Presidency and the Federal Architect's report on this important project was awaited.

Jamaica Shipping. Mr. Douglas Marshall asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on February 9th how many banana-carrying ships were owned by Jamaica in April, 1939; how many were now so owned; how many Jamaican vessels were sunk in the late war; and how many vessels had been handed to the Jamaican Government since the cessation of hostilities.

Replying, Mr. Creech Jones said that all ships which carried bananas from Jamaica to this country were privately owned. The greater part of the crop was carried by Messrs. Elders and Fyffes, a United Kingdom company, whose ships were registered here. The remainder were carried by the Jamaica Banana Producers' Steamship Company Ltd. which owned four ships in 1939, of which three were lost in the war. They were still operating the remaining ship.

Mr. Marshall then asked whether H.M. Government had

chartered a new refrigerated ship for Jamaica, and, if so, whether there was any subsidy involved.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that he was not aware of a subsidy, but there was an additional ship on the West Indian route.

Mr. Skinnard asked whether that was a new ship from a Belgian yard chartered to the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association.

Mr. Creech Jones thought that was under consideration.

Circular Despatches. Mr. Swingler asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on February 9th how many circulars, and on what subjects, had been sent to the Governor of the Leeward Islands during the past nine months.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that between May 1st, 1948, and January 31st, 1949, 143 circular despatches were sent to colonial governors including the Governor of the Leeward Islands. They dealt with the following subjects: Agriculture and economic, 15; Communications, 19; Colonial Service, 18; Education, 13; Information, 10; International, 12; Security, 15; Social Services, 16; and Miscellaneous, 25.

To a further question by Mr. Swingler, Mr. Creech Jones said that these circulars were absolutely essential in order that local governments might be kept well informed of events at this end in respect to the problems they themselves were handling. On questions of colonial service, economic control, communications, and so on, this supply of information was vital to ensure the efficient working of Colonial Government.

Barbados House of Assembly. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on February 16th whether his attention had been drawn to reports of a debate in the Barbados House of Assembly during which the allegation had been made that a highly placed colonial official had referred in offensive terms to a coloured member of the Executive Council; if any inquiry had been made into the matter; and whether the official in question was still serving in the colony.

Mr. Creech Jones said in reply that the Governor of Barbados had informed him that there was no foundation whatsoever for the allegation made in debate in the House of Assembly, on December 27th, last, that a member of Executive Committee had been referred to in offensive terms by a senior Government official. The member who made the allegation had been repeatedly asked by the official concerned to give particulars of the time and place of the alleged utterance, but had consistently refused to do so. The answer to the last part of the question was in the affirmative.

Prisons in the Leewards. Mr. Drayson asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on February 9th what methods of chaining were used in prisons in the Leeward Islands; and what reports he had received on the matter from the Governor.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that he had received no reports on the matter from the Governor. Irons were not used in the Leeward Islands as a punishment. Leg irons were permitted under the prison rules and regulations in restraint of a prisoner who is violent or who has escaped or attempted to escape. The policy was to abolish the use of chains and leg irons as a means of restraint in all prisons throughout the West Indies and a conference of West Indian prison officers held in Barbados in May, 1948 had agreed on the progressive reduction in their use.

Mr. Drayson then asked whether Mr. Creech Jones would confirm that the matter was specifically referred to in Lord Baldwin's speech, and was Lord Baldwin, when he made those comments, acting under instructions from Mr. Creech Jones.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that no instructions were given to colonial governors in regard to their speeches to the legislatures.

Colonel Stoddart-Scott asked whether leg irons and chains were used on women as well as men in the West Indies, but there was no reply.

British Honduras Unemployment. In answer to a question by Mr. Geoffrey Cooper, Mr. Creech Jones said on February 16th that the liaison officer appointed to attend to ex-servicemen's problems was attached to and had an office in the Labour Department. It had not been found necessary to provide him with a separate staff of his own. At the end of November, there had been 645 registered unemployed in British Honduras, of whom 102 were ex-Service men. Between that date and the end of January, the number of unemployed ex-Service men on the register had been reduced to 74, including

Company Reports and Meetings

Queen's Park Hotel Co., Ltd.

THE directors state in their report for the year ended September 30th, 1948, that the net profit amounted to \$8,983. After adding the balance brought forward of \$730, and the sum of \$3,506 transferred from general reserve there is a balance of \$14,219. From this is deducted interest and dividend received on special deposit transferred to special deposit account amounting to \$747, leaving available for distribution \$13,472. The directors propose that a dividend of 4 per cent less income tax be paid which will absorb the whole of the sum available.

Jamaica Sugar Estates, Ltd.

The directors in their report for the year ended August 31st, 1948, state that the net profit amounts to £26,532, to which is added £19,526 brought forward, making the sum of £46,058. From this is deducted £20,000 for transfer to general reserve, and out of the balance the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 7½ per cent free of income tax, amounting to £8,439, leaving to be carried forward £17,619.

The second mortgage debenture stock £73,988 was repaid at July 31st, 1948, at a premium of one per cent. The debenture stockholders received 75 per cent in cash and the balance in new ordinary shares issued at 5s. per share in accordance with the scheme submitted to and approved by the shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting of the company held on June 18th, 1948.

The arrangements entered into with H. M. Government whereby the whole of the company's sugar crop, less the amount reserved for local consumption in Jamaica, is taken over by the Ministry of Food, were continued during the year.

West Indies Sugar Company, Ltd.

An extraordinary general meeting of the company was held at Brook House, Park Lane, London, W.1, on February 28th, when a resolution was passed increasing the authorized share capital of the company from its present figure of £1,000,000 (divided into 300,000 6 per cent cumulative redeemable preference shares of £1 each and 700,000 ordinary shares of £1 each) to £2,400,000 by the creation of a further 1,400,000 ordinary shares of £1 each.

It is the intention of the directors to offer the 1,400,000 new ordinary shares at par by means of renounceable provisional allotment letters to the ordinary shareholders of the company registered at the close of business on February 23rd, 1949, in the proportion of two new ordinary shares for every ordinary share held at that date. The new shares will not entitle the holders thereof to receive any dividend which may hereafter be declared and paid on account or in respect of the company's financial year ended September 30th, 1948, but will rank for one-half of any dividend or dividends which may be declared and paid on account or in respect of the financial year ending September 30th, 1949. Subject to this all the ordinary shares in the capital of the company will rank *pari passu* in all respects.

Provisional arrangements have been made whereby Tate and Lyle, Ltd., and the United Molasses Co., Ltd., who together hold over 70 per cent of the existing ordinary share capital of the company will, free of commission, undertake to subscribe in proportion to their existing holdings for any of the 1,400,000 new ordinary shares which are not taken up by the existing shareholders of the company or persons in whose favour they shall have renounced their provisional allotments.

The directors further propose to offer for public subscription at an early date £1,000,000 3½ per cent debenture stock secured by a floating charge on the assets and undertaking of the company.

An accumulative sinking fund calculated to redeem £750,000 of such debenture stock by 1974 commencing in the year 1951 will be applied annually towards redemption of such stock by purchase in the market at or below par (exclusive of accrued interest and expenses) or in the redemption at par of stock to be selected by drawings. Any of such stock which is not previously redeemed by operation of the sinking fund or otherwise will be redeemed at par in 1974 and any stock purchased or redeemed will be cancelled.

Provisional arrangements have also been made whereby Helbert, Wagg and Co. Ltd. will underwrite the above-mentioned issue of £1,000,000 3½ per cent debenture stock.

The net proceeds of the issue of the new ordinary shares are

estimated at £1,392,300. This amount, together with the net proceeds of the above-mentioned issue of debenture stock, are required to provide for the following:—

(a) repayment of the £300,000 mortgage debenture stock of the company which is at present outstanding and repayable at par on one month's notice, and in any event not later than September 30th next.

(b) Repayment of temporary advances at present amounting to £1,736,000 made to the company by Tate and Lyle, Ltd., and the United Molasses Co., Ltd., to finance the new Monymusk project. This project, of which shareholders are already aware, comprises a new sugar factory, including a refinery and distillery, to replace one of the company's existing factories, together with the purchase of Hog Estate and agricultural development to provide the additional cane supply which will be required by the new factory.

(c) Further expenditure (estimated at £248,000) which will be necessary to complete the above project.

(d) Additional working capital of approximately £70,000.

It is expected that the new factory will commence operations by the end of March, 1949. It is then proposed to close down the old Monymusk factory which will be offered for sale. The bringing into operation of the new factory will result in substantial economies, and in addition it will have a production capacity of more than double that of the old unit.

The net profits of the company for the year ended September 30th, 1948, after making provision for depreciation but before taxation, amounted to £193,014 and based on existing conditions the bringing into operation of the new factory should, in the opinion of the directors, result in a satisfactory increase in profits.

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.

MR. MALCOLM MACLACHLAN presided at the 29th annual general meeting held in London on January 26th. At the outset of his speech the chairman paid the following tribute to the late Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling. "Colonel Hickling was our first general manager in Trinidad, where in 1919 he entered upon the task of converting what was then a cocoa plantation into the prosperous oilfield which he left behind upon his retirement in 1937. The success of our company is due in no small degree to the enterprise shown by Colonel Hickling and the sound foundations upon which he built up our organization in Trinidad. Upon his return to England he joined our Board and also took an active part in the affairs of the West India Committee and the Trinidad Oil Companies' London Committee, of both of which he was chairman at the time of his death. It is difficult to exaggerate the debt owed to Colonel Hickling by all of us who share in the fortunes of the Apex Co., whether as stockholders or as employees; our loss will also be shared by all who are engaged in advancing the interests and progress of the West Indies."

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, Mr. MacLachlan said: "Although the difficulties of obtaining supplies of material and equipment continue, there has been some improvement during the year. It is fitting that I should record the helpful attitude shown to the oil industry by the Petroleum Division of the Ministry of Fuel and Power within the limits imposed by the overall shortages which continue to prevail."

"During the year under review our capital expenditure on fixed assets other than wells exceeded the amount written off in respect of depreciation by £39,000. This is amply covered by the appropriation of £130,000 from the profits of the year to general reserve, bringing it up to the sum of £450,000."

DRILLING ACTIVITIES

"During the year we drilled 70,403 ft in continuance of our programme to obtain production and to extend the tested areas of the property. Seven wells were completed in the main field and four in the south quarry area."

"We have continued our activities in the synclinal zone. On the western boundary, approximately 2,150 ft south-west of well No. 440 a further well No. 462 was completed in June, but has yielded only a small and intermittent flow of oil."

"While these two wells have shown the presence of oil sands in the western section of the zone their permeability appears to be low and we have not as yet obtained production on a commercial scale from that section."

"On the other hand, approximately a mile to the east in the synclinal zone the wells Nos. 438 and 458 to which I referred last year have continued to be good producers. During the year a further well No. 469 was drilled to form a triangulation 800 ft

further to the east of these two wells. This well was completed in October as a small producer of a lighter quality oil which appears to be drawn from a different sand body.

"During the past week we have completed drilling a further well, No 474, 1,200 ft. south-west of well No 438. The electrical survey has indicated the presence of two oil sands and in accordance with our practice we have first tested the lower though smaller sand.

"The initial test has indicated a sufficient flow of oil to merit producing from this sand before proceeding to test what appears to be the main oil sand.

"While these developments in the synclinal zone during the past four years have been interesting and encouraging it should be appreciated that they have not thus far served to maintain our war-time rate of production.

NEW SALES AGREEMENT

"We continue to sell our crude oil to Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. The period of the agreement under which we have been operating having recently expired we have settled the terms of a new agreement with that company for a further period of years. Under the terms of this agreement we shall in future receive payment for our crude oil on a basis more directly related to United States posted prices for crude oil.

"You will be interested to recall that our association with Trinidad Leaseholds under the various sales agreements has now extended for nearly 30 years, during which time their refinery has handled the whole of our 80 million barrels of crude oil production. We look forward to a continuation under our new agreement of the cordial relations which have subsisted throughout with that company to our mutual benefit.

"We continue to sell our production of casing head gasoline to United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

HIGHER LEVEL OF OIL PRICES

"We have continued to benefit throughout the year from the higher level of oil prices. Members will recall that throughout the war a ceiling was placed on oil prices by the United States authorities. At the same time the cost of labour and materials rose steadily with the result that by the end of the war the margin between costs and oil prices had shrunk disproportionately as compared with other commodities. Thus the rise in oil prices since the termination of the war is the belated reflection of the increase in the cost of labour and materials, which still continues.

"The question of costs is one which engages our constant attention. Although there has been no appreciable change in the scale of our operations our total expenditure for the year under review was practically double that of the year 1938-39. While expenditure on this scale can be carried during a period of high revenue it will be appreciated that once a high cost structure is built up it is not easily reduced in the event of a recession in revenue. This is a fact what should constantly be borne in mind, not only by the owners and managers of the business but by organized labour and by government which takes the lion's share of our revenue.

"In this connexion I would draw your attention to the extent to which we now pay direct taxation to the Government of Trinidad. Out of the profits of the year, in contrast to the sum of £165,000 payable as dividend to our members, we have had to make provision for taxation of no less than £530,000, of which the share of the Government of Trinidad is estimated at £446,000. In addition, by reason of the present oil prices and recent changes in the method of assessment, which has still to be finalized, very largely increased royalties are now payable to the Government of Trinidad. It may interest you to know that we estimate that the payments we shall make to the Trinidad Government in 1949 for royalties and income-tax will be respectively more than five times and ten times those for the year 1939.

"You may consider that I have dwelt on these points at some length, but I do so deliberately in view of the irresponsible propaganda which is carried out in Trinidad against the oil industry. No opportunity is lost by certain elements of minimizing the very real contribution which the industry has made and will continue to make to the prosperity of the island. Such attacks are particularly irresponsible in view of the necessity to sustain the confidence of investors in the future development of the more speculative areas of Trinidad and the adjoining waters.

TRINIDAD AND THE OIL INDUSTRY

"It is with the more pleasure therefore that I refer to the able report on the oil industry recently presented by the Govern-

ment Petroleum Technologist. This report shows most strikingly the extent to which the fortunes of Trinidad are interwoven with those of the oil industry. For example, it is shown that as between 1939 and 1947 the direct contribution to the revenue of Trinidad by the oil industry in the form of taxation and royalties has increased nearly three-fold. For the year 1948 the report estimates the contribution of the oil industry to the total revenue of the island to be of the order of 25 per cent and on the basis of published results I judge that this ratio will be exceeded for the year 1949. If I may express the position in another way, the Trinidad Government is now participating to the extent of 50 per cent in the profits of the oil companies, in addition to which further taxation is payable in the United Kingdom.

"It is regrettable that there are to-day elements in every community who do their best to prevent the recognition of the part played by the basic industries, but to those in Trinidad and in this country who approach the matter without bias but with a desire to ascertain the facts I would recommend a study of this report, of which an excellent summary has appeared in a recent edition of the Petroleum Times (see last CIRCULAR).

"You will recall that last year I mentioned that the current agreement with the Oilfields Employers' Association of Trinidad and the Oilfields Workers' Trades Union, which had been satisfactorily observed, was then terminable. After negotiations extending over three months a new agreement covering a general wage increase to all classes of oilfield workers was entered into in March, 1948, for a minimum period of two years.

TERMS OF NEW CONSTITUTION

"The terms of the new Constitution for Trinidad were announced last week by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. This places greater powers in the hands of the elected members who will now form a clear majority in the Executive Council and will have an increased majority in the Legislative Council. The Governor will retain certain powers in reserve.

"Trinidad has enjoyed universal adult suffrage since 1946, and the new Constitution thus places the island as the most politically advanced of the West Indian colonies.

"I believe we can look to the elected representatives of the people in the exercise of their new powers to continue to show that sense of responsibility upon which is dependent not only the interests of commerce but the welfare of the whole community of Trinidad."

West Indies at Westminster

(Continued from page 72)

42 for whom casual work had been found.

In a further question Mr. Cooper asked what steps the Secretary of State proposed to take to establish a well-organized employment exchange in Belize in order to tackle more effectively than at the present time the urgent unemployment problem.

Mr. Creech Jones in reply said that the Government Departments were required to obtain such labour as they need through the Labour Department, which fulfilled the functions of an employment exchange and maintained a register of unemployed. That Department also kept in touch with private employers for the same purpose, and there would be no advantage in establishing a separate employment exchange.

West Indian Commissions. In reply to a question by Sir Peter Macdonald, Mr. Creech Jones said on February 9th, that he hoped that the Soulbury Report on conditions in the Leeward Islands and other islands would shortly be available.

Mr. Davies asked whether Mr. Creech Jones would give special attention to the Clement Jones Report on shipping in the West Indies which made a specific request for greater refrigeration capacity and inter-island communications.

Mr. Creech Jones replied in the affirmative, adding that that matter, as well as the provision of cold-storage, was receiving attention.

Mr. Harold Davies asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on February 9th, how many commissions were then sitting to report on the West Indies, and on what subjects.

In reply, Mr. Creech Jones said that a recent commission studied the sugar industry in Trinidad and in the Leewards and was preparing its reports in London. Another commission was at work on the same industry in British Guiana. The West Indian Standing Closer Association Committee of the local Legislatures was preparing a practical scheme for federation, while two associated inquiries were proceeding into a customs union and the unification of the public services.

West Indian Passenger List

Jamaica Banana Producers' Steamship Co.

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in R.M.S. Jamaica Producer (Captain G. S. Bardo), at London, January 24th:—

Mr. I. Bevan	Mr. J. Holly	Mr. M. Sadler
Mr. H. K. Bowen	Miss M. L. Jaques	Mr. H. J. Scott
Mr. I. B. Brown	Mr. J. Jeffreys	Miss A. Townsoud
Mr. F. S. Brown	Miss A. G. MacEwan	Mr. & Mrs. A. Tufodziecki
Mr. A. Burke	Mr. K. Meard	Mr. J. A. Watts
Mr. T. L. Burke	Mr. B. Peart	Mr. & Mrs. F. S. Widley
Mr. R. L. Burton	Mr. C. Pike	Mr. M. R. Wilkinson
Mr. C. A. Clarke	Mr. D. Powell	Miss B. W. Williams
Mr. S. C. Ellis	Mr. I. Prince	Mr. G. Woodstock
Mr. E. Gubern	Mr. J. Proctor	Mr. W. B. Wright
Mr. S. Green	Mrs. J. J. Robinson	

Sailings to Jamaica, in R.M.S. Jamaica Producer (Captain G. S. Bardo), from London, February 3rd:—

Miss G. Broadbent	Mr. R. E. Gray	Mr. S. F. Powell
Mr. & Mrs. K. Broadbent	Mr. & Mrs. H. P. Hansen	Mr. G. W. Reid
Mr. & Mrs. A. Brown	Mr. C. C. Hunter	Mr. & Mrs. G. Roydon
Mr. & Mrs. P. Corbett	Capt. P. Jeffs	Mr. B. N. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. S. A. Davies	Mr. & Mrs. N. Kirby	Mr. H. M. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. H. O'C. Day	Mr. F. R. Milton	Mr. & Mrs. H. Stern
Mr. & Mrs. G. P. Delgado	Rev. & Mrs. J. Munn	Mr. V. Symons-Jeune
Miss D. O. Figg	Mrs. J. Osborn	Mrs. L. R. Vautier
Mr. C. D. Gatehouse	Mrs. E. Pike	

Booker Line

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. End (Captain O. Njerve), at Liverpool, February 4th:—

Mr. D. C. Cuthill	Miss W. A. Donovan	Mr. J. V. Ryder
Mr. P. Dawson	Miss J. B. Matthey	Mr. G. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. H. Donovan	Miss R. Matthey	Mr. J. Smith

Sailings to British Guiana, in s.s. End (Captain O. Njerve), from Liverpool, February 16th:—

Mr. & Mrs. H. Burrowes	Mr. S. A. D. Keel	Mr. W. L. Sevier
Mr. W. A. Campbell	Mr. C. W. Rowcliffe	

Fyffes Line

Home arrivals, from Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Ariguani (Captain R. A. Thorburn), at Avonmouth, February 1st:—

Mr. Adams	Mr. & Mrs. Hayes	Miss D. Richardson
Mr. Bruce	Mr. King	Mr. & Mrs. Sasson
Mr. & Mrs. Butcher	Father M. Martinez	Mr. & Mrs. Simmonds
Dr. & Mrs. Cook	Mr. O'Neill	Mr. & Mrs. Stohy
Mr. & Mrs. Donohue	Mr. V. Pierre	Mrs. D. Thomas
Mr. Goss	Miss Rankinson	Mr. & Mrs. Wornop
	TRINIDAD	
Capt. T. Ace	Mr. & Mrs. R. Bell	Miss C. Page
Mr. L. Adams	Sir J. Irvine	Mr. I. Quarm
Miss H. Allen	Mr. & Mrs. J. Jones	Mrs. W. Scarf
Mr. N. Balfour	Mr. & Mrs. G. Kirby	Mrs. H. Simpson
Prof. K. Baskett	Mr. T. Little	Mr. & Mrs. Spooner
Mrs. J. Beer	Mr. & Mrs. O. McCulloch	Mr. F. Tucker
Mrs. W. Bentley	Mr. & Mrs. A. Middleweck	Mr. F. Walder
Mr. A. Bray	Mr. L. Morgan	Mr. E. Wright
Lady F. Campbell	Mrs. V. Ordon	Mr. E. Young
Mr. S. Earl		

Sailings to Bermuda and Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain G. S. Gracie), from Avonmouth, January 27th:—

Mr. R. W. Agnew	Miss I. M. Condon	Mr. J. Millbourn
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Aitken	Mr. R. O. Connon	Capt. & Mrs. B. Mitford
Mr. D. J. Barnfather	Mrs. J. J. Copeland	Mr. & Mrs. K. Monteith-Ross
Col. W. B. Bartram	Mrs. J. Esterling	Mr. R. S. Pershad
Mr. S. Bird	Mr. & Mrs. H. Fieldhouse	Mr. & Mrs. O. N. Phillips
Mrs. M. F. Black	Mr. & Mrs. A. K. Harrison	Mrs. I. P. Salter
Miss H. R. Bracher	Mr. & Mrs. S. P. Heyworth	Mr. & Mrs. B. V. Shann
Mr. E. W. Brandon	Mr. & Mrs. V. Higgins	Miss F. E. Stephens
Mrs. J. Bruly	Mrs. M. G. Hobbs	Mr. W. J. Thompson
Mr. L. F. Cairne	Miss B. Hopley	Major & Mrs. S. Vere-Fox
Miss V. A. Campbell	Mr. A. King	Mr. & Mrs. E. Warburton
Mr. A. M. Carter	Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Lamb	Mr. S. J. Weekes
Capt. E. W. Christmas	Mrs. V. C. Langley	Mr. S. W. Weston
Mr. & Mrs. A. D. Church	Mr. A. F. McIntosh	Mr. W. H. Wyatt
Miss S. G. Clarke	Capt. D. B. Metcalf	
Mr. J. B. Clegg		

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), at Avonmouth, February 15th:—

Mr. N. W. Ahin	Mr. J. O. Gordon	Mr. & Mrs. W. Moore
Miss I. M. Armitage	Sir H. & Lady R. Gray	Mrs. S. Morley-Naville
Mr. & Mrs. C. Arnold	Mrs. M. M. Hall	Dr. & Mrs. E. Morrisou
Mrs. A. E. Barclay	Mrs. C. M. Higgs	Capt. & Mrs. F. Rowlands
Mr. & Mrs. H. Bell	Miss L. L. Jackson	Miss J. Rowlands
Mr. & Mrs. A. Bentley	Mr. V. Jefferson	Maj. F. T. Russel
Mrs. D. Blakeley	Miss W. P. Jenyns	Mrs. R. R. Sale
Mrs. G. Howie	Mr. & Mrs. W. Juniper	Miss D. Selka
Miss G. Brown	Mr. A. D. Leonard	Mrs. S. Selka
Miss V. Crossdale	Misses O. & R. Leon	Mr. C. B. Spencer
Mrs. G. DeHart	Miss A. Lindsay	Mr. E. M. Townend
Mr. & Mrs. C. Diney	Mrs. N. H. Lowe	Miss J. A. Turner
Mr. K. Dodds	Rev. D. C. McMillan	Mr. & Mrs. J. Winter
Mrs. B. Floris		

Sailings to Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Ariguani (Captain R. A. Thorburn), from Avonmouth, February 9th:—

Mr. D. A. Arden	Rev. F. F. Gledstone	Mr. H. Mitchell
Mr. C. Barnett	Mr. G. G. Glenister	Mr. J. L. Mitchell
Miss A. J. Beattie	Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Greaves	Miss M. O'Leary
Mr. W. H. Buchanan	Mr. & Mrs. M. C. Gupta	Mr. E. Perugia
Mrs. M. I. Butler	Mrs. M. L. Haynes	Mrs. C. F. Phillips
Mr. C. D. Chapman	Mr. & Mrs. A. Holman	Mr. & Mrs. E. Portage
Rev. D. H. Cunningham	Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Jarvis	Mr. & Mrs. B. E. Rolfe
Mrs. F. I. Dickinson	Mr. C. A. Jenkins	Mr. L. J. Sedman
Miss H. Donald-Hill	Mr. & Mrs. M. H. Laing	Mr. & Mrs. G. Shepherd
Dr. & Mrs. H. Evans	Mrs. D. P. Lee	Major & Mrs. A. Spruel
Mr. R. G. Lemah	Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Lucas	Col. & Mrs. G. Stratton
Dr. & Mrs. T. Fielden	Mr. J. O. Lyle	Mrs. F. H. Swinton
Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Foster	Miss E. E. Mathieu-Perez	Mr. & Mrs. E. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Foster	Mr. & Mrs. N. G. McLean	Miss M. B. Walker
Mr. G. H. Fryer	Miss R. A. Millbourn	Miss M. N. Wolf

Sailings to Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), from Bristol, February 24th:—

Mr. T. I. d'Aguiar	Miss J. M. Gordon-Luhrs	Miss S. J. Lusty
Mr. G. B. Batebush	Miss C. Groomie	Mrs. G. L. Morris
Mr. C. W. Billinge	Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Groomie	Miss G. S. Morris
Mr. D. Boon	Mr. R. Groomie	Mr. & Mrs. G. O'Reilly
Miss K. E. Boon	Mr. L. W. Harris	Miss P. F. O'Reilly
Mr. & Mrs. H. Bowring	Mr. F. C. Hadden	Miss K. N. Pears
Mr. & Mrs. C. Brissett	Mr. & Mrs. W. Hindle	Mr. G. A. Ross
Mr. & Mrs. J. Collingwood	Trig. M. Hotine	Mr. & Mrs. J. Shields
Mr. H. Doyle	Mr. & Mrs. G. Humphreys	Mr. C. F. Temple
Mr. & Mrs. D. Eglington	Miss V. D. Hunt	Mr. A. M. Thomson
Mr. E. C. Elliott	Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Knill	Mr. & Mrs. N. Walker
Capt. R. D. French	Mr. & Mrs. J. Lankester	Miss M. H. Warner
Mr. H. C. Gabriel	Mr. & Mrs. S. P. Leigh	Mr. H. W. Whittles
Mr. & Mrs. J. Gallagher	Mr. & Mrs. Laurie-Smith	Mr. A. W. Woodland
Mrs. G. M. Gardener	Mr. W. J. Lusty	Miss Worthington-Evans

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Ecos (Captain R. C. Vigners), at London, February 10th:—

Miss M. Bailey	Miss R. A. Calcraft	Mrs. I. Marshall
Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Beaton	Mr. S. L. Calcraft	Miss D. M. Rutherford
Mr. & Mrs. S. Braxington	Mrs. W. M. Cartwright	Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Studdler
Mr. H. J. Calcraft	Mr. V. E. Cox	Dr. & Mrs. T. W. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. D. Calcraft	Mr. J. Davidson	Miss L. I. Thomson

Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

Home arrivals from the West Indies, in s.s. Stuyvesant (Captain B. K. Molenaar), at Plymouth, February 8th:—

Mr. E. B. Armstrong	Mr. & Mrs. D. W. Ford	Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Rhodes
Miss J. F. Armstrong	Miss S. M. Ford	Mr. & Mrs. G. D. Ross
Mr. Carr Brown	Mr. C. J. Franklyn	Miss M. A. Ross
Mr. & Mrs. G. Cooper	Mrs. D. G. Gooding	Miss C. Theisen
Miss P. A. Crews	Mr. & Mrs. F. Hughes	Mrs. E. A. Theisen
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Crews	Mrs. M. H. Lawson	Mrs. M. C. Thornycroft
Mrs. D. Dare	Mrs. D. J. Liddell	Miss E. S. Williams
Miss D. Dare	Mr. A. C. Palmer	Mrs. J. Williams
Miss C. M. Ford		

Dollars and Sterling

What is the sterling equivalent of 45,000 West Indian dollars? Reference to the "Dollars to Sterling" card recently published by the West India Committee will supply the answer to this and many similar questions.

The dollars side of the card shows 180 calculations ranging from one cent to \$50,000, while on the sterling side there are a similar number of equivalents from one penny to £10,000.

Copies of the card may be obtained from the Committee at 40, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2, for 1s. 6d., post free.

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of January production of crude oil and casing head gasolene amounted to 242,063 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the four weeks ended January 31st was 436,251 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for January was 222,873 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of January crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 516,593 barrels.

The Markets

March 1st, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below—

Dividend for Latest Year		Latest Quotation	Price Year Ago
		80 82xd	78 80xd
24	Consols	103½	104½
3½	War Loan	103½	104½
20	Angostura Bitters	85/-	95/-
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	41/3	46/3
	Antigua Sugar Factory	12/-	13/-
	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	36/6	38/6
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	54/-	58/-
14	Booker Bros. McConnell	91/-	95/-
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	29/4½	31/10½
5	British Guiana Cons. Gold 3/9	1/3	1/9
8½	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	3/6	4/-
6	Caroni Ltd., 6% Pref.	23/1½	25/7½
*74	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	5/-	6/-xd
12½	Kern Oil Co. 3/3	9/-	10/-
10	Limmer & Trinidad Asphalt. Ord.	46/10½	49/4½
	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	1/-	2/-
8½	Royal Bank of Canada 3/0	145/-	165/-
*17½	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	70/-	75/-
*3	Stc. Madeleine Sugar	16/3	17/6
10	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	18/-	20/-
	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	2/6	3/6
*14	Trinidad Leaseholds 5/-	25/-	27/-
*10½	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	24/-	26/-
	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 6% Pref.	22/-	24/-
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/6	6/3
5	United British Oilfields 6/3	20/-	22/6
5	West Indies Sugar	20/-	21/3xd
6	West Indies Sugar 6% Pref.	23/9	25/-xd

* Free of income tax.

Honey continues under Government control and the price is unchanged at 72/6 per cwt. c.i.f., U.K.

Pimento. On the spot, parcels are still offering at 1/2 per lb., but little trade is passing. The price for forward shipment remains at 119/- c.i.f., U.K., there has been some inquiry from the Continent, but so far no business has been reported.

Ginger. Jamaica is still not prepared to offer new crop. The market has advanced and information has been received from the colony that at least 120/- c.i.f., U.K. would have to be paid for No. 3 grade. There has been a little business in second-hand parcels at 117/6 c.i.f., U.K., and small lots on the spot are available at 125/- per cwt.

Nutmegs continue quiet with the price lower for defective at 1/1 per lb. c.i.f. and small sales. Sound unassorted are unchanged at 1/11 c.i.f., but buyers show no interest.

Mace. Trade has been slow with whole pale offered at 5/3 c.i.f.; spot is quiet with small sales at recent prices. Broken is quoted at 1/- to 4/3 according to quality.

West Indian Sugar Production

The following statement of the estimated production of sugar for the quota year ending August 31st, 1949, summarizes the latest information received by the West India Committee:—

	tons		tons
Barbados	150,000	Windward Islands—	
Jamaica	229,100	St. Lucia	10,700
Leeward Islands		St. Vincent	2,600
Antigua	15,000	British Guiana	189,850
St. Kitts	32,000	British Honduras	2,000
Trinidad	142,450		
		Total	773,700

Of the estimated total of 773,700 tons, approximately 100,000 tons is required for consumption in the West Indian colonies. Further, the production figure for Barbados in terms of actual sugar will be reduced by 20,000 tons the equivalent of which will be manufactured as fancy molasses.

(Continued from page 71)

600 tons. The Governor has appointed a body of technical experts, headed by the Harbour Engineer, to investigate the reason for this failure.

Education. "The Central Library of Trinidad and Tobago, established in 1941, became a government department on February 11th, when the Legislative Council unanimously approved a Bill to give it legal status.

Mahatma Gandhi. "Crowds assembled on the Queen's Park Savannah, Port-of-Spain, on January 30th to pay tribute to the late Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death. The Governor presided over the gathering.

Carnival. "The Monday and Tuesday preceding Ash Wednesday fall this year on February 28th and March 1st—Carnival time in Trinidad. Preparations for the revelry are in full swing and business premises are planning as usual to close for the occasion. About 10,000 masqueraders, in more than 100 bands, are expected to participate in the Queen's Park Savannah Competition in Port-of-Spain."

Cocoa Price Drop. According to the "Trinidad Newsletter," issued by the Trinidad and Tobago Information Office, the prices of cocoa continued their downward trend by another drop of \$4 per fanega on both grades effective January 31st. This is the third drop within the last five weeks, and the fourth since April, 1948. The Exporters Committee blames the continued drastic decline in New York and all other consuming countries for the latest drop in prices.

Mr. C. E. Woodhouse, representative of Woodhouse, Carey and Browne, cocoa brokers in the United Kingdom, stated that prospects of West Indian cocoa were much better to-day than they have been in the past, but that it is unlikely that there would be a repetition of the old prices paid for cocoa.

Colony's Budget Approved. The Legislative Council on January 27th approved the colony's 1949 Estimates which provide for a total revenue of \$42,627,045 and an expenditure of \$41,554,367. An Appropriation Bill authorizing expenditure of \$47,799,185 for the service of the colony during the year ending December 31st, 1949 was unanimously passed.

Increased Pay for Legislative Members. Unofficial members of the Trinidad and Tobago Legislative Council are to get a monthly emolument of \$320, an increase of \$170, from January, 1949, according to the provisions in the Budget for 1949.

New Box Company Registered. A new company with a nominal capital of \$1,000,000 was registered with the Registrar of Companies as the "Trinidad Staped Boxes Limited." The company is limited by shares and its capital is divided into 10,000 shares of \$100 each. Among the businesses permitted to be carried on by this company will be the manufacturing of tins, drums, buckets, boxes and other containers whether made of metal, wood or any other material; dealing in all kinds of paper, and articles made thereof, such as cardboard, millboard and wallboards. Messrs. George W. Rochford and Charles Skinner Bushe are Directors of the Company.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LXIV

APRIL, 1949

No. 1216

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CARIB, ESTRAND, LONDON

40, NORFOLK STREET,
LONDON, W.C.2

April, 1949.

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the West India Committee (Incorporated by Royal Charter) will be held at 40, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2, on Wednesday, the 25th day of May, 1949, at 11.30 a.m.

By order,
R. GAVIN, Secretary.

AGENDA

(i) To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the year ended April 30th, 1949, the audited statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1948, and the Balance Sheet.

(ii) To elect members of the Executive Committee in the place of those who retire by virtue of Article VI of the Royal Charter of Incorporation but are eligible for re-election.

(iii) Any other business.

Strength Through Unity

PRIMARY producers throughout the West Indies have decided to form an organization to be known as the British Caribbean and British Guiana Federation of Primary Producers. A preparatory committee has been set up with powers to take all necessary steps to form the federation. Commodity associations are to be set up in those colonies which have not so far got them and regional bodies on a commodity basis are to be promoted within the federation.

These steps have been taken following on the passing of a resolution calling for the establishment of such a federation at the Montego Bay Conference on Closer Association of the West Indies. Some progress has also been made towards the establishment, on a more formal basis than at present, of British Caribbean Trade Commissioner Services, which were also called for at the same time. Meanwhile the Closer Association Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Hubert Rance, which has the task of drawing up a federation constitution for the West Indies, has been meeting in Trinidad. It is understood that the committee has already completed its consideration of the structure of a Federal Executive and that it has begun discussions on the financial basis of federation. The committee

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is due to meet again to consider its preliminary draft report in Barbados towards the end of June.

At the same time unification of the public services of the area is being studied while the question of the establishment of a Customs Union is also being examined.

So the machinery of federation is gradually being built up and in an area traditionally individualistic primary producers are finally realizing the truth of the old adage that unity is strength. In the world of to-day, the individual producer cannot stand alone. Proper organization of markets and closer association for bargaining purposes are essentials. In that realization we welcome the efforts now being made to extend the useful work of existing commodity associations, the formation of new bodies where necessary and the co-ordination of their activities on a regional basis.

Bananas and Bulk Purchase

THE Jamaica All Island Banana Growers' Association has submitted to the Government a memorandum supporting the policy of bulk purchasing of bananas by way of a ten year agreement with H.M. Government, and giving reasons why the system is particularly desirable for that commodity.

These reasons are:—

- (1) To give security to investors;
- (2) To justify soil conservation measures and intensive cultivation;
- (3) To provide regular employment;
- (4) To improve the standard of living;
- (5) To minimize the risk of loss from hurricane destruction during the few years of a short-term agreement;
- (6) To provide the best incentive through which the former status of the industry can be regained;
- (7) A ten year agreement for marketing this important primary product of Jamaica will establish machinery for safeguarding Jamaica's economic welfare better than any other arrangement—by strengthening the understandings between Jamaica and the Mother country.

The memorandum indicates that discussions have already taken place with the Colonial Office on this question when the feasibility of extending the existing four year agreement to cover a period of ten years was discussed. While it was not practicable to reach finality then, further discussions are to take place shortly.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE conference which has been summoned to meet in London on April 21st is likely to be momentous for the future of the British Empire. Its importance is attested by the promised attendance of all the imperial Prime Ministers except possibly Mr. St. Laurent of Canada, who has previous engagements he finds it difficult to postpone, and who will probably be represented by Mr. Pearson, the Minister of External Affairs. Although the advance announcements have been studiously vague, it may be taken as certain that the essential business before the conference will be the discussion of the future status of India. Mr. Nehru has made it clear that his country, which already enjoys complete independence under the Crown, will claim to be converted into a republic by August 15th. This is on the face of it a proposal to leave the British Commonwealth; and none of the other members, least of all the United Kingdom, would wish to retain India in their association against her will. But, on the other hand, it is understood that the Indian objection is solely to the monarchy, and that but for that she would wish to continue in her present partnership with the other Commonwealth nations.

Under the Statute of Westminster the only formal bond uniting the nations of the Commonwealth is allegiance to the King. (Some attention is due to the language recently used by Dr. Evatt of Australia, who contends that it is now the person of the King that unites us, rather than the abstract institution of the Crown, which may mean different things in the constitutions of different countries.) In these circumstances, is it possible for a professed republic to remain a member of the Commonwealth? This is the searching question with which the conference will have to deal. Implicit in it is the problem of whether it is desirable to perpetuate a Commonwealth on two levels, an inner circle sharing allegiance to the King, and an outer connected with it—by what tie? It is not a matter solely affecting the Commonwealth; foreign powers may have their view, because, through the device of "most-favoured-nation clauses" in commercial treaties, they may object if we extend the privileges of imperial preference to a state not recognizable as part of the Empire by the recognized international test of subjection to His Majesty.

No one wants to drive India further away than she insists upon going. On the other hand, the dislike of the "two-tier Commonwealth" in the older Dominions is strong. They are not likely to wish to modify their own relationship to the King. They also feel that, if India is allowed to repudiate her allegiance and yet still retain the full privileges of Commonwealth membership, other Dominions with a leaning towards republicanism may be induced to follow her example, and that the break-up of the Commonwealth may thereby be hastened. There are obviously difficult problems of both theory and practice awaiting the conference. But it is beginning to be felt that some division of the Commonwealth

into first and second-class members has become regrettably inevitable.

A few more tentative steps have been made towards the restoration of a peace-time—certainly not a "pre-war"—economic system. The President of the Board of Trade has made what he calls a bonfire of a large number of detailed controls, mostly affecting this, that and the other brand of wholesale trade and not directly known to the private citizen. The changes visible to us all are primarily the complete abolition of clothes rationing—which has in effect practically abolished itself, because prices are so high that few people could afford to buy up to the full limit of their coupons—and of the rationing of chocolates and sweets. This second relaxation does not take effect until the last week in April; but a curious foretaste of it is given by the refurbishing of the penny-in-the-slot machines at the railway stations, which have stood empty for nine years.

For most people, however, these mild indications of better times are much more than offset by the drastic reduction in the meat rations. We are now down to a ration of ten pennyworth of meat a week, of which two pennyworth must be taken in the form of "bully beef." This is a lower ration than we had at any time in the war, and lower, I believe, than that of any other European country at the present day. The immediate cause is the default of the Argentine Government on its contract to supply meat in bulk to the Board of Trade. The Argentines fell short, in the trading year now closing, by nearly 100,000 tons; and they now claim more than double the agreed price for what is still due, and for all future supplies. Resentment at this sharp practice is combined with a growing sense that the episode brings the whole policy of bulk buying through a Government department into serious question.

By the small majority of three votes the House of Commons has rejected a Private Member's Bill for a compulsory simplification of English spelling. The discussion in the House was perhaps less interesting than outside, where it provoked an entertaining newspaper controversy between two of our leading wits, Mr. Bernard Shaw and Sir Alan Herbert, the younger contestant, who was against change, having rather the better of the argument. Much invective has been levelled in the course of the controversy over the alleged tyranny of Dr. Johnson over modern English spelling. But in fact, Dr. Johnson's system was not imposed by Act of Parliament; Johnson compiled a dictionary, and the literary world were persuaded to spell like him by the merits of that famous book. It is perfectly open to Dr. Follick (the present prophet of simplified spelling) to publish a dictionary of his own and let the issue be settled in fair contest between the two systems. Even in a socialistic age, it would seem reasonable for Government to stand aside from this sphere and leave a little licence to "the taste and fancy of the speller."

The West India Committee

Home and Colonial Sugar

AT recent meetings of the Executive of the West India Committee, the following six candidates were elected to membership:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MR. VICTOR GEORGE MARDON (Country)	Mr. A. F. Mallory Mr. Alexander Elder
MR. I. MURCHISON RIGSBY (Trinidad)	Mr. A. H. Hamel-Smith Mr. George Cabral
MR. ARCHIE GEORGE LEWIS DOUGLAS (Barbados)	Hon. J. H. Wilkinson, O.B.E. Hon. Dudley G. Leacock
MR. PERCY HAROLD HAMILTON DE PASS (Ecuador)	Mr. John Burslem Mr. H. Alan Walker
MRS. ADA LEGGATT (Country)	Mr. M. S. Moody-Stuart, M.C. Mr. L. B. Whitaker, M.I.C.E.
PASOLDS LTD. (Country)	Sir Alexander Roger, K.C.I.E. Mr. A. F. Roger

The Obituary List

The chairman referred, with great regret, to the death of Mr. Robert Arthur (Barbados) and of Major W. Bain Gray, C.B.E. (Country) who was for many years Director of Education, British Guiana, and later Administrator of St. Vincent.

New Life Member

Mr. C. I. J. Butterfield (London) is the 362nd member of the West India Committee to take up life membership.

The Library

The thanks of the Executive have been expressed to Sir Algernon Aspinall for two gifts to the library—a small book, *Memories of a Long Life*, by Sir John Hutson, and a manuscript with the title, Statement of General Average and Claim under Protection Risks per the s.s. *Roddam*. It contains extracts from log books, etc., regarding the eruption of Mt. Pelé on May 8th, 1902, and the award to the master of the *Roddam*, Captain E. W. Freeman.

Sugar and Nationalization

Mr. Bustamante's Reaction

ACCORDING to forecasts made in certain London newspapers, the Labour Government, if returned to power at the next General Election, will nationalize the sugar refining industry of the United Kingdom.

Rumours have been circulating in the West Indies that the sugar industry of those colonies would also come under Government control. Asked for his opinion regarding these rumours, Mr. Bustamante, Minister of Communications in Jamaica, is reported to have said:—

"Certain English politicians should mind their own business. One wonders if these statesmen would like to place the colonies in the sorry position in which they now find themselves, financially and otherwise, by endeavouring to nationalize our industries, which would completely destroy us.

"As head of the elected Government, I demand that these politicians, speaking so lightly of nationalization, should not interfere with us."

Differential Treatment Alleged

THE following letter from Mr. J. M. Campbell, acting chairman of the West India Committee, addressed to the editor of *The Times*, appeared in that journal of March 25th:—

The Minister of Agriculture has announced general increases in prices for agricultural products, among them increases for sugar beet in both 1949 and 1950. Mr. Williams said that in fixing the new prices the Government had considered not only the economic position of the industries concerned and changes in production costs that have occurred or are imminent, but also the White Paper on "Personal Incomes, Costs and Prices."

The British Government have contracted to buy British West Indian cane sugar until the end of 1952, at prices to be negotiated annually. Since October West Indian sugar producers have been urging upon the Ministry of Food the need for a higher price for their product in 1949 for the very reasons which Mr. Williams recognizes as justifying an increase in the 1949 and 1950 prices of sugar beet. In the face of every reasonable effort which West Indian producers could have made to obtain such an increase—which all who know the true facts believe to be absolutely justified—an increase has been rejected. British West Indian producers will now be dumb-founded to hear that the price for sugar beet has been raised, particularly as they know that it is already considerably more expensive than their cane sugar.

The British West Indian is absolutely capable of appreciating the needs of the British farmer and will be the first to realize the fairness of the Minister's decision, but he will be quite unable to understand why arguments which are accepted in the case of the British farmer should be rejected or ignored in his case. He will also wonder, as he has been wondering for some time now, whether the British Government make decisions affecting his livelihood in the light of the exigencies of United Kingdom economy alone rather than against the background of the fundamental social and economic needs of the West Indies. If the future of the British Commonwealth lies in its development there must be an incontrovertible case for doing at least as much for the peoples and the industries of backward areas, both by way of fair prices and long-term security, as is done for those who are happy enough to have reached more advanced standards.

Castries Fire Disaster Fund

As reported in the CIRCULAR for February, a total of £1,849 9s. 6d. was subscribed to the fund raised by the West India Committee to assist the many cases of distress in Castries, St. Lucia, resulting from the great fire of June last. This sum was duly remitted in full to St. Lucia, all the postal and other expenses being borne by the Committee.

A letter has been received from the Hon. F. E. Degazon, chairman of the Castries Fire Relief Committee, expressing grateful thanks for this contribution which is being put to the best possible use.

The Leeward Islands

Lord Baldwin Returns as Governor

LORD BALDWIN, Governor of the Leeward Islands, who arrived in London on February 12th for talks with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, left for Antigua on March 12th. He arrived there on March 23rd and received an enthusiastic welcome from the populace as will be seen from messages from St. John's reproduced on page 99.

The question of Lord Baldwin's return to the Leeward Islands was discussed in the House of Commons on March 9th. The following questions and answers have been taken from *Hansard*.

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is now in a position to make a complete statement of his recent discussions with the Governor of the Leeward Islands.

Mr. Creech Jones: On January 16th, I informed the Governor by telegram that I was becoming concerned over the situation in the Leeward Islands, and that I thought it might be necessary for him to come to London for personal discussion. On January 17th I asked him to come over as soon as possible, and he left Antigua on January 31st, arriving in London on February 12th. I had for some time been anxious lest the sugar cropping season, due to start last month, should be attended by further strikes such as took place in 1948 and inflicted very serious losses on all concerned in the industry and on the general economy of Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis, the two Presidencies immediately concerned. Arbitration in St. Kitts, agreed by both parties after last year's strike, upon certain outstanding points had not been completed in January last, and I was disturbed by the absence of adequate reports upon the industrial situation and upon various other important aspects of the administration. These included the presentation of the colony's ten-year development plan, which has been awaited for some time, and the problem of constitutional reform.

These matters have been fully discussed with the Governor during his visit, and I have indicated to him my views upon the policy to be pursued and the measures to be taken to promote public confidence in the administration. Lord Baldwin is shortly returning to resume his duties as Governor. The ten-year plan has now been forwarded by the Acting Governor, and is under examination in the Colonial Office. The findings of the arbitrator in the matters referred to him after the St. Kitts strike last year have been promulgated in the Presidency. My views on the question of the constitution have been communicated to the Acting Governor by despatch and will shortly be published. Lord Baldwin has expressed to me his unqualified regret at the nature of statements attributed to him in certain organs of the Press after his arrival in this country.

Mr. Gamman: Does the right hon. Gentleman approve of a Colonial Governor who is still serving making such statements as, "You see what happens if I do not go back?" "The scandalous rush with which I was recalled," scarcely fits in with what the right hon. Gentleman has just said and with the fact that Lord Baldwin was forced to live in Guadeloupe; and as the

honour of the Colonial Service is involved, will the right hon. Gentleman say whether he would have tolerated that from a Governor who was not appointed for political reasons?

Mr. Creech Jones: First of all, there is no clear evidence that these statements were made by Lord Baldwin; indeed, Lord Baldwin has repudiated those statements which have appeared in the Press in regard to his administration.

Mr. Lewis: Is my right hon. Friend aware of the fact that progressive people throughout the world will be pleased to know that my noble Friend is returning to the Leeward Islands, and will he give an assurance that there are no strings attached to his return?

Mr. Creech Jones: I really do not understand what that question means.

Mr. Stanley: In view of the answer which the right hon. Gentleman has just given, why did he have to make such a mystery about this when it was raised in the House three weeks ago? Has not his handling of the situation only given rise to the most unfortunate impression that in fact he wanted to get rid of Lord Baldwin and that he has not dared to do so?

Mr. Creech Jones: I think I have made no mystery whatsoever in regard to Lord Baldwin's coming to this country. I asked Lord Baldwin if he would come to this country in order to discuss the problems of administration of his territory, which is a perfectly normal procedure in regard to colonial governorships, as the right hon. Gentleman is fully aware.

Mr. Stanley: But the right hon. Gentleman will recollect that on that occasion I asked him whether Lord Baldwin would be returning and it was on that question that he made such a mystery.

Mr. Creech Jones: I made no mystery whatsoever. I said that there were a number of problems which were perplexing me in regard to the administration of the territory, that I had formed no judgment in regard to those problems and would make no statement in regard to the future of the Governorship of the Leeward Islands until I had had the opportunity of the fullest examination of all the problems involved.

Guianas Exchange Information

International pooling of ideas on economic and scientific matters in the Guianas is now taking place as a result of a three-days' conference held in British Guiana.

The conference was between the Governor of British Guiana (Sir Charles Woolley), the Governor of Dutch Guiana and the Prefect of French Guiana.

The three decided that there should be an interchange of information between the technical departments of the three Governments, on mining, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, commerce and public health.

Visits to the three Guianas by officials of the staffs concerned have already taken place.

During their stay in British Guiana, the Governor of Dutch Guiana and the Prefect of French Guiana visited a sugar estate and a Government experimental scheme for mechanized rice production. Their wives visited an infant welfare centre, Bishops' High School for Girls and the Carnegie Centre for Women.



FINISH OF THE BOAT RACE. A CLOSE WIN FOR CAMBRIDGE



TAKING THE CHAIR JUMP AT THE GRAND NATIONAL

[See page 90



TOWER ISLE--A NEW HOTEL IN JAMAICA



THE BOOKER LINE "AMAKURA" READY FOR LAUNCHING

[See page 90

The Duty on Rum

Appeal to Chancellor for Reduction

THE following letter, dated February 28th, has been sent by the West India Committee to Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

Sir,

We have the honour to refer to the question of the present high duty on rum imported into the United Kingdom which is crippling the trade of the British West Indies.

During the last three years the amounts of rum imported into this country from British sources have been:—

1946	6,659,656 proof gallons.
1947	8,119,525 " "
1948	9,583,068 " "

While it is not possible to say how much of this rum has gone for manufacture into industrial spirits, how much for re-distillation for gin and how much has, or will be, consumed as rum, we think it reasonable to assume, from the Customs and Excise returns available to us that at least the following amounts have, or will eventually, attract customs duty or excise duty at the preferential rate: from 1946 Imports 6,000,000; from 1947 7,500,000; from 1948 9,000,000 all proof gallons.

The amounts of duty involved at the present preferential rate of duty on spirits viz., £10 11s. 3d. would be as follows:—

In respect of—

1946 rum 6,000,000 proof gallons	£63,375,000
1947 " 7,500,000 " "	79,206,250
1948 " 9,000,000 " "	95,062,500

£237,643,750

We realize that these figures may not be exactly accurate but they do serve to show the magnitude of the burden placed on what is largely produce of Britain's own colonies through this penal duty. As they stand they work out to an average payment of just under £80,000,000 a year which is more than the total annual revenue of the colonies from which the rum is mainly exported.

In the face of this penal rate of duty it is little wonder that demand for rum is falling, that in 1949 imports into the United Kingdom are likely to be smaller and returns to the colonial producer very much less than in 1948. This latter, combined with higher working costs in the British West Indies and British Guiana sugar industries and the refusal of H.M. Government to increase the price it pays for sugar from these colonies to meet the situation, impels us to ask you to consider making a substantial reduction in the duty on rum from the colonies and dominions in the coming Budget.

It must, we submit, be borne in mind that the sugar industry in the West Indies already depends heavily on the successful development of its by-products, a dependence which is increased by unfavourable sugar prices. We fail to see how the United Kingdom Government can justify, in the light of the wider Imperial considerations involved, its imposition of a high revenue bringing duty which results in a British colonial product which

means so much in terms of prosperity to the territories concerned, being progressively forced out of its main market.

We shall be pleased to develop our case for a reduction of duty and to demonstrate the effects of the present penal rate of duty on the economies of the colonies with which the Committee is concerned further with you should you so desire.

We have the honour to be, Sir, etc.,

J. M. CAMPBELL (*Acting Chairman*),
R. GAVIN (*Secretary*).

Rum in the United Kingdom

Bookers Acquire a Distributing Business

THERE was considerable interest in rum circles in London and the West Indies when it was learned, on March 23rd, that Booker Bros., McConnell and Co., Ltd. had made an offer for the entire share capital of United Rum Shippers Ltd.

The projected purchase was made known by the former company in a letter to its shareholders which was in the following terms:—

Booker Brothers, McConnell and Co., Ltd., have made an offer, which has been accepted, to acquire in exchange for 115,000 of their ordinary shares the entire share capital of United Rum Shippers Ltd., a private company which, through its three wholly-owned subsidiaries Lemon Hart and Son Ltd., White Keeling (Rum) Ltd., and Alfred Lamb and Son Ltd., carries on a well-known rum distributing business.

The offer has been made subject to the consent of the Capital Issues Committee and subject to the agreement of the shareholders of Booker Brothers, McConnell and Co., Ltd., to the requisite increase in share capital at an extraordinary general meeting to be convened in due course.

The acquisition of United Rum Shippers' sales organization and knowledge of the rum trade will strengthen the ability of the Booker group to develop the potentialities of the by-products of sugar.

To Lecture on Commonwealth History

Professor V. T. Harlow, formerly Rhodes Professor of Imperial History in the University of London and now Beit Professor of the History of the British Empire in the University of Oxford, left London on March 10th for a lecture tour in the West Indies under the auspices of the British Council.

His subjects will include: "Membership of the British Commonwealth"; "The British West Indies, past, present and future"; "The essentials of true democracy"; and "The use of local archives and relevant printed documentary sources in research and in historical teaching." He will also speak on the historical background to each colony he visits, addressing historical societies, teachers, students and general audiences in Trinidad, British Guiana, Barbados and Jamaica. The tour will end on April 28th.

Trade Union Course

Comprehensive Programme

Every colony in the British West Indies was represented among the students who attended the first of the trade union educational courses for British West Indians, held under the auspices of Colonial Development and Welfare in Barbados recently.

Mr. C. W. Burrows, Labour Adviser to Colonial Development and Welfare, acted as Dean of the Course, which occupied four months, and the basic subjects of the course were: labour legislation, which dealt with all the laws in the West Indies relating to labour matters, and was handled by the Dean and Mr. E. R. L. Ward; the history of trade unionism and industrial relations which was dealt with by the Dean and Mr. F. W. Dalley; a series of lectures on economics by Professor Beasley; the history of the economic development of the West Indies by Dr. Eric Williams; and the economic problems of the West Indies by Professor C. Y. Shephard.

There were also lectures on the I.L.O. conventions by Mr. Cedric Matthews of the I.L.O. secretariat.

During an agricultural week the students were told of agricultural developments in Barbados by Dr. S. J. Saint, Mr. M. Halcrow and Mr. Hotchkiss of C. D. and W.

Other lectures included social welfare by Miss D. Ibberson; nutrition by Miss Joan Parry; educational problems of the West Indies by Mr. S. A. Ifammond; psychology by Mr. A. W. Roberts; health problems of the West Indies by Dr. J. W. P. Harkness; work of the U.N.O. Trusteeship Council by Sir Alan Burns; co-operatives by Mr. B. J. Surridge; friendly societies of the West Indies by Mr. A. F. Wells; work of the Caribbean Commission by Mr. Lawrence Cramer; work of the Development and Welfare Organization by Mr. C. Y. Carstairs; customs union by Mr. J. McLagan; and federation by Sir Hubert Rance.

The last week of the course was devoted to plans for the development of leadership training courses in their home colonies for officers of the various labour organizations. The standard of the course was very high, and the students expressed warm appreciation for the work of the lecturers and above all for the enthusiasm and organizing ability of the Dean.

Colonial Labour Officers

Industrial Relations Course in U.K.

Labour officers from 18 colonies will gather in London on April 25th for a three months' course in industrial relations. They include officers from Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, British Guiana, the Windward and Leeward Islands and Mauritius.

They will study conciliation and arbitration, relations with trade unions, joint industrial and wage councils, factory inspection, employment exchange services and vocational training.

The first part of the course will be taken in London at the Ministry of Labour and National Service headquarters. Then the visitors will disperse to various points in Britain where they will study practical conditions at local offices, against the background of Britain's industrial endeavour.

Another batch of colonial service officers will begin, on May 30th, a short course on utilization of timber, at the Forest Products Research Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. They will receive instruction in the seasoning, grading and machining of woods, timber mechanics, wood preservation, entomology and mycology.

Sugar Research Foundation

THE report* of the Sugar Research Foundation for 1948 gives particulars of 58 research projects on problems relating to sugar, supported by the Foundation, of which 23 had been completed.

While the projects supported in the early days of the Foundation were concerned largely with nutritional and physiological studies, the programme has been expanded in other directions, and during the year under review the Foundation intensified studies in the role of sugar as an ingredient of foods and beverages. In addition to the scientific and technological reports published at intervals by the Foundation, reports by workers on many of the projects have appeared in scientific journals, and these are listed, with full references, under the following categories: sugar as a food; sugar as an ingredient of food and beverages; sugar in non-food industries; physical properties of sugar and sugar solutions; utilization of sugar by-products; sugar derivatives and transformation products; and miscellaneous.

The record shows that useful progress has been achieved in the study of the relation of sugar to vitamin intake, and to dental caries. The role of levulose in human nutrition; the value of sugar in the diet of children; the value of the carbohydrate portion of the diet; the mechanism by which sugars are converted to energy; and the connexion of diet with the degenerative diseases, are items in a correlated programme in which notable discoveries have been made.

In the non-food industries, reports on the use of sugar in metallurgy, explosives, plastics, adhesives, fuels and pyrotechnics, and pharmacy are well advanced. The researches of Dr. Went in California on the value of sucrose sprays in stimulating growth of tomato seedlings in absence of sunlight have broken new ground. Tests of polymerized allyl, sucrose as an acid—and alkali—resistant coating indicate a promising future for this derivative in industry.

Work on the utilization of by-products has reached the stage, in some cases, where plant designs and cost of operation are being formulated. During the past year a member firm of the Foundation recovered sizable quantities of aconitic acid from cane molasses. Levulose has been recovered on a pilot plant scale from both cane and beet molasses, and quantities of the chemical made available to industry for testing.

Analytical methods for determining sugars are stated to have been improved to new heights of accuracy, and standard analyses of the products of the sugar industry as they reach the market are to be ready for publication shortly.

**Science Looks at Sugar*, Fifth Report, 1948, The Sugar Research Foundation, Inc., 52, Wall Street, New York, 5.

Trinidad Sugar Industry

Report of Inquiry Commission

ON August 16th, 1948, the Governor of Trinidad appointed a commission, under the chairmanship of Lord Soulbury, to inquire into the working of the sugar industry of Trinidad and Tobago with the following terms of reference:—

To inquire and report on the organization of the sugar industry, with particular reference to the means of production, wages structure and working conditions, and to make recommendations.

The commission held its first meeting in Port-of-Spain, on August 24th, and remained in Trinidad for four weeks, sailing for the United Kingdom, to complete its deliberations and prepare its report, on September 21st.

This report* has now appeared. It sets out the evidence in 16 chapters and 12 appendices, and makes 36 recommendations. With regard to the latter, however, three members of the commission make certain reservations, which are recorded in the form of minority reports.

The Benham and Dalley Reports

An introduction discusses action taken on the basis of the report of the Benham committee, published in 1943, and the reason why this further inquiry was considered necessary. The reason given is twofold: first, that the Benham committee was appointed to consider means of ensuring the survival of the industry at a time when it was facing extinction, and that as this recovery, given a stable market and reasonable prices for the products of the industry, is now assured, the time is opportune to consider some of the deeper problems—the efficiency of the industry, the position of the cane farmers, wage structures, labour relations, housing and other social conditions; second, that there have been signs that the relations between employers and workers were not all that could be desired, which constrained Mr. F. W. Dalley, in his report on trade union organization and industrial relations in Trinidad submitted in 1947, to express the view that without an independent and comprehensive inquiry into the industry it was doubtful whether the conditions existed for continued satisfactory collective bargaining.

After describing the representative organizations connected with the industry, the report discusses the sugar companies and their factories and estates. The commission considers that the sugar companies are to be congratulated on the progress they have made in the rehabilitation of estate agriculture during the period 1944-47, on the success with which new and difficult agricultural techniques are being put into field practice, and on the large measure of control which has been obtained over damage caused by the frog hopper pest. Rehabilitation of the factories is proceeding as rapidly as practical considerations permit, and the commission is also satisfied that the steps now being taken by the companies to enlarge factory capacity are adequate

to cope with the increasing quantities of cane which are likely to be offered by cane farmers as well as estates in the foreseeable future. The future prospects of the estates are regarded as bright provided they are not marred by industrial unrest, and the commission is of the opinion that the government, the trade unions, the sugar manufacturers, and public men, should combine to do their utmost to encourage harmonious relations in the industry and to discourage the efforts of those persons who, by fomenting unrest among estate labour and cane farmers, undermine the happiness and well-being of the workers and impede the practice of good agriculture.

Help for Cane Farmers

The report emphasizes the interdependence of the cane farmers and the factories, and not only regards the contention that the estates have in the past tried to eliminate the cane farmer as unsubstantiated, but stresses the assistance given by the estates to cane farmers, which is said to have been understated in the memorandum submitted to the commission by the Sugar Manufacturers' Association. The time is considered to be ripe for a thorough survey of the cane farming industry, but meantime, on behalf of the cane farmers, the report makes the following recommendations:—

(1) Government to subsidize the use of lime on cane farmers' mechanically-ploughed holdings. (It has been established that lime is of little value unless it is intimately mixed with the soil, which can be done only by mechanical implements when the soil is dry. The sugar cane soils of Trinidad set too hard when dry to be hand-forked or cattle-ploughed.)

(2) The Sugar Cane Small Holdings Ordinance, Chapter 23, No. 11, to be amended to provide that:—

- (a) no holding shall be let without a written agreement;
- (b) the lessee, unless he desires a shorter period, shall be entitled to a lease of at least five years, with option to renew;
- (c) compensation shall be paid for the unexhausted value of manures, drainage and mechanical tillage.

(3) If a cane farmer complies with the law relating to the burning of canes, and delivers his cane within two days, the manufacturer shall not be entitled to make a deduction from the official price.

(4) The manufacturers to endeavour to shorten the period during which the factories are open to estate canes only, and to aim at opening the factories to farmers' canes not later than two weeks after commencing to operate.

(5) The manufacturers, at the commencement of the grinding season, to open some of their derricks and give cutting orders to those farmers who have areas of third or older ratoons which they have arranged to have mechanically ploughed.

(6) A survey to be made of the condition of all rural roads and traces in the cane areas. (Improvement of

*Report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the working of the Sugar Industry in Trinidad, Government Printer, Trinidad, B.W.I., 1948, price \$1.00.

rural roads is regarded as urgent, and this is emphasized in the next recommendation.)

(7) If funds and staff are not available for a comprehensive scheme of road improvement, priority to be given to the repair of those roads and traces most in use and in the worst condition.

(8) A Trinidad Cane Farmers' Association, incorporated by law on the lines of the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers' Association, modified to meet Trinidad conditions, to be immediately formed. (As in Jamaica, the Association would obtain its funds from a cess on all cane delivered to the factories by cane farmers.)

(9) The Department of Agriculture to work closely with this Association and a special Cane Farmers' Service to be established in accordance with the recommendations of the Benham committee. (The Director of Agriculture to be relieved of much of his committee work to enable him to give personal attention to the organization of this service.)

The next chapter discusses the position of the cane farmer under the Production of Cane Ordinance, No. 61 of 1946, and in this connexion suggests that, in view of representations made by cane farmers, the question of reverting to the average of the preceding two years as the basis of the contract for the purchase of canes, which was the basis under the 1944 Ordinance, might be considered. A proposal to base the contract on the deliveries of the preceding year only is rejected as not in the best interests of cane farmers.

Price of Farmers' Cane

In regard to the application of the formula for calculating the price of farmers' cane, seven recommendations are made, as follow :—

(10) The returns furnished by the manufacturers to be certified by their auditors. (The manufacturers' representatives agree to provide certified returns in the future.)

(11) A public accountant to be appointed by government to check the final determination of the price to be paid by manufacturers for the farmers' canes. (The error made by the local government in calculating the price to be paid for farmers' canes in 1946 is discussed in this connexion, and also government action, in 1947, in determining the f.o.b. price of sugar as if it included the amount to be set aside for the Rehabilitation Fund, which in the view of the commission is incorrect.)

(12) The depreciation allowance to be \$3.84 (16s.) per ton of sugar in place of the present fixed sum of \$804,966 (£167,701 5s.).

(13) The interest allowance to be \$5.76 (24s.) per ton of sugar in place of the present allowance of \$4.80 (20s.).

(14) In computing the formula, the cane farmers to be charged with the cost of the cane farmers' departments, derricks and transport, but that the companies' overheads be allocated to estate and factory expenditure and that no part of those overheads be directly charged to the cane farmers.

(15) The Third Schedule of Ordinance No. 61 of 1946 to be interpreted so that when the Governor has decided those factories whose returns are to be used in computing the formula, the resulting calculations shall be based upon those returns as a whole and not upon any portion of them. (The commission does not accept that in

computing the formula the figures of some of the factories should be taken for one item of costs and of other factories for another item of costs.)

(16) Particulars showing how the price payable for the farmers' cane has been determined to be published annually.

The commission's examination of the financial position of the industry during the four years following the report of the Benham committee (1944-47) discloses a period of depression due to circumstances which were dealt with in that report, although the figures of sugar production indicate that a slow recovery is taking place. From the returns of the four principal companies, the commission finds the dividends paid, net after deductions of tax, expressed as a percentage of invested capital, to be as follows: 1944, 1.16; 1945, 3.31; 1946, 3.12; 1947, 4.32; the weighted average for the four years being 2.98 per cent. "It is clear," states the report, "that, but for the subsidy paid by the Trinidad government as a result of the recommendations of the Benham committee, and the increased sales of rum due to the rum boom, the companies would have been unable to pay the dividends they have paid, small as they have been."

No disbursements from the special funds set aside from the c.i.f. price given by the Ministry of Food for sugar had been made, so far as the commission was informed, but the following recommendations in regard to these funds are made in the report :—

(17) A part of the Rehabilitation Fund to be set aside for the purchase of field equipment of which the cane farmers should get a proportionate share (as in Barbados).

(18) Cane farmers to be represented on the committee set up to administer the Rehabilitation Fund.

(19) With the consent of the committee set up to administer the Labour Welfare Fund, the monies now accruing to that fund to be used either whole or in part to provide loans for the building of houses for workers in the sugar industry, particularly those residing in barracks. (This recommendation is endorsed in the section of the report in which the commission deals with housing.)

Standardization of Wages

In examining the need for standardization of wage rates and tasks in the sugar industry the commission found that there is no difference in principle between the employers and the trade union on this need, and that employers are likely in the near future to be able to finalize standard schedules for wages, bonuses and methods in the northern and in the southern areas. For various reasons, however, the commission recognized that it may take some time to put standardization into operation, and confines itself to making the following recommendations :—

(20) So far as is possible, tasks and rates to be standardized throughout the sugar industry.

(21) Immediate steps to be taken by the employers to initiate informal and confidential discussions with the representatives of the trade unions on the proposals of the employers for standardizing tasks and rates.

"One of the main causes of industrial unrest and discontent in Trinidad, as in most, if not all, other countries since the war, is the steep rise in the cost of living." Both employers and employees drew the

attention of the commission to the fact that whereas the Ministry of Food, under its bulk-purchasing contracts, had controlled the selling price of sugar, there had been no control of the import price of the food or commodities required by the colony. The much enhanced cost of the imports of necessary goods weighed heavily on both company and individual, and their sense of grievance was "not abated by the knowledge that in certain cases these goods could be imported at a cheaper rate from Canada and the United States of America if there were no restrictions." The following recommendations are made in the report under the head of cost of living :—

(22) Government to undertake a budgetary inquiry for the purpose of reconstructing the cost-of-living index. (This is an endorsement of the suggestion made by Mr. F. W. Dalley in the report which he submitted in 1947, and although the difficulty of obtaining suitably qualified officers still prevents the initiation of such a survey, the commission draws renewed attention to the pressing need for it.)

(23) Government to represent to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, the disabilities of which the companies complain. (These relate to the hardship inflicted on both the industry, and the well-being of those employed in it, by the fact that essential goods were imported from the United Kingdom at prices grossly in excess of those at which equivalent or similar goods were available from Canada or the United States.)

(24) The effect upon the cost of living in Trinidad of the price and type of imports from the United Kingdom to be brought to the attention of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. (Maintenance of the purchasing power of the workers demands either the control of prices of United Kingdom exports to Trinidad, or a constant increase in wages to keep pace with the cost of imported goods.)

Housing and the Sugar Industry

The commission is critical of housing conditions in the industry, but recognizes "that the companies are making a considerable effort to carry out their share of responsibility. . . . As regards the government, however, it is unhappily far from clear that it is bearing its full share of responsibility." Recommendations made in this connexion are as follow :—

(25) Government to undertake a comprehensive survey of the housing needs of the agricultural population in the sugar areas and appoint a qualified and experienced officer to supervise the survey and plan the rehousing of the workers. (The Royal Commission of 1939 stressed the need for this.)

(26) Where the companies have provided the land, government to assist their workers to build their own houses thereon by providing loans at a low rate of interest. (Government fears in regard to outlay are minimized "in the light of the considerable sums now accruing to the Labour Welfare fund.")

(27) Government to collaborate with the committee appointed to administer the Labour Welfare fund, in the event of that committee deciding to apply the whole or part of that fund to the housing of workers in the sugar industry. (A suggestion to this effect is contained in recommendation (19) above.)

The report concurs with the view of the sugar companies that it is the duty of government to provide

efficient medical and health services in the areas in which they operate. "Nevertheless, where, as in Trinidad, the medical facilities available to the general population, particularly in rural areas, are still deficient, and the prospect of an island-wide system of health insurance remote, it is essential that the companies should, in the words of the Russell Committee*, 'co-operate with the government as regards health matters.'" The commission is satisfied, from evidence received and from visits to several of the companies' clinics and dispensaries, that the companies are making considerable efforts to co-operate, and makes the following recommendations :—

(28) Government, in close co-operation with the companies, to prepare and carry out a sustained campaign for the eradication of hookworm and malaria from the sugar areas.

(29) Government, in close co-operation with the companies, to organize a service for the education of the inhabitants of the sugar areas in the selection and preparation of food.

(30) The companies to establish recreational and cultural centres for their employees on a more generous scale.

Industrial Relations

In regard to industrial relations the commission points out that its report is an endeavour to make that general survey of the sugar industry without which Mr. F. W. Dalley stated†, that it was "doubtful whether the conditions existed for continued satisfactory collective bargaining." In addition, the commission considered the question of improving the existing machinery for such bargaining, and the report contains the following recommendations :—

(31) The basic wage rates and the cost-of-living bonus to be consolidated for field and factory workers. (In view of the complicated accretion of wages since 1944.)

(32) Government to proceed without delay to introduce legislation, on the lines of the proposals in draft, for the establishment of wages councils and, if necessary, to set up a commission of inquiry to determine whether a wages council should be established with respect to the sugar industry. (If the United Kingdom statute be followed, a preliminary commission of inquiry is required.)

(33) The Friendly Societies Ordinance, Chapter 38, No. 2, and the Trade Unions Ordinance, Chapter 22, No. 8, to be amended on the lines proposed by the Friendly Societies committee and the Trade Unions committee. (Drafts of proposed amendments to these Ordinances, submitted to the commission by the Registrar, were considered very necessary, and the report recommends that government should proceed to introduce them as soon as possible.)

(34) Attention to be paid by the representatives of the employers and the employees to the importance and value of publicity and that steps be taken, where necessary, and if possible by the joint action of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association and the Trade Unions, to enlighten public opinion and correct inaccuracies and misconceptions.

(35) Government to publish, every quarter, statistical

*Appointed in 1944 by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to inquire into the medical and health policy of the colony.
†Report on Trade Union Organization and Industrial Relations in Trinidad, Colonial No. 215.

information on industrial and labour development in the colony. (In view of the importance of official figures in the analysis of social problems, and their solutions.)

The need for a long-term contract with the United Kingdom government for the purchase of sugar at a remunerative price, to ensure the ability of the industry to provide a reasonable standard of living for the workers, was considered by the commission in connexion with the cost of living. The commission found itself sympathetic with this plea, but refrains from making recommendations from doubt as to whether its terms of reference permit. In view of the fact that the reaping season usually commences in the middle of January, and of the need for wage negotiations well in advance, however, the report makes the following recommendation:—

(36) His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to be requested to consider the possibility of announcing the price for sugar not later than the end of November in each year.

The final chapter deals with a specific inquiry which the Secretary of State for the Colonies had directed into certain provisions of the Production of Cane Ordinance, No. 61 of 1946, which had been the subject of a petition signed on January 10th, 1947, by five elected members of the Legislative Council, and forwarded to the Governor of Trinidad for transmission to the Secretary of State. The commission was completely satisfied that, apart from the complaint that the measure was hurried through the Legislative Council, there was no substance in the petition. The report expresses the opinion that the Ordinance is favourable to the cane farmer; that it contains no provision which will have the effect of reducing the total percentage of cane to be purchased from him; and that his interests are adequately protected by the Cane Farming Arbitration Board.

Minority Reservations

All members of the commission were in agreement with the main body of the report, and affixed their signatures to the document, but three made certain reservations which are the subject of an addendum. Mr. MacDonald Moses and Mr. Ramdass Bhimull disagreed with recommendation (8). They were not in favour of a Trinidad Cane Farmers' Association, and recommended instead the establishment of a Statutory Board in the sugar industry, and that a cess of 4 cents or 2d. per ton of sugar should be levied upon the industry on the total annual sugar output of the colony, and that government should contribute from public funds an equal amount, as direct assistance to the sugar industry. They were in favour of subsidization of the use of lime on all cane farmers' holdings (recommendation (1)); they considered seven days to be a reasonable time to allow for the testing out of factory machinery (recommendation (4)); they recommended a year-to-year contract for the supply of farmers' canes instead of the average of three years delivery, and the substitution of three days for two days in recommendation (3); and considered that the net proceeds of the sales of rum should be taken into the formula provided for the calculation of the price of farmers' canes. A final reservation, in which Mr. W. Holmes concurred, was to the effect that the sum of 18s. (\$4.32) per ton of sugar

should be allowed as interest on the capital invested in factories instead of 24s. (\$5.76) (recommendation 13).

Food for Britain

Colonies Must Have Fair Prices

THE following letter from Mr. J. M. Campbell, acting chairman of the West India Committee, appeared in *The Economist* of March 5th:—

In the article "Burden of the Subsidies" in your issue of February 19th you suggest that sugar may be one of the very few foods which can be bought more cheaply in the coming year. As far as the 650,000 tons and more available from the British West Indies are concerned it can be categorically stated that not only is there no conceivable justification for a reduction of price in 1949, but that on all the available evidence there will be no such justification for years to come.

The economic relationship between this country and the British Caribbean territories is far too complex a subject for your correspondence pages, but I must point out the unhealthy effect on British West Indies thought of the tendency to express judgments on economic problems such as this in the light of the exigencies of the United Kingdom balance of trade without apparent consideration of the fundamental social and economic needs of the territories themselves.

If British economy is to be planned at all, the planning must be extended to ensure that the citizen of this country does not get his cheap food, his free teeth and spectacles, and his high wages, at the expense of the colonial citizen. Let it be remembered that the latter is compelled to buy many of his needs at inflated prices from the United Kingdom and to compel him at the same time to accept low prices for his exports to this country is not only manifestly unfair, but savours of the colonial "exploitation" of which we have heard so much in the past.

Jamaica Cement Plan

Plans are well advanced in London and New York, for providing finance for the Caribbean Cement Co., which was formed in 1947 to build a factory for the manufacture of cement in Jamaica under Government licence. No quotation is contemplated in London. The company's issued share capital comprises £300,000, all in ordinary £1 shares. In addition issues are proposed of £500,000 5 per cent first debenture stock and £400,000 6 per cent second debentures. Robert Benson, Lonsdale and Co., have agreed to find subscribers for 100,000 of the ordinary at 21s. each, of which the Tunnel Portland Cement Co. will take up 40,000. They are also placing privately in London at par the whole of the 5 per cent debenture stock and £100,000 of the 6 per cent debentures. World Commerce Corporation, of New York, has undertaken to procure subscribers for 99,993 ordinary shares at 21s. and has underwritten the balance of 100,000 shares—which will be offered for public subscription in Jamaica—as well as the remaining £300,000 of the 6 per cent debentures.

Colonial Primary Products

Committee's Second Report

THE second report* of the Colonial Primary Products Committee arouses no more enthusiasm than the first. The report states that "the Committee will remain in being and it may be that a third report will be called for later on," but it is difficult to see why. There is little information in this report beyond what could be provided by the Plant Products section of the Imperial Institute in response to routine inquiries, and so far as the West Indies is concerned there is little guidance or encouragement for those who are anxious to increase production.

In the previous report it was stated that the next product to be discussed would be cocoa—a matter of immediate anxiety to West Indian producers—but there is no reference to this product. The commodities dealt with are vegetable oils and oilseeds, starch, fish and marine products, essential oils, timber, paper pulp, tanning materials and tobacco.

An introduction expresses the faith of the C.P.P. Committee in the advantage to colonial producers of long-term contracts, for disposal of produce, between central marketing organizations on behalf of the sellers and central buying organizations or associations of users or manufacturers. The views of the United Kingdom government on marketing guarantees and the principles on which they are ready, for the mutual benefit of the United Kingdom and the producing territories, to make long-term contracts, as set out by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons on September 17th last, are quoted *verbatim*. As one example of such long-term contracts the report instances that government's undertaking to find a market for colonial exports of sugar until the end of 1952. West Indian views on this matter need no emphasis.

Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds. The recommendation of the British Guiana and British Honduras Settlement Commission, that experiments should be started in British Honduras to judge the possibilities of groundnut cultivation in that colony, is noted in the report. Under oil palm products a reference is made to the synthetic detergents now made from petroleum which may affect the market for the vegetable product at some future time. There is no reference to West Indian production of coco-nut products, which is now adequately encouraged by local arrangements. The committee recommends experiment with the cultivation of strains of castor giving non-shattering seeds, which, if developed, might improve the economics of production, though it is pointed out that supply of this product maintains pace with demand.

Starch. The report states that there are reasonable prospects of an increase to a level of production in St. Vincent of 5,000 to 5,500 tons per annum provided remunerative prices and assumed markets can be secured, and that it is proposed to start growing arrow-root in Grenada. It is considered necessary to study carefully the economics of any particular project for increased production of cassava before embarking upon

it. The committee sees no real prospect of production of starch from sweet potato.

Fish and Marine Products. A report by Dr. C. F. Hickling, Fishery Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on *The Production of Fish in Colonial Territories*, which is being published, after revision in the light of the committee's discussions, as Colonial No. 237, is considered adequately to represent the views of the committee.

Essential Oils. Further production of bay oil is not recommended. An oil similar to bois de rose might be extracted from a tree similar to the Brazilian species described as *Aniba Amazonica*, which grows in British Guiana. Production of cinnamon bark oil in colonial territories is not recommended. The same goes for cinnamon oil and citronella. The committee feels that Trinidad growers should be encouraged to produce grapefruit oil of a better quality, that the standard of production in Jamaica should also be improved and that production might be started in British Honduras. The committee has noted that the growing of lemons in Jamaica, and export of lemon juice, is on the increase, and considers that the production of lemon oil should follow automatically. No increase in production of lime oil is advocated unless fresh uses for the oil are found, but there is a demand for excellent oil for which a market for about 2,000 lb. per annum might be found provided the price was reasonable. There is at present over-production of sweet orange oil, and bitter orange oil is in ample supply. Experiments in production of high quality geranium oil are recommended, in view of the considerable demand. The possibilities of production of juniper oil in Jamaica might well be explored. There is such a strong demand for the French variety of lavender oil that attempts to grow French lavender in the colonies are recommended. The demand for lemongrass oil continues strong, and there is therefore room for increased colonial production, though increasing competition from the Australian tree *Backhousia citriodora*, now being grown in Kenya as a source of citral, is to be anticipated. Nutmeg oil is stated to be in good supply and increased colonial production is not recommended. The committee does not consider that synthetic menthol will substantially affect the demand for peppermint oil, which is likely to remain in short supply. Production of the oil known as petitgrain, which is extracted from the leaves and twigs of the bitter orange tree, could well be organized in Jamaica and Trinidad. The extent of the future demand for pimento oil, which is still exclusively produced in Jamaica, is difficult to predict, and the committee makes no specific recommendation on the need for increased production. Production of vetiver oil from the roots of cus-cus (*Veliveria zizianoides*) might be undertaken in the West Indies. Alternatively roots could be shipped to the United Kingdom. There seems to be room for a moderate production of *Chenopodium* oil in some of the West Indian islands.

Timber. The development of timber production in British Guiana and British Honduras should now be taken care of by application of the recommendations of the British Guiana and British Honduras Development Commission.

Paper Pulp. Wallaba in British Guiana and Caribbean pine in British Honduras are timbers which might be

* *Colonial Primary Products Committee, Second Report, January 1949, Colonial No. 238, 1949, H.M.S.O., 1/- net.*

suitable for commercial production of paper pulp, but their use for this purpose will be governed by the general development schemes which emerge from the recommendations of the Development Commission. The committee is doubtful whether a more effective use for colonial bagasse for purposes other than fuel can be devised in the near future except possibly in Trinidad.

Tanning Materials. Mangrove, which occurs in the West Indies, yields tanning, but there is a prejudice on account of the colour against its use in leather, and expansion of the market for the product would require lower prices. As regards the proposed cultivation of wattle in Jamaica it was found that there was not enough land at the required level between 4,000 and 5,000 feet which was both suitable and accessible to cheap transport.

Tobacco. The committee considers that if Jamaican cigar producers are to build up their market in the United Kingdom, they must make every effort to maintain quality at the highest level, and to keep prices as low as possible.

[The references of the Committee to lime oil are the subject of a letter to the editor, published on page 90 of this issue.]

Caribbean Commission

Public International Organization

By executive order No. 10025, signed on December 30th, 1948 and published next day in the *Federal Register*, the president of the United States of America has designated the Caribbean Commission as a public international organization entitled to enjoy the privileges, exemptions, and immunities conferred by the International Organizations Immunities Act, 1945 (59 Stat. 669).

These privileges, exemptions and immunities are laid down in section 2 of the Act as follows:—

“International organizations shall enjoy the status, immunities, exemptions, and privileges set forth in this section, as follows:—

“(a) International organizations shall, to the extent consistent with the instrument creating them, possess the capacity—

(i) to contract;

(ii) to acquire and dispose of real and personal property;

(iii) to institute legal proceedings.

“(b) International organizations, their property and their assets wherever located, and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy the same immunity from suit and every form of judicial process as is enjoyed by foreign governments, except to the extent that such organizations may expressly waive their immunity for the purpose of any proceedings or by the terms of any contract.

“(c) Property and assets of international organizations, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, unless such immunity be expressly waived, and from confiscation. The archives of international organizations shall be inviolable.

“(d) Insofar as concerns customs duties and internal-revenue taxes imposed upon or by reason of importation, and the procedures in connexion therewith; the

registration of foreign agents; and the treatment of official communications, the privileges, exemptions, and immunities to which international organizations shall be entitled shall be those accorded under similar circumstances to foreign governments.”

Officers and employees of the Commission will be subject to the regulations prescribed by the Commission of Customs and Secretary of the Treasury in accordance with the Act.

Sugar Cane Breeding

Scheme for Cyto-Genetical Research

THE substantial results of practical value which have been achieved at the British West Indies Central Sugarcane Breeding Station in Barbados are widely recognized. By the introduction of new and improved varieties the station has made a notable contribution to the efficiency of the sugar industry.

The system of cane breeding which has been followed to date, however, is largely empirical, with no means beyond experience of judging whether two particular canes are likely to give a successful cross or not. For some time the Advisory Committee of the station have felt that the work should be supplemented and put on a more secure scientific basis by a cytological study of the various varieties and crosses, of which a large number have now been produced. Cytological conditions largely determine potentialities for hybridization within the genus and the character of the hybrids obtained, and a thorough investigation of this aspect of the matter may confidently be expected to afford a basis for a more scientific approach to the breeding problems ahead.

The Advisory Committee, after consultation with the Principal and Professor Dodds, of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, prepared a scheme for the appointment of a cyto-geneticist and the provision of facilities for cyto-genetical research at the station, which was submitted by the government of Barbados, with the support of the Chief Adviser for Development and Welfare in the West Indies and his Agricultural Adviser, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with an application for a free Colonial Development and Welfare research grant. The proposal was approved by the Committee for Colonial Agricultural, Animal Health and Forestry Research, and on September 30th the Secretary of State issued a despatch to the governors of British West Indian colonies and British Guiana, conveying the information that he had sanctioned the scheme, and a free grant of £18,000 to provide for the programme.

It is proposed that the scheme should commence forthwith, and continue for five years after the appointment of the cyto-geneticist, whose post is to be of the grade of Principal Scientific Officer.

The Ministry of Food, in agreement with the Board of Trade, has announced that imports into the United Kingdom of tomatoes from the Canary Islands, French North Africa, Jamaica and Spain, under the open individual licensing arrangements, will be permitted up to July 31st, 1949, instead of April 30th, as previously announced.

New Trinidad Industries

Manufacture of Beer and Bottles

Fifty Trinidad men began training in February at the new glass plant and brewery of the Caribbean Development Co. at Champs Fleurs, Port-of-Spain. They are the first of 350 men who will be employed on these two new projects.

The glass plant is designed to produce, as initial output, 4,000 tons a year. It will provide beer bottles



The Glass Plant

for the brewery, rum bottles for the rum export trade and glass bottles and containers of every kind for local use.

The brewery—which has a five-storey brew-house, a refrigerating section and a bottling room—will produce initially 20,000 barrels of lager beer per year.

These are the first of a series of projects planned by the company, a private venture created by local men,



Making Moulds for Glass Forming Machines

coloured and white, designed to make Trinidad as self-dependent as possible and to absorb local labour.

Already in the machine shop and joiners shop machine tools have been installed and men are being trained in welding, tool-room technique and the finishing of moulds for use in the glass plant.

The 150 men employed on construction work are to be retained for future expansion.

Of the company's engineers, 95 per cent were recruited in the West Indies. Sixty men will be employed as glass-forming operators, furnace operators, gatherers, blowers and takers-in.

Dr. R. Richards, managing director of the company, believes local men can be trained to the highest levels of technical skill. Evidence so far is that they respond favourably and quickly to training.

Export of West Indian Cocoa

Allocations for 1948-49

THE provisional allocation of cocoa beans for the cocoa year ending September 30th, 1949, which has been proposed to participating governments by the International Emergency Food Committee of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization, amounts to a total of 703,670 long tons.

The allocation is subject to finalization later in the year, and subject, also, to the decision of the F.A.O. Council at its Paris session in June as to whether allocations shall continue beyond June 30th next.

The exportable surpluses of British West Indian cocoa, and their recommended distribution to importing countries, are as follows:—

Importing Country	Allocation (in tons)						Total
	Trinidad	Grenada	Jamaica	St. Lucia	St. Vincent	Dominica	
Australia	80	70	—	—	—	—	150
Belgium	300	200	—	—	—	—	500
Canada	630	270	2,500	—	—	—	3,400
Netherlands	150	50	—	—	—	—	200
South Africa	200	—	—	—	—	—	200
Switzerland	280	20	—	—	—	—	300
United Kingdom	1,750	1,000	—	—	—	—	2,750
United States	1,470	520	—	435	5	240	2,670
Egypt	100	—	—	—	—	—	100
Germany (Bizonia)	100	—	—	—	—	—	100
Palestine	100	50	—	—	—	—	150
Poland	100	50	—	—	—	—	150
Trieste	40	—	—	—	—	—	40
Turkey	100	—	—	—	—	—	100
Total	5,400	2,230	2,500	435	5	240	10,810

Imperial Preference Leaflet

The leaflet on Imperial Preference (No. 27A) issued by Customs and Excise has been revised and reprinted. A section on the preparation of costs accounts in support of claims to preference is included for the first time.

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained at any Customs House or office of a Collector of Customs and Excise in the United Kingdom, or from the Secretary, Customs and Excise, City Gate House, Finsbury Square, E.C.2.

Obituary

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of the following:—

Dr. F. J. Pound

Dr. F. J. Pound, O.B.E., an authority on cocoa, died on February 1st as the result of an accident to a launch off the coast of Liberia. Only a few weeks previously Dr. Pound had resigned as Deputy Director of Agriculture, Trinidad, to become head of the agricultural staff of the Liberia Co., U.S.A.

Dr. Pound was born in 1907, and educated at Sexey's Boys School, Bruton, and London University of which he was a B.Sc. (1929) and Ph.D. (1935). He took a special B.Sc. at Reading in 1930.

He went out to Trinidad in 1930 as a botanist for cocoa research on the staff of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture and five years later transferred to the Trinidad Department of Agriculture, holding successively the posts of agronomist, senior agricultural officer and deputy director in charge of crop husbandry.

At a farewell function held in his honour just before his departure from Trinidad on January 4th, he was described as "the greatest cocoa expert in the world to-day." He will always be remembered in the West Indies for his pioneer work in the search for cocoa plants showing resistance to witches' broom disease which caused him to make several visits to Central and South America.

Dr. Pound was a most popular officer in Trinidad, and his tragic death, at a comparatively early age, was a great shock to his many friends. Much sympathy will be felt for his mother and father and the other members of his family.

Sir Lennox O'Reilly

Sir Lennox O'Reilly, K.C., the leader of the Trinidad Bar, and one of the greatest public figures the colony has ever known, died suddenly at Port-of-Spain on March 17th.

Born in 1880 in St. Lucia, he was admitted to the Bar of that colony in 1902. Six years later he was called to the English Bar by Lincoln's Inn, and in 1912 started to practise in Trinidad, taking silk in 1920.

Sir Lennox, who was knighted in 1936, was a member of the Executive Council of Trinidad and Tobago from 1934 to 1946 and an unofficial member of the Legislative Council from 1925 to 1946. He had served on the Port-of-Spain City Council for about ten years.

He was chairman of eight or nine companies—including Angostura Bitters, Ltd., Trinidad Publishing Co. Ltd., and Radio Distribution (Trinidad) Ltd.—and a director of half-a-dozen others. He was also chairman for a time of the original British West Indian Airways, Ltd., before the company was absorbed by British South American Airways Corporation.

It is no secret that Sir Lennox played a large part in the drafting of the agreement in connexion with the establishment of the American Defence Bases in the West Indies and it will be remembered that in 1941 he accompanied the Governor of Trinidad, Sir Hubert Young, to London for discussions regarding the Bases. His last public work was as chairman of the Franchise

Committee upon whose majority recommendations the new constitution of the colony is to be based.

Sir Lennox was interested in most sports and gave his active support in the colony to cricket, football, racing and athletics.

R.G. writes:—

With the death of "Lap" O'Reilly there passed not only an outstanding lawyer and advocate but one of the greatest West Indians of his generation. A brilliant mind and an intense capacity for concentrated hard work, allied to a strong constitution, a handsome presence and easy manner were the foundations of an early success, which the passing years served to enhance and consolidate.

His energy was amazing; he seemed to devour work, switching easily from the hurly burly of the criminal court to paper work of all kinds, from law to business, from that to public duties. The range of his interests was catholic; he was the trusted confidant of successive Governors, the adviser of great business interests, the champion of divorce—he was largely instrumental in putting on the statute book in Trinidad a modern divorce law in the teeth of opposition—the patron of racing, cricket, football, athletics, leader in many charitable causes—nothing seemed alien to him.

Lap loved life, he put zest into everything he did; even bridge, which he played well without regard to rules, was an adventure. He was never happier, however, than as host to his many friends. Whether in London, Paris, New York, or back home in Trinidad he loved to dispense generous hospitality.

During the war his home in Port-of-Spain, and his house "down the islands" became regular ports of call to many hundreds of men of all three services. A party at 52A Jerningham Avenue was always an occasion and a common meeting ground of the Trinidadian and those from "away."

He died as he would have wished, suddenly, with mind undimmed and energy unflagging, in the midst of work for the community for whom he did so much and whose public life he so much adorned. A multitude of friends mourn his passing and offer their heartfelt sympathy to Lady O'Reilly—to whose energy, steadfast courage and devotion Lap freely acknowledged his debt—and to the other members of the family.

We also, with great regret, have to record the death of the following:—

LADY HUGHES, who died suddenly on March 8th, at Eddington House, Hungerford, was the wife of Sir Harrison Hughes, Bt., head of the Harrison Line. Lady Hughes visited the West Indies with Sir Harrison in 1922.

MRS. GORDON-SMITH who died at Maraval, Trinidad, on March 10th was the wife of Colonel D. Gordon-Smith. Before her marriage she was Miss Leila Alston. Mrs. Gordon-Smith was the mother of Joyce, Stella, Graham, Claude and Joan.

MRS. FLORENCE GEORGE who died at San Fernando, Trinidad, on February 14th, was the wife of Mr. Courtney C. George, local director in the West Indies of Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.). Mrs. George was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and had resided in several of the West Indian islands with Mr. George in the course of his duties.

British Guiana in 1947

At the time of preparation of the annual report of British Guiana for the year 1947 (issued on February 16th, 1949) the records of births and deaths during the year had not been completed, and the figures of population given in the report are those for 1946 which have already been recorded on page 128 of the June, 1948 issue of the CIRCULAR. A short review of the vital statistics for the first three-quarters of the year, however, affords indication of a substantial increase in the number of births and a decrease in the number of deaths as compared with the corresponding period of 1946. This points to a continuing increase in population, and it is moreover noted that there has been a marked increase in the school attendance figures, attributed to an improvement in the health of the children as a result of the D.D.T. campaign.

The Bauxite Industry

The figures of employment are in the main similar to those given in the 1946 report, but there was some increase in the number employed in the bauxite industry, the Demerara Bauxite Company reporting a steady increase from 1,509 in January, 1947, to 1,813 at the end of the year. In October, 1947, this company increased the basic rates of wages by 1½d. per hour. The Berbice Company employed about 270 workers, at similar rates of pay (minimum rate for a labourer 1s. 1d. per hour). The sugar industry introduced a new schedule of wage rates for factory workers during the year. In the field, there was a degree of progress towards standardization of piece-work rates and tasks, which by reason of varying circumstances, however, still differed widely. The average number of days worked per week by resident piece-workers was 3½. Dr. Benham, in his report on the rice industry, estimated that there were about 13,000 rice farmers in the colony, but paid labour finds little employment—and that mainly seasonal—in this industry. At the Mahaicony-Abari Rice Cultivation Scheme the numbers employed in 1947 ranged from 203 in January to 539 in October, when crop began. There was an increased use of machines for ploughing and reaping. General labourers commanded 7½d. per hour, and tractor operators 10d. to 1s. 3d. The number of persons engaged in mining for gold and diamonds remained around 7,000, mostly self-employed, but two gold mining companies were giving work to some 450 wage-earners at the end of the year. Wage rates here ranged from 7d. an hour for unskilled labour to 1s. 1½d. an hour for skilled workers. A survey was commenced towards the end of 1947, into labour conditions and the labour force in the timber industry, which is expected to provide useful information. Particulars of numbers employed, and conditions of employment, in the industry in 1947 are similar to those given in the 1946 report. The cost-of-living index showed a rise during the year of 11 points for working-class families in Georgetown, and 8 points for East Indian working-class families on sugar plantations. The number of Trade Unions rose from 33 to 37. There were 32 stoppages of work during the year, of which 26 took place in the sugar industry, but except for one dispute in the bauxite industry none of these was of a serious nature. Legislation passed during the year

included provision for the establishment and administration of a price stabilization fund, a rehabilitation fund, and a labour welfare fund in connexion with the sugar industry; for workmen's compensation in agriculture; and for the creation of minimum wage-fixing machinery.

Revenue and expenditure were the highest on record, the former being estimated at £3,692,910 and the latter at £3,371,450. These figures (which are not final), show a balance of £321,460, against a deficit in 1946 of £93,684*. They do not include a sum of £406,950 received and expended under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. The Public Debt at December 31st, 1947, was £4,851,000 (against £4,716,250 at the end of 1946).

Sugar production in 1947, at 167,491 tons, was down on 1946 production by 2 per cent. Average yield of estates sugar per acre, however, was maintained at 2.86 tons, the drop being due to a slight decrease in the acreage reaped. Exports of sugar during the year were higher than in 1946, and reached 185,109 tons, with a value of £3,974,093. There was a slight increase in exports of rum, which amounted to 1,724,845 proof gallons, value £412,215; and exports of molasses, though still below pre-war levels, were more than twice those in 1946, the quantity being 3,841,433 gallons and the value £104,988. The sugar estates, in 1947, paid out in wages £312,500 more than in 1946.

The acreage under rice in 1947, estimated at 89,300 acres, represented a 4 per cent increase on the 1946 figure, but adverse weather conditions in the early part of the year reduced the spring crop, and the total yield was down by 14.5 per cent and amounted only to 56,300 tons of rice. Exports totalled 19,625 tons with a value of £478,171. Long-term agreements for the supply of rice to colonies in the eastern group of the British West Indies came into force from January 1st, 1947, the Rice Marketing Board continuing to act as the sole rice marketing authority. 179 rice mills operated during the year. 48 per cent of the rice produced in 1947 graded Super and Extra No. 1.

Production of copra showed a substantial increase on the 1946 figures. The effective supply of nuts was estimated at 45,000,000. Demand for coco-nut products, however, continued high, and it was estimated that the colony was short of oil and fats equivalent to about 320 tons of copra in 1947.

Efforts by coffee growers to rehabilitate their groves continued, and 2,900 acres came under effective cultivation during the year. Production became almost sufficient to meet the local demand.

Timber and Gold

Timber production increased in 1947, but final figures were not available when the report was prepared. Exports of forest products during the year showed an increase of 31 per cent on 1946, exports to hard currency areas being increased by 150 per cent.

An interesting development during the year was the linking of different parts of the interior with Georgetown by radio-telephone, due to mining companies installing their own transmitting sets as well as the

*The figures given in the 1946 report, and quoted on page 128 of the June, 1948 issue of the CIRCULAR, were as follow: 1946 revenue, £3,177,083; 1946 expenditure, £3,252,083; deficit, £75,000. The figures for 1946 given in the 1947 report are: revenue, £2,845,243; expenditure, £2,938,927; deficit, £93,684.

opening of government stations. No spectacular discoveries resulted from prospecting. Gold production at 26,839 oz. exceeded 1946 production by 1,648 oz. Production of diamonds was down by 7,062 metric carats. 87 per cent of the total production came from the Mazaruni district. Exports of bauxite were 1,290,407 long tons; 170,392 tons more than in 1946.

The first general election for membership of the Legislative Council, to be held since 1935, took place during the year. For the first time in the history of the Guianas, the governors of British, Dutch and French Guiana met in consultation, in Surinam during October, and discussed common problems and matters of mutual interest.

Sugar Bags

Substitute for Jute

THE Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the United States Department of Agriculture has issued a communiqué, which is quoted in the issue of Willett and Gray's *Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal* of March 3rd, on the subject of kenaf, a fibre crop "new to the Western Hemisphere" and "now being grown successfully in Cuba and El Salvador as a result of collaborative work between agricultural scientists of the United States and Latin American countries."

This fibre appears to be that known in India as Deccan hemp, derived from the plant *Hibiscus cannabinus*, which belongs to the same natural order as those which produce cotton and okra. Although possessing valuable qualities, it has not, in the past, been regarded as a serious competitor to jute, but the present position in regard to jute supplies, and the high price demanded therefor, have stimulated experiment with other fibres which has included comprehensive work on this product.

Mechanical processes of extracting the fibre have been developed which have enabled the production of good quality yarns, fabric and bags. Kenaf bags have shown up favourably in competition with jute bags. When drop tests were made with competitive bags of similar weight fabric and loaded with raw sugar, the jute bags ruptured when dropped from a height of 11 feet to a hard floor, whereas the kenaf bags did not rupture when dropped repeatedly from a height of 15 feet. It has been found, also, that the kenaf growing season dovetails nicely with the sugar season, giving new opportunities for employment during what would otherwise be slack periods. Yields of fibre in Cuba are estimated at about one ton per acre each year.

The fibre is now in pilot plant production. One commercial grower in Cuba harvested nearly 100 acres of kenaf in 1948 and sold the raw fibre to a manufacturer in the United States. Growers in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Guatemala are interested, as well as those in Cuba, and good markets are anticipated as the fibre gets into active production.

The work has been part of the "good neighbour" programme of technical agricultural collaboration being carried on between the United States and the American republics, aimed specifically at promoting production of crops of complementary or strategic importance. It is claimed to have progressed to a point where basic information on which to build a Western Hemisphere kenaf industry is now available.

Publications Received

The Chemical Production of Lactic Acid from Sugars, by Rex Montgomery. Scientific Report Series, No. 11, Sugar Research Foundation, Inc., New York, January, 1949. The increasing importance of lactic acid as a large scale industrial organic intermediate in the plastics field is suggested by recent developments, and in any plan to produce a large new supply of the acid, blackstrap molasses must be considered as one of the most promising raw materials. The fermentation method of preparation demands a large amount of space and operational time as well as a close control of conditions, and this report reviews the extent to which these disadvantages may be overcome or reduced by the substitution of chemical methods.

The author also discusses the mechanism of lactic acid formation, and finds a possible explanation of the fact that sucrose gives greater yields of the acid than invert sugar.

West Indian Conference, Third Session. I. Summary of Report of Secretary General of Caribbean Commission to the Conference; II. Report of the Conference; III. Action taken by the Caribbean Commission on the Recommendation of the Conference.

Complete report of the proceedings of the conference held in Guadeloupe in December, 1948, a summary of which, compiled from the day-to-day bulletins issued by the Commission at the time of the Conference, was given on page 5 of the January issue of the CIRCULAR.

The Farmer, Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, vol. LII, Nos. 10, 11 and 12, Oct.-Nov.-Dec., 1948. In this number the island statistician, Mr. S. B. Chambers, discusses the colony's foodstuffs position in 1947 as compared with 1939, and underlines the importance of the food production campaign in view of the existing gap in foodstuff imports and the increase in population (approximately 14 per cent) since 1939.

The issue contains the announcement of the election of the president of the society, Mr. Rudolph Burke, to honorary life membership of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

On The Map. An attractive set of new wall charts on British possessions in the West Indian area have just been produced by Educational Productions Ltd., 17, Denbigh Street, London, S.W.1. These charts cover British Guiana, British Honduras, as well as the West Indies proper, and are on sale under the title of "Caribbean," at 35s. for the seven charts on good cartridge paper or £3 10s. mounted and varnished. A real attempt has been made to give sufficient information about the geography, history, peoples and products of the area and to encourage an interest in these colonies so that a student is persuaded to inquire further into the life of the West Indies. The charts are simple but effective, the colouring is pleasing and while maps have been introduced as a necessary adjunct, every effort has been made to ensure their simplicity whilst at the same time giving just the right amount of information.

A dollars to sterling card with 360 calculations may be obtained from the West India Committee for 1/6, post free.

West Indian Cotton

THE following statement of production of cotton, and prices obtained, for the 1947-48 crop, has been received from the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association (Inc.), through the Advisory Committee:—

Territory	Acres planted	Clean Lint (lb.)		Stained Lint (lb.)		Total Lint (lb.)		F.O.B. price per lb. Clean lint Grade 1
		Total	Average per acre	Total	Average per acre	Total	Average per acre	
Antigua	1,544	208,678	135	9,000	6	217,678	141	s. d. 2 9
Barbados	137	12,084	88	Nil	Nil	12,084	88	3 6
Montserrat	3,447	634,069	184	56,800	16	690,869	200	3 3
St. Kitts	280	60,103	214	5,000*	18	65,103	232	3 3
Nevis	2,000	193,339	97	53,347	27	246,686	124	2 11½
Anguilla	60	2,434	41	174	3	2,608	44	3 3
St. Vincent	1,865	254,726	137	34,007	18	288,733	155	3 6
St. Lucia	?	6,810	?	?	?	6,810	?	3 6
Total	9,333*	1,372,243	—	158,328	—	1,530,571	—	—

* Estimate.

? No figure given.

Marie Galante cotton was grown only in Carriacou, as production ceased in the St. Vincent Grenadines. 115 bales (of 400 lb.) of lint were produced from an area of approximately 1,200 acres.

The estimated cotton crop for 1948-49 is 2,277,500 lb. lint, the figures for the various territories being as follow:—

Territory	Acres	lb. Lint
Antigua	3,550	600,000
Barbados	712	25,000
Montserrat	4,000	700,000
St. Kitts	1,200†	250,000
Nevis	?	350,000
Anguilla	60	2,500
St. Vincent	3,159	350,000

† planting uncertain. ? No figure given.

Two Shooting Matches

The National Rifle Association announce that they are again conducting the Overseas Rifle and Revolver Postal Matches in 1949. The matches are open to one or two teams of eight for the rifle and four for the revolver from each competing territory, the team members to be British subjects or British protected persons resident or stationed in any of the eligible colonies, protectorates or countries. The matches may be fired separately or concurrently with another competition of exactly the same conditions on any one day between January 1st and December 31st, 1949, on any range in a competing country, and will be conducted under N.R.A. Rules, 1948.

The National Rifle Association also announce that they are again conducting the Caribbean Colonies Police Forces competition. The match may be fired on any day from May 1st to December 31st on any rifle range in any colony entering a team. Each separately organized police force in the West Indies, British Guiana, British Honduras or Bermuda may enter one team.

Further information on either competition may be obtained from the secretary of the N.R.A.

British Guiana Census

The January issue of the *Monthly Bulletin* of the Caribbean Commission quotes figures of the British Guiana 1946 census recently issued by the Bureau of Public Information, Georgetown. These figures show

the chief territorial blocks, the racial composition of the population, religions, occupations, totals of villages and centres, children of school age, literacy, and conjugal relationships by race.

Statistics so far released include: total population, 375,701 (an increase of 57,389 on the 1931 census); Georgetown, 73,059, and with environs 94,035; largest single racial groups: East Indians, 163,434; blacks, 143,385; mixed or coloured, 37,685; population of school-age and pre-school age, 147,076; only 1,317 persons were "seeking a first job"; there were 115,574 Hindus and 29,351 Muslims; the largest christian denomination, the Anglicans, numbered 85,329, and the Roman Catholics 43,474; overall illiteracy percentage: 21.36; illiteracy percentage exclusive of Amerindians and East Indians: 2.88.

The Amerindians, who numbered 16,322, were returned as 49.55 per cent illiterate, and the East Indians as 44.02 per cent.

Jamaica Social Welfare

Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the House of Commons on March 9th what action had recently been taken to replace Jamaica Welfare, Ltd., by a direct government agency.

In reply, Mr. Creech Jones stated that legislation which provided for the establishment of the Jamaica Social Welfare Commission on April 1st, 1949, was in its final stages. This development was based on proposals made by Jamaica Welfare Ltd., for the creation of a statutory body to take over the work of the company. A sum of £15,000 was being included in the 1949-50 draft Estimates to continue the present work while the commission were drawing up plans and estimates: on their receipt the Jamaica Government would consider to what extent assistance should be sought from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. Funds had been provisionally allocated in the Jamaica 10-year development plan.

Mr. Skinnard then said that he recognized the excellent work done by Jamaica Welfare, Ltd., and asked whether Mr. Creech Jones would ensure that any successor body would proceed on similar lines. Mr. Creech Jones replied that the scheme was based on the representations of Jamaica Welfare, Ltd.

St. Vincent in 1947

The annual report of St. Vincent for 1947 makes no estimate of the population at the end of that year, and republishes the figures of the April, 1946 census, to which reference was made in the review of the 1946 report which appeared on page 7 of the January, 1948 issue of the CIRCULAR.

Figures of employment during the year are estimated as follows: in agriculture, 10,000; manufacturing, 2,000; building and road construction, 2,000; transport and communications, 680; trade and commerce, 1,100; hotel and personal services, 2,000; and public and other services, 1,000. The prescribed basic minimum wage-rates in the agricultural industry were 2s. for men, and 1s. 6d. for women, plus a cost-of-living bonus of 10 per cent in each case, for an eight-hour day or its equivalent, but from November 3rd, 1947 the Planters' Association voluntarily increased the bonus to 25 per cent. This placed the daily wage-rates at 2s. 6d. and 1s. 10½d. for a man and woman respectively, as compared with pre-war rates of 1s. 2d. and 10d., a percentage increase of 114 and 125. In December, 1947, the cost-of-living index was 214 against 100 in 1939—a rise corresponding exactly with the increase in wages. Two of the three Trade Unions which were active in 1946, the Peasant Cultivators' Union and the Growers' Union, became inactive during the year, but membership of the remaining union (the General Workers' Union) rose from 472 to 759. There were no strikes or lock-outs in 1947, and no changes in, or additions to, labour legislation.

The progressive expansion in revenue and expenditure since 1938, to which reference was made in the 1946 report, continued. Total revenue in 1946 was £338,458, and expenditure £329,224, compared with £215,696 and £250,092 in 1945. These figures indicate a balance of £9,234 in 1946 against a deficit of £34,396 in 1945, but local expenditure was in fact greater than local revenue, the apparent credit balance being more than accounted for by money still unspent on account of Colonial Development and Welfare. Actual local revenue in 1946 was £217,694, and local expenditure £224,066. The Public Debt at December 31st, 1946 was £76,371.

A scheme to encourage small growers to extend the acreage under arrowroot by subsidizing half the cost of both planting material and sulphate of ammonia had been initiated in 1945 and continued in 1946. The subsidy, having had the desired effect, was discontinued in 1947, and no appreciable increase in acreage occurred in that year. An increase in price of 1 cent per lb. on all grades of starch exported to the United States and the United Kingdom was negotiated during the year, and a further increase of 2 cents per lb. was later obtained in respect of shipments to the United States subsequent to October 31st. The figures of exports given in the report are those for 1946, and they show the effect of the increased planting (455 acres) for the 1945-46 crop, 1946 exports being 6,323,715 lb. against 5,139,828 lb. in 1945. Arrangements had been made, at the end of the year, for shipment to the island of two improved processing mills developed as the result of experiments

carried out in the United Kingdom by the Colonial Products Research Council.

Sea Island cotton showed a considerable decline in production, only 1,598 acres being planted for the 1946-47 crop against 3,140 acres in 1945-46. Total production was the lowest in the history of the industry in St. Vincent since 1935, and fell to 548 bales, despite a fairly good average yield per acre, against 890 bales in 1945-46. The report attributes the decrease in acreage planted to the unsatisfactory price offered for lint, and the loss of faith occasioned by the severe marking down of the previous crop on account of quality defects. The acreage under Marie Galante cotton in the Southern Grenadines decreased still further, and in 1947 only 14,791 lb. of seed cotton valued at £92 was reaped in the group of islands.

The coco-nut industry continued to occupy a major position in the island's economy, though exports of copra and nuts were somewhat less than in 1946, the former amounting to 1,185½ tons valued at £45,539 (against 1,369 tons valued at £47,942 in 1946), and the latter to 68,498 whole nuts valued at £509 (against 91,426 nuts valued at £573). In 1947 copra amounting to 460½ tons was processed to make refined oil, soap, stock feed and manure, compared with 349 tons in 1946.

There was an increased production of sugar, amounting to 1,790 tons of dark crystals in 1946-47 compared with 1,526 tons in 1945-46. Further improvements were effected in factory and estate organization, and the extraction ratio was 9.54 tons of cane per ton of sugar. There was no recovery in the fancy molasses export trade, and exports were negligible. The Mt. Bentinck distillery manufactured 44,992 proof gallons of rum.

Exports of cassava starch were slightly greater in 1947 than in 1946, and amounted to 565,320 lb. valued at £8,992. In 1946 the quantity exported was 495,484 lb. Exports of peanuts were 498,624 lb. valued at £17,446 against 285,011 lb. valued at £8,401 in 1946. Sweet potatoes maintained their position on the list of exports, 24,678 bags valued at £18,374 being shipped in 1947, mainly to Trinidad. The value of 1946 exports recorded in the previous report was £12,750.

Despite efforts to control exportation to provide for local needs, there was an upward trend in exports of livestock, the value of which rose by more than £3,400 to £16,782. This is attributed to the Trinidad demand, which it is suggested may play an important part in developing a useful livestock industry in St. Vincent.

Visitors from Overseas

It would greatly facilitate the forwarding of correspondence if members of the West India Committee visiting this country would inform the Secretary of the date of the arrival and the address or addresses to which they would like THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and correspondence despatched.

Mr. Keith Alleyne, LL.B.	Hon. R. J. M. Kirkwood
Mr. W. L. Alston.	Lt.-Colonel E. F. Moulton-
Mr. C. E. S. Bailey, M.B.,	Barrett, O.B.E., M.C.
CH.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. &H.	Mr. N. V. Stafford Solomon,
His Honour Chief Justice	M.B.E.
O. L. Bancroft.	Mr. Christopher Swabey.
Mr. E. M. Eldridge.	Mr. W. Young, M.C.
Mrs. Elsie Gamble.	A.M.I.Mech.E.
His Honour G. C. Green,	Mr. Noel B. Yule.
C.M.G., M.B.E.	

West Indies at Westminster

The House of Lords

Infection of Cocoa Trees. On March 1st, Lord Rennell asked how many more cocoa trees in the Gold Coast were estimated to have been infected with swollen shoot disease as compared with the figure of 50,000,000 out of about 400,000,000 given on September 15th, 1948; how many diseased trees had been cut out since that date; and what was the estimated production of cocoa for the year 1948-49.

In reply, Lord Listowel, the Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, said that it was estimated that a further 4,000,000 trees had become infected since September 15th, 1948. The number of trees cut out between September 1st, 1948, and January 31st, 1949, was 1,134,653. The estimated production for the crop season 1948-49 was about 275,000 tons.

Lord Rennell then asked whether the minister could give any forecast of the cutting-out programme that would mitigate the impression that the scourge was gaining over the efforts made to eradicate it.

Lord Listowel replied that the Gold Coast Government were doing everything possible by way of propaganda to get the recommendations of the expert Commission on cutting out accepted by Gold Coast farmers, and were also planning a further cutting-out campaign which, when ready, would be submitted to the Administrative Council of the Gold Coast.

The House of Commons

Tomato Canning in Jamaica. In reply to a question by Mr. Gammans on March 9th, Mr. Creech Jones stated that there was no proposal to set up a State tomato canning factory in Jamaica.

Java Sugar. In reply to a question on March 2nd, by Mr. Scott-Elliot, Mr. Strachey, Minister of Food, said that in 1948 Britain had bought about 10,000 tons of Java sugar, and hoped to get rather more in 1949.

Sugar Corporation. In a written reply dated March 2nd, to a question by Mr. Sharp, Mr. Strachey said that the estimated payment of £4,500,000 to the British Sugar Corporation represented 0.84d. per lb. of sugar produced.

Cameroons Banana Production. In reply to a question by Dr. Segal on March 9th, Mr. Creech Jones said, that the target for banana production in the Cameroons for 1949 was 5,000,000 stems, an increase of 1,000,000 stems over the 1948 exports.

Sugar Beet Factories. Lieut.-Colonel Clifton-Brown asked the Minister of Agriculture on March 14th what plans had been or were being made to erect new sugar beet factories so as to allow for an expansion of the present target.

Mr. G. Brown, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, said in reply that no plans had been made to erect new sugar beet factories so as to allow for an expansion of the present target. The target included in the long-term programme of European Economic Co-operation was 400,000 acres for each year up to and including 1952.

Social Services in Trinidad. Mr. Rankin asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 2nd, whether he would say what schemes for health and unemployment had been devised by the Government of Trinidad.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that the final report of the Committee appointed to investigate the possibility of introducing health and unemployment insurance schemes was about to be presented to the local Government. He regretted that in the meantime details were not available.

Jamaica Coal Imports. Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many United States dollars had been released to enable the Kingston City Council of Jamaica to buy United States coal; and what was the difference in freightage per ton between coal brought from the U.S.A. and coal brought from England.

In a written reply dated March 2nd, Mr. Creech Jones said that the import licence issued by Jamaica for this coal represented a release of approximately 60,000 dollars. He understood that

the difference in freight from the two sources varied between 15s. and 30s. per ton, depending upon the quantity and method of shipment.

Caribbean Commission Report. Mr. Cooper asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 2nd, when it was intended to publish the Galletti Report on Industrial Development in the British Territories of the Caribbean.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that the West Indian governments concerned were studying the draft report, and on receipt of their comments he would consult the British co-chairman of the Caribbean Commission on the question of publication.

Mr. Cooper then asked whether, since the report was completed in June, 1948, it was not important that the information should be made available while it was current, and could not a copy be put in the library of the House for members to see.

Mr. Creech Jones answered that the report was a confidential statement which was ordered by the Caribbean Commission. It was through our own co-chairman. It was not a public document. As soon as the Governors were prepared to release it, it could be put in the Library of the House.

Primary Producers Resolution. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 9th, whether he had considered the resolution, a copy of which had been sent to him, agreed to unanimously by the Central Committee of Primary Producers of Jamaica, asking for the incorporation of bulk purchase as a permanent feature of empire economic policy; what was his policy in that respect; and whether he had consulted the Minister of Food in relation to it.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that he had considered the resolution, and added that the statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on September 17th remained the policy of H.M. Government.

British Guiana Air Survey. In reply to a question asked by Sir Peter Macdonald on March 9th, Mr. Creech Jones said that the Director of Colonial Surveys had gone to British Guiana to discuss arrangements for carrying out aeronautical survey work there.

Sir Peter then asked whether Mr. Creech Jones could say why a unit which was in the colony then engaged in survey work should not be made use of instead of applying to another nation or to other people to carry out the survey.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that he thought that was in proper order. His own Director had actually gone there because the work was not so simple—it was rather complicated—and they wanted all the technical advice that they could possibly get in respect of those big development plans now under consideration.

Jamaica Tallow Imports. Sir Peter Macdonald asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 23rd, what complaints had been received from the Jamaican soap manufacturers at the excessive price of £234 a ton which they were obliged to pay to Argentina for tallow which they could buy in the United States of America for £80 a ton, although both those countries were dollar areas; and what action he proposed to take in the matter.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that Press criticism in Jamaica, which had been repeated in the Press here, had been brought to his notice. No allotment of tallow from Argentina had been made to Jamaica for 1949. The colony was making a purchase in the United States.

Entry into St. Vincent. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 23rd, if he was aware of the indignation expressed in British Guiana at the restraints on freedom of movement and speech imposed on Mrs. Janet Jagan by the immigration authorities of St. Vincent, when she and her husband, a member of the Legislative Council of British Guiana, visited that island on holiday; and whether he would inquire into the incident, and ensure free movement of British subjects in the British West Indies.

Mr. Creech Jones in reply, said that he had received protests in the matter from certain bodies in British Guiana. He had ascertained that Mrs. Jagan was permitted to land in St. Vincent on certain conditions, one of which had been that she should not attempt to convene or address public gatherings while in that colony. The movements of British subjects in the British West Indies were subject to the immigration laws of the various colonies, and the immigration authorities in St. Vincent appeared to have acted in accordance with the local law.

Mr. Skinnard then asked whether Mr. Creech Jones was aware

that the purpose of the visit of Mrs. Jagan and her husband, a member of the Legislative Council of British Guiana, was a holiday.

Mr. Creech Jones said that that might be so, but the local Government had acted in accordance with their own local laws.

There was no reply when Mr. Henderson Stewart asked whether Mr. Creech Jones was aware that those two people were proved Communists, who had been the agitators in British Guiana last year, and that it was very proper that they should be kept out.

St. Kitts Stock Farm. Mr. Thomas Reid asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 2nd why over £50,000 had been spent on a stock farm in St. Kitts which produced no results and was a failure.

Replying, Mr. Creech Jones said that according to his information this stock farm, far from being a failure, would prove successful although its full contribution to the island would not be made for another year or two, when the dairy herd which had to be built up should have reached full production. It had always been expected that this scheme, which was designed to help in remedying the deficiency of local milk supplies and in diversifying the agriculture of St. Kitts, would incur a loss for some years.

When Mr. Reid asked Mr. Creech Jones whether he was aware that the statement had been made by Sir Alan Burns, an ex-colonial governor and representative on the U.N.O. Trusteeship Council, Mr. Creech Jones replied that he could only say that Sir Alan had been misinformed.

Criminal Appeals in the Colonies. In reply to a question by Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Creech Jones stated in a written reply of February 23rd that in all the territories for which he was responsible provision existed for criminal appeals from inferior courts to the Supreme Court, or High Court as the case might be. Criminal appeals from the Supreme Court or High Court to a Court of Appeal lay in all such territories except Bahamas, Bermuda, British Honduras, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gibraltar, Malta, Mauritius, and St. Helena. In British Honduras and Fiji provision for appeal facilities was under consideration. As to the rest, provision for such appeals had not so far been found practicable mainly owing to the small size of the territories and their isolation. He was, however, looking at the problem again. In all cases, however, appeal by special leave lay to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

A Governor's Swearing In. Sir G. Fox asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what was the last occasion on which a governor of a crown colony did not hold the usual ceremonial for swearing in; and why this had been dispensed with in the Leeward Islands.

In a written reply dated February 23rd, Mr. Creech Jones said that by constitutional instruments a governor was required only to have his commission read out and to take the Oath of Allegiance and the oath for the due execution of his office. Any ceremonial attending his swearing in was not prescribed and was entirely a matter for the governor. He could find no record that the requirements of the instruments had ever been dispensed with either in the Leeward Islands or in any other colony. The ceremonial which had been usual on such occasions in the Leeward Islands had been observed when Earl Baldwin was sworn in. No such ceremonial was customary either in the Leeward Islands or elsewhere when anyone was sworn to administer the Government in the absence of the governor.

Bulk Purchase of Sugar. Mr. Gammans asked the Minister of Food, on March 9th, what progress had been made with the negotiations with the British West Indies Sugar Association for the purchase of the exportable surplus of sugar from the British West Indies for a guaranteed period of ten years at prices agreed periodically.

Mr. Strachey said in reply that the Government had already undertaken to purchase the whole exportable surplus of sugar both from the West Indies and from all other parts of the Commonwealth up to the end of 1952. The proposal that that commitment should be extended for a further period of years beyond 1952 was being studied by the departments concerned.

In a supplementary question, Mr. Gammans asked whether Mr. Strachey realized that any uncertainty in regard to a crop which took as long to produce as sugar was bound to hold up, or affect, production in the West Indies.

Mr. Strachey replied that he had some sympathy with that thought, but they must have some caution in the matter of the length of time for which they entered those arrangements.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions, transfers and new appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

ADAMS, C. O. (Superintendent of Police, Trinidad), Superintendent of Constabulary, North Borneo.

BAXTER, G. F., M.R.C.S. (Senior Surgeon, Jamaica), Senior Medical Officer, Jamaica.

BONNER, A. A., M.D., D.P.H. (Assistant Medical Officer, Jamaica), Medical Officer (Health) Jamaica.

BREYER, A. B., M.B., D.M.R.E. (Medical Officer, Windward Islands), Radiologist, Gold Coast.

CENTENO, M. A. (Senior Supervisor, Class II, Customs and Excise Department, Trinidad), Supervisor, Class I, Customs and Excise Department, Trinidad.

CHASE, D. A. L. (Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica), Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica.

COUTTS, W. F. (Administrative Officer, Kenya), Administrator, St. Vincent.

EDWARDS, E. H. M. (Administrative Secretary, Leeward Islands), Assistant Colonial Secretary, Leeward Islands.

HARRY, G. V., M.B., F.R.C.S. (Medical Officer, Jamaica), Senior Surgeon, Jamaica.

HELWIG, G. V. (Chief Inspector, Education Department, Jamaica), Deputy Director of Education, Jamaica.

HILL, C. GREAVES (Assistant Federal Labour Officer, Leeward Islands), Assistant Labour Adviser, Jamaica.

KNOWLES, S. E. (Principal Officer, Class I, Customs and Excise Department, Trinidad), Senior Supervisor Class II, Customs and Excise Department, Trinidad.

LANGDON, A. G. (Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica), Superintendent of Police, Jamaica.

McFARLANE, V. H. (Principal Clerk, Secretariat, Jamaica), Administrative Officer, Secretariat, Jamaica.

MATTHEWS, E. D. (Government Printer, Jamaica), Government Printer, Nyasaland.

NEDD, R. A. (Crown Attorney, Dominica), Magistrate, Nigeria.
NOAD, F. M. (Assistant Secretary, Bahamas), Administrator, St. Christopher-Nevis, Leeward Islands.

OUTRAM, A. N. (Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica), Superintendent of Police, British Guiana.

POWELL, L. A. DE S. (Assistant Headmaster, School of Agriculture, Jamaica), Agricultural Officer, Grade I, Jamaica.

RZECE, A. A., M.D., L.M.C.C., L.M.S. (Medical Officer, Grade C, Trinidad), Medical Officer, Grade B, Trinidad.

SERGEANT, E. L. (Principal Officer, Grade I, Trinidad), Assistant Accountant General, Trinidad.

STEVENS, C. E. E., M.B., B.A.C. (Medical Officer, Leeward Islands), Medical Superintendent, Cunningham Hospital, Leeward Islands.

TROTMAN, A. E. (Deputy Director of Agriculture (Research), Jamaica), Director of Agriculture, Jamaica.

WATERMAN, E. C. (Assistant Accountant General, Trinidad), Deputy Accountant General, Trinidad.

New Appointments

BOND, R. H., Architect, Public Works Department, Jamaica.
BUNTING, V. A., Assistant Superintendent of Police, Leeward Islands.

CLEGG, J. B., Secretary for Economic Affairs, Jamaica.
DINNEEN, Miss E. M., Senior Nursing Sister, Grade II, Midwifery, Trinidad.

FLEMING, R. H. B., Exchange Control Enforcement Officer, Bahamas.

GUPPY, N. G. LECHMERE, Assistant Conservator of Forests, British Guiana.

HENDERSON, J. M., Chief Architect, Works and Hydraulics Department, Trinidad.

KIRBY, N., Deputy Government Chemist, Jamaica.

NICHOLLS, T. G., Youth Organizer, Bermuda.

ROSS, Miss J. M., Matron, Maternity Hospital, Barbados.

STILL, R. M. LLOYD, Medical Superintendent, Mental Hospital, Barbados.

WALCZAK, Z. P. M. B., Supernumerary Medical Officer, Leeward Islands.

WATTS, P. K., Senior Nursing Sister, Colony Hospital, Grenada, Windward Islands.



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *March 30th.*

THE Governor, Lord Baldwin, returned from England on March 23rd. He was duly received by the Colonial Secretary, Hon. W. Macnie, the Administrator and others. Then followed the wild rejoicing of the crowds who thronged his car and conducted him up High Street to Government House at walking pace. He was also escorted by three steel bands who rejoice in the unusual names of Hell's Gate, Brute Force and Red Army. The car was scarcely visible amid the huge crowd and waving banners. The following afternoon His Excellency attended the Antigua Grammar School's annual sports meeting. He has now left for St. Kitts.

Mr. L. I. Henzell, now 79 years old, is recovering after a major throat operation in Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York.

A correspondent, in a letter from St. John's of March 25th, says: "The reaping of cotton crop continues and both ginneries are completely filled and have been compelled to stop buying temporarily.

Sugar. "Negotiations regarding wages for the sugar cane crop were completed early this month, the basis being the same as that applicable to the last crop. Reaping commenced immediately and grinding started on March 4th. The 'out-of-cane' figure is somewhat alarming. Juice quality is the lowest experienced here for some time.

Weather. "After some weeks of dry, windy weather welcome showers have fallen recently and the average rainfall from January 1st to date is slightly over five inches.

"Lord Baldwin arrived here by the French banana boat *Barfleur* at 3.30 p.m. on the 23rd. He was accorded a great welcome by a large crowd and buildings in the main thoroughfare were decorated with flags and palm leaves. He has to-day left for St. Kitts where it is understood a water-front dispute has arisen."

BARBADOS

Shipping. Miss Joan Kysh, secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee, in a letter dated March 1st, says: "The following tourist ships called at Barbados during the month: *Argentina* (396 passengers), February 3rd; *Britannic* (439 passengers), February 6th to 7th; and *Brazil* (382 passengers), February 17th. These vessels were on a cruise to South American ports, having sailed from New York. Lying at anchor in Carlise Bay during the early part of the month were the cruiser H.M.S. *Devonshire*, training ship of the Royal Navy, and the Swedish training ship *Sunbeam*, an auxiliary barquentine. Visiting the island from February 17th to 21st was the U.S.A. training ship *American Sailor*. All of these ships were on their spring cruise to the Caribbean area.

General News. "The Canada-West Indies Shipping Conference was opened at Hastings House on February 7th. Latest cost-of-living figures show that all items

have increased by 135 per cent since 1939 and food only 123 per cent. An exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture was given by Mrs. Fela de Kuh, at the Pavilion, Hastings, from February 12th-15th. The Inter-colonial Art Exhibition, under the auspices of the Barbados Arts and Crafts Society, opened at Queen's Park House, on the 28th. A special cocktail dinner and dance was held at the Club Morgan on the 6th for the entertainment of the passengers of the *Britannic*. The annual Valentine's Dance, organized by the Women's Canadian Club, took place at the Marine Hotel on February 12th."

BRITISH GUIANA

Development of Berbice. A correspondent, writing from Georgetown on March 21st, says: "During a recent visit to Berbice Sir Charles Woolley, the Governor, in a speech intimated that work on the \$4,000,000 Torani irrigation scheme should be completed in 18 months. The construction of a first-class road along the 54 miles from New Amsterdam to Crabwood Creek had been given priority and should commence in July 1949.

Cost of Living. "Subsidization of flour and salted fish ceased at the end of February. This has been costing the colony nearly \$2,000,000 per annum. Government have, however, remitted import duties and bill of entry tax on these items as well as on Canadian condensed milk, as a result of which the cost-of-living index will rise only 4½ points.

Wages. "The Sugar Producers' Association have reached agreement with the Man-Power Citizens' Association and the B.G. Workers' League whereby over 6,000 sugar factory workers will receive increases in wage rates. This is expected to increase the sugar industry wages bill by \$400,000 per annum, the increases being retrospective to January 1st.

Aerial Survey of the Colony. "The Director of Colonial Surveys, Brigadier M. Hotine, has recently been in the colony to make preliminary arrangements for the aerial photographic survey of the colony which is to be carried out later in the year. It is understood that a special aerial survey is also to be carried out by Hunting Aero-Surveys Ltd. for the Colonial Development Corporation in connexion with the development of the timber industry.

Mr. F. J. Seaford. "Mr. F. J. Seaford, a local director of Booker Bros., McConnell and Co., Ltd., a member of the Legislative Council and Executive Council for many years and chairman or director of innumerable public committees and companies, left the colony on March 17th on his transfer to the head office of the company, in London. Tributes to this most outstanding public servant were paid in the Legislative Council and at the very many farewell meetings to which Mr. Seaford was invited. In the Legislative Council, the Governor said that in his own experience elsewhere he could not remember anyone who had shown greater public spirit

and who had given more freely to the public service than Mr. Seaford."

Trade Statistics. According to the Guiana Diary issued by the British Guiana Bureau of Public Information, the colony's exports were valued at \$36,542,499 for 1948, an increase of \$2,100,288 on 1947, and the highest recorded in its history. About \$22,500,000 represent the exports of agricultural products, and over \$11,000,000 were derived from minerals.

The largest single commodity exported was sugar with \$16,453,319 (against \$19,075,646 in 1947) with bauxite second on the list at \$9,511,979 (compared with the previous year's figure of \$6,729,112). Rum improved from \$1,876,419 in 1947 to third place in the 1948 figures with \$3,508,773. Exports of diamonds were valued at \$1,325,026 and gold at \$529,983.

Canada was British Guiana's largest customer with \$16,755,941 worth of exports, and almost \$4,000,000 more than the 1947 figures. Exports to the U.S.A. totalled \$1,761,046.

BRITISH HONDURAS

Visitors to the Colony. Captain M. S. Metzgen, in a letter from Belize, dated February 25th, says: "Lord Trefarne, chairman of the Colonial Development Corporation, accompanied by Mr. Gaynor, and Brigadier Mount, arrived in the colony on February 16th and left again on the 20th. Sir Maurice Holmes, chairman of the Commission for the Unification of Public Services in British Caribbean Territories, accompanied by Mr. Peter Goodwyn, secretary to the Commission, arrived in the colony on February 18th. The Rev. James Innes, secretary to the British and Foreign Bible Society in the West Indies arrived in the colony on the same day.

Ramie Fibre. "An interesting private venture is being made in the cultivation of ramie, the fibre which is an excellent substitute for, or may be mixed with, flax, cotton, wool and silk.

New Technical School. "Work has started on the building to house the new Technical High School at Belize and the opening is eagerly awaited.

"**Three new sawmills** have been erected in the bush in various parts of the colony and two more are expected. Every effort is being made to ensure that there is a large volume of timber round each sawmill and to spread the supply over a long period. Sawmillers on Crown lands must pay for secondary woods as well as for pine and a limit is put on the amount of pine and mahogany to be cut each year. Balsa is increasing in importance and is being exported to England.

"**The Director of Agriculture** visited Trinidad to take part in a conference of all West Indian Directors of Agriculture. It is hoped that the colony will benefit from the conference, especially in regard to large-scale rice production in the colony.

New Medical Officer. "Dr. Leopold P. Youngalo, the new Senior Medical Officer, arrived in the colony on February 11th, accompanied by his wife and children."

DOMINICA

Writing from Roseau, on February 28th, a correspondent says:—

"**Carnival**, called here Masquerade, is in full blast to-day. Being of negro origin and traceable by its characteristics to the Gold Coast, our people respond naturally to its observance. Continual parading of the streets in costumes of disguise, masques, the beating of empty kerosene tins and the singing of very objectionable songs in the native patois, unlimited drinking of rum to maintain the jumping up and down keep it going until evening. Meanwhile our police exercise a restraining influence on excesses. Our Carnival Improvement Committee have done good work in eliminating objectionable features and year by year I see an improvement in the ensemble. Wednesday is the first day of Lent and all will be peaceful again.

"**The Roddam Hydro-electric scheme**, designed to cover all Dominica, appears to hang fire, but we hope that on the return of our Administrator from London he will bring news of its authorization and financing.

"**Monseigneur Antoine de Metz**, coadjutor bishop of Roseau diocese, in his Lenten pastoral deplores the decay of family life here, and while leaving aside the cause or causes of this state, he exhorts the faithful to work strenuously for its re-establishment. This pastoral indeed 'touches the spot.'

"**Mrs. Elma Napier**, the elected member for the eastern district of our island, has been granted leave of absence until August 31st of this year. Mrs. Napier is now on the Caribbean Commission and her world-wide experience of men and affairs will stand her now in good stead."

GRENADA

CABLES FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *March 11th.*

Grenada producers of nutmegs for sometime now have been intensely dissatisfied. They climaxed their dissatisfaction by holding island-wide meetings simultaneously yesterday, demanding that the Government-sponsored association be made voluntary since they regard the ordinance as totalitarian. These monster protest meetings, comprised of large and small growers and held in all parishes, presented a strong petition signed by thousands of growers to the elected members of the Legislative Council requesting that it should be presented to the Government.

March 17th.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council yesterday five petitions signed by thousands of nutmeg growers were presented and accepted. The Administrator, who presided, promised to lay same before His Excellency. Prayer of the petition is that the ordinance should be amended in order to make same a voluntary association.

March 19th.

Grenada makes an excellent bid for the tourist trade by the opening yesterday evening of the luxury hotel, Santa Maria. After two years hard work the Grenada Development Co., has launched this hotel. The capital has been principally subscribed locally and there has been some government assistance. The Governor and Mrs. Arundell, Lady Hilary Blood, wife of the Governor of Barbados, Mr. Victor Winston Marson, and Mr. Anthony Lewis, the architect of the hotel were amongst the many hundreds of guests present. Santa Maria is

luxuriously furnished and excellently appointed, several visitors having expressed the view that it stood second to none in the West Indies. Mr. Dudley Slinger, the managing director of the Development Co. is to be highly commended.

JAMAICA

Hon. R. L. M. Kirkwood, chairman of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica) Ltd., left the island by air on April 3rd, en route for London. His visit is understood to be in connexion with the future of the colony's sugar industry.

Constitutional Changes Proposed. The Jamaica House of Representatives, concluded on March 24th protracted discussions on proposals for constitutional changes for the 1950 general elections. *The Times* reports that it agreed to ask that the Executive Council, which is the "principal instrument of policy," should consist of eight elected members from the House of Representatives, two members nominated by the Governor from the upper chamber and the Legislative Council, and one official, with the Governor as chairman, instead of the present five elected members, two nominated, and three official.

The House rejected the proposal of the opposition party (People's National Party) for the abolition of the Legislative Council, but asked that its powers to hold up legislation passed by the House be reduced from one year to six months.

During the debate Mr. Bustamante, Minister of Communications, made a strong declaration against self-government involving separation from the Empire. He said: "Self-government would suit me, because I would become Governor, but I do not want it." The People's National Party, who wanted self-government, were, he added, creating violence in Jamaica and making the island appear bloodthirsty.

Possibility of Loan. The Jamaican Government is seeking the permission of the Colonial Office to raise a £4,000,000 loan in London to help finance the 10-year development plan and vital services at present financed from general revenue.

Sugar Estimate. The latest revised estimate of the 1949 sugar crop places production at 234,400 tons. Up to March 5th, about 65,000 tons of sugar had been made, of which about 30,000 tons had already been shipped, while another 27,000 tons were due to go during the first three weeks of March.

New Custos. Hon. Dr. A. G. Curphey has been appointed Custos of St. Ann, in place of Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Moulton-Barrett, who is at present on a long holiday in England. Dr. Curphey has been a member of the Parochial Board of St. Ann since 1936, and of the Legislative Council since 1945.

Social Welfare. The new Social Welfare Commission which takes over from Jamaica Welfare Ltd. in directing all social welfare services in the colony, comes into operation on April 1st. The necessary provisions are being made in the 1949-50 estimates to finance its activities.

TRINIDAD

Federation. Our correspondent, Mr. Keith McCowan, in a letter from Port-of-Spain dated March 25th, says: "The Standing Closer Association Committee opened

its second series of talks on March 17th in the conference room, Treasury Building, Port-of-Spain, with the chairman, Sir Hubert Rance, presiding. Those attending are:—

Delegates—Trinidad: Hon. Albert Gomes, Hon. L. C. Hannays, K.C. Barbados: Hon. H. A. Cuke, Mr. Grantley Adams. British Honduras: Hon. W. H. Courtenay, Mr. F. R. Dragten, K.C. Jamaica: Mr. Clinton Hart, Hon. T. R. Williams. Leewards: Hon. V. C. Bird, Hon. H. M. Davis, Mr. C. R. Meade. Windwards: Hon. Austin Winston, Hon. J. B. Renwick, Hon. Garnet H. Gordon, Hon. G. McIntosh.

Officials—Professor C. G. Beasley, Economic Adviser to the Development and Welfare Organization; Mr. C. Y. Carstairs, secretary to Sir Hubert Rance, the chairman; and Mr. R. Norris, assistant secretary.

Observers—Hon. C. Vibart Wight and Hon. T. Lee, from British Guiana.

The meetings are continuing this week. No information on the deliberations has so far been released.

Oil. "The Trinidad Government has granted Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. permission, it is understood, to import duty free for 25 years crude oil from Venezuela for refining. The concession covers 'such quantities as would at any particular time be necessary to maintain the company's refineries at full operating capacity.' The *Trinidad Guardian* has commented editorially that the move, together with the big programme of exploration drilling now getting under-way in the Trinidad industry, may well put oil operations on a more substantial basis and do much towards assuring the Island's economic future.

Defence Talks. "Admiral Sir William Tennant, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy's America and West Indies Squadron, flying his flag in H.M.S. Glasgow, visited Port-of-Spain from March 14th to 19th. Joint Army-Navy defence measures for the B.W.I. were discussed with Sir John Shaw, the Governor, and Brigadier H. J. Page, Commander-in-Chief, British South Caribbean area.

Sugar. "Granted favourable weather and other conditions, the Sugar Manufacturers' Association of Trinidad now estimates that the current crop will yield 143,000 tons of sugar. The leading newspapers have in their editorials expressed the widespread support of the request that has been made to the United Kingdom authorities for a ten-year purchase guarantee for B.W.I. sugar. The *Trinidad Guardian's* latest editorial on the subject (March 23rd), after emphasizing the economic importance of sugar to Trinidad, concludes: 'The West Indies have a strong case and must continue to press it vigorously.'

Trade. "Trinidad's adverse visible trade balance of \$31,667,924 for 1947 was converted into a small balance on the favourable side during 1948. Imports exceeded domestic exports by \$4,716,880 but re-exports of \$5,521,749 placed the net visible balance in the colony's favour. Exports of domestic produce amounted to \$127,105,384 compared with \$82,262,232 in 1947. Imports went up to \$131,822,264 in 1948 (from \$118,283,075 in 1947).

Navy Visit. "Eighteen units of the U.S. Navy with a complement of some 15,000 sailors paid a five-

(Continued on page 104)

Company Reports and Meetings

Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd.

The following changes in the board were announced on March 17th—

Brigadier R. S. G. Stokes, who is shortly leaving the United Kingdom to take up an appointment in South Africa, has resigned as chairman and as a director of Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. Mr. S. J. Vos has been elected to succeed him as chairman. He has been a member of the board since 1942 and has been connected with the company for some twenty years.

Mr. Rolland Beaumont, managing director, who has been associated with Trinidad Leaseholds since October, 1921, has decided to retire from business. He will relinquish his seat on the board of Trinidad Leaseholds and on the boards of its associated companies with effect on March 31st, 1949.

Major Kenneth Gordon, at present technical director of the company, has been appointed managing director in succession to Mr. Beaumont.

Mr. T. Muir Warden, has been elected a director of the company.

West Indies Sugar Co. Ltd.

In their report for the year ended September 30th, 1948, the directors state that the profits for the year amounted to £117,014, after providing for directors fees, taxation, and depreciation, and including £30,000 for taxation over-provided in previous years. After adding the balance brought forward of £3,068 there is a total of £120,082. From this is transferred £19,917 to future crops expenditure reserve, and £40,000 to general reserve, leaving £60,165. The dividend on the 6 per cent preference shares, less income tax, absorbed £9,900, and out of the balance of £50,265, the directors recommended the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares of 1s. per £1 share, less income tax, absorbing £19,250, and leaving to be carried forward £31,015.

The total amount of special borrowings at September 30th, 1948, to finance the new Monymusk project pending the issue of more permanent capital amounted to £1,137,000. This comprised a loan of £568,500 each from Tate and Lyle, Ltd., and the United Molasses Co. Ltd.

The production from the 1948 crop was equivalent to 67,872 tons sugar (1947—66,172 tons).

In the course of his annual statement, which accompanies the report, the chairman LORD LYLE OF WESTBOURNE, says:

"Our two main factories [Frome and Monymusk] operated steadily and successfully. Special mention should be made of the performance of Bog factory which worked for the first complete season under our ownership. With the advent of the new factory at Monymusk we shall probably not need to operate Bog again, but it is my pleasure to record that in its last year this small but by no means inefficient factory surpassed its previous best."

"The price paid by the Ministry of Food for our export sugar was advanced by £2 16s. 6d. per ton to £27 5s. per ton c.i.f. This price included the amount of £2 5s. per ton which we are required by legislation to pay to the special funds, as explained in my statement last year. Unfortunately this increase was absorbed by higher production costs resulting from higher wages and advanced prices of replacement machinery, supplies and equipment for field and factory. One may question just when the spiral of increasing costs and prices will come to an end. Such a problem is serious enough in a straightforward manufacturing business. It is doubly so with farming and especially with a tropical crop like sugar cane which involves expenditure on crops not due for reaping until two years ahead. As future policy towards colonial sugar is receiving Government's attention at the present time, I propose to outline quite briefly certain factors that bear upon the problem."

"Between the two wars colonial sugar producers were hardly ever out of difficulty and were drifting towards bankruptcy. The principal weakness of the position arose from the fact that the colonial sugar price was hinged to that paid for foreign sugar which was dumped upon the United Kingdom market. Foreign sugar was, in effect, "surplus" sugar and the price which the foreign producer received bore no relationship to production costs. The distress of colonial sugar producers was very real and their impoverishment undermined the whole economy of our West Indian colonies and resulted in widespread unrest, riots, and indeed, bloodshed. With the advent of war came the necessity for securing sugar supplies for the United Kingdom and Canada and this, coupled with the need for rationing, led

to the Ministry of Food becoming the sole buyer. It was the Empire that ensured our supplies throughout those dangerous years and, I may add, ensured them at reasonable prices.

"The urge of the colonial labourer for a higher standard of living was apparent long before 1939. Experiences during the war sharpened the urge for betterment and this factor, combined with rising living costs, has pushed up wages very considerably. These wages which represent over 60 per cent of the cost of producing raw sugar must be maintained in the conditions that pertain to-day. The balance of cost is made up of supplies and here we find that new machinery, spare parts, sugar bags, fertilizers and other necessities requiring importation, cost almost three times as much as before the war. Unless, therefore, colonial sugar producers can meet rising costs with rising sugar prices they are doomed."

"As an issue of policy the Empire should endeavour to become self-supporting in sugar in the shortest possible time and the United Kingdom Government in particular should continue to give every encouragement towards achieving this end."

"The encouragement we have received to expand sugar production was acted upon promptly by your company and as you will have gathered from my statement last year, we have undertaken considerable developments at Monymusk."

"Shareholders will appreciate the many hazards that beset those engaged in major developments in these uncertain times. Shortage of staff, belated deliveries of machinery and equipment and limited freight opportunities are but some of the problems to be faced. That our extensive new Monymusk project, embracing a new central sugar factory, new rolling stock, new agricultural equipment and considerable land development has proceeded more or less in accordance with the programme laid down two years ago is no small achievement. Barring unforeseen difficulties, the new factory should be ready to operate about the end of March. Our staffs in London and Jamaica have worked with outstanding energy to keep up to schedule and I am sure it will be your wish that I pay a special tribute to them."

"You will appreciate that only limited benefit from the operation of the new equipment will accrue to the company in the financial year ending next September. Indeed, to achieve our goal of 70,000 tons sugar at Monymusk (compared with 30,987 tons in 1948), will involve intensive agricultural effort over the next few years. Favoured as we are, however, with an enthusiastic and able staff and aided by our research department, we should be within striking distance of our objective by 1952."

"A review of our operations would not be complete without reference to rum. Demand for this popular by-product of our business has been exceptionally brisk in recent years and the popularity of Jamaica rum is now greater than ever before. Rum distilling continues to make an important contribution to profits. It is open to question, however, just how long demand will be maintained at present levels, and prudence indicates that we must budget for some falling off and, therefore, be compelled to depend more upon our main activity of sugar production."

"Our small subsidiary, Caribbean Traders Ltd., has not operated in accordance with expectations, and we have therefore decided to cease trading meantime and to review the position later when we hope conditions will be more favourable."

"Expenditure on the new Monymusk project will total approximately £2,000,000. In the early stages of the development the finance necessary was provided by way of loan from Lloyds Bank Ltd. During the year under review, this loan was paid off and replaced by loans from Tate and Lyle, Ltd., and The United Molasses Co. Ltd."

Calcium Sulphate Plasters

Useful information on the various calcium sulphate plasters commonly used in building is given in *National Building Studies Bulletin No. 6, Gypsum and Anhydrite Plasters*, recently published for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research by His Majesty's Stationery Office, price 7d. post free. The information covers the compounding of the different plasters from the raw materials, their properties both during application and as set material, the mixes usually employed and the precautions necessary to ensure good results.

(Continued from previous page)

Sailings to the West Indies, in s.s. Cottica (Captain Lockman), from Dover, March 24th:—

Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Berry	Mrs. B. M. Davis	Mr. & Mrs. J. McRobert
Mr. N. E. Bruce	Mrs. Hall	Mr. R. H. Ridler
Mr. H. G. Clements	Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Higgins	Miss D. Russell
Mrs. P. d'Abrie	Mr. & Mrs. R. McKnight	Miss L. C. Russell
Mr. F. H. Dahl		

Home arrivals from the West Indies, in s.s. Cottica (Captain Lockman), at Plymouth, March 14th:—

Rev. A. Adamson	Mr. C. K. Franke	Sister C. MacGale
Miss B. Allen	Mr. H. W. de Freitas	Mrs. J. McNeish
Mrs. V. E. Braithwaite	Mr. C. Goncalves	Sister M. A. Malouic
Dr. A. Breerton	Mr. R. F. Goodman	Mr. & Mrs. A. Overman
Mr. T. W. Burlaud	Mrs. M. N. Gordon	Miss P. V. Owen
Mr. & Mrs. C. Burton	Sister R. O'Hanlon	Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Perks
Mr. E. C. Bushe	Rev. & Mrs. N. Harrison	Mr. B. Prasad
Mr. & Mrs. F. de Caires	Mr. C. K. Hickson	Mr. E. Robinson
Mr. G. A. Cacuth	Miss B. E. Howlett	Miss B. Rouett
Mrs. K. Chater	Mr. & Mrs. J. Jaikaran	Mr. B. Singh
Miss J. Cheong	Mrs. J. Lamberty	Mr. J. H. Summers
Mrs. J. H. Cheong	Mr. D. R. Langston	Mr. A. G. Thomas
Mr. J. K. Colquhoun	Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Lathie	Mr. & Mrs. W. Thompson
Mr. G. A. Dove	Mrs. M. J. Lmly	Sister Thurlcy
Mr. E. J. Eudoxie	Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Luck	Mrs. H. Watson
Sister A. Finigan	Miss J. Lynn	Mrs. H. Whartou
Mrs. M. Francis-Lau	Mrs. S. F. McDonald	Rev. J. K. Young

French Line

Sailings to Trinidad, in s.s. Atlantic Express (Captain S. Sollio) from Liverpool, February 26th:—

Mrs. T. Bousquet	Mr. D. Ross	Mrs. H. Williams
Mr. J. Harper	Miss L. Watts	

A Glossary of Cuban Woods

We have received from Editora Mercantil Cubana, S.A., Habana, Cuba, a copy of a new and enlarged edition of *Tejada's Glossary of Cuban Woods*. This work, though bearing the date 1947, was not released until the end of 1948 on account of the long illness of the author, Mr. J. de D. Tejada.

The first edition, published in 1945, met with a wide demand, and this edition lists and describes additional woods including some which, although not of commercial importance, appear with sufficient frequency in the literature to warrant giving their Spanish, English and scientific names. The bibliography has also been expanded, and many illustrations incorporated as an aid in identifying the trees and woods. The price, in Habana, is \$2.50 per copy.

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of February production of crude oil and casing head gasolene amounted to 222,878 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the four weeks ended February 28th was 424,693 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for February was 224,411 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of February crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 468,741 barrels.

U.K. Mango Imports

The Ministry of Food has arranged for the importation from India of a limited quantity of mangoes, under specific licence during the period April 1st to July 31st, 1948.

The Markets

April 1st, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below:—

Dividend for Latest Year	Latest Consols	War Loan	Latest Quotation		Price Year Ago	
			79½	81½	75½	77½
2½	103½	104½			103½	104½
3½						
20			85/-	95/-	70/-	80/-
10			38/9	43/9	40/-	45/-
—			12/-	13/-	19/6	20/6
30			33/6	35/6	42/6	44/-
8			32/-	36/-	39/-	63/-
14			87/6	92/6	95/-	105/-
6			28/9	31/3	29/4	31/10
5			1/0	1/7	2/-	2/6
6			3/-	3/9	2/9	3/9
7			23/1	25/7	23/9	25/3
7½			5/-	6/-	6/-	7/-
12½			8/6	9/6	11/3	12/3
10			44/4	46/10	42/8	47/6
—			1/-	2/-	1/6	2/6
8½			140/-	160/-	155/-	175/-
17½			70/-	75/-	85/-	86/-
3			16/3	17/6	17/8	20/-
10			17/-	19/-	19/6	21/-
14			2/3	3/3	3/-	4/-
16½			23/6	25/6	31/6	33/-
6			23/6	25/6	31/6	33/-
7			22/-	24/-	24/-	28/-
7½			5/8	6/3	5/9	6/9
8			20/-	22/-	23/-	24/6
5			18/9	21/3	23/9	26/3
6			22/6	25/-	24/-	26/-

* Free of income tax.

Honey continues under Government control and the price is unchanged at 72/6 per cwt. c.i.f., U.K.

Pimento. There is a little more inquiry from the Continent and holders are asking 1/2½ per lb. for spot stock. The price for forward shipment remains at 119/- c.i.f., U.K., with very little business to report.

Ginger. The market has continued to advance, but no first-hand sales have been reported recently. Buyers are awaiting offers, but Jamaica is not prepared to offer at the moment.

Nutmegs. Sound unassorted are now offering at 1/8 per lb. c.i.f., a reduction of 3d. compared with a month ago, with defective offering at 1/4, an increase of 3d. The market still continues quiet.

Mace. The price of whole pale mace has been reduced to 5/- per lb. c.i.f., but no increased trade is reported. Spot stocks are moving off slowly with broken quoted at 1/- to 4/-, according to quality.

(Continued from page 101)

day visit to Trinidad from March 7th. About 5,000 of them daily visited Port-of-Spain on shore leave.

Maracas Bay. "Recent drownings at Maracas Bay have caused the community much concern and the Governor has appointed a four-member safety committee to recommend what measures should be taken to safeguard bathers. Maracas is the north-coast bathing resort opened up by the Americans by means of a magnificent highway, to replace the popular Macqueripe Bay which was included in the U.S. naval base.

Sir Lennox O'Reilly. "The sudden death of Sir Lennox O'Reilly on March 17th, at the age of 69, came as a great shock to the community in which he was such a prominent lawyer, businessman, statesman and sportsman." [A memoir appears elsewhere in this issue.]

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LXIV

MAY, 1949

No. 1217

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LONDON, W.C.2.

Telegrams:
LARIO, ESTRAND, LONDON

May, 1949.

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the West India Committee (Incorporated by Royal Charter) will be held at 40, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2, on Wednesday, the 25th day of May, 1949, at 11.30 a.m.

By order,

R. GAVIN, *Secretary.*

AGENDA

(i) To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the year ended April 30th, 1949, the audited statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1948, and the Balance Sheet.

(ii) To elect fourteen members of the Executive Committee in the place of the following, who retire by virtue of Article VI of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, but are eligible for re-election:—

MR. J. GORDON MILLER.
MR. W. G. FREEMAN, B.Sc.
MR. H. J. Q. HENRIQUES.
SIR HARRISON HUGHES, Bart.
THE HON. R. L. M. KIRKWOOD.
MR. M. S. MOODY-STUART,
M.C.
MR. CECIL W. MURRAY, D.F.C.
MR. T. H. NAYLOR.

THE HON. G. DOUGLAS PILE,
O.B.E.
LT.-COL. KENNETH E. PREVITE,
O.B.E.
SIR ALEXANDER ROGER,
K.C.I.E.
MR. LAUCHLAN ROSE, M.C.
MR. N. P. SHERLOCK.
LORD TWEEDSMUIR, O.B.E.

(iii) Any other business.

Fighting Tropical Diseases

LAST year in London, Washington and elsewhere, there was celebrated the Jubilee of one of the greatest events in the history of the tropics—the discovery by Ronald Ross of the transmission of the malaria parasite by the mosquito. This was the first essential step towards the emancipation of the tropics from the shackles of disease, and the foundation of tropical hygiene. With the discovery, by Dr. Reed and his colleagues, of the transmission of yellow fever by the *Aedes* mosquito, which followed, tropical development on a large scale was for the first time made possible.

One year after Ross' discovery—in 1899—the London School of Tropical Medicine was founded under Patrick Manson. And so in 1949 the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine which evolved from it celebrates its Jubilee. It is fitting, therefore, at this time that we

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should not only salute the memory of Ross, Reed, Manson and of those other pioneers who did so much for mankind in this field, but we should wish the workers of the present in tropical medicine and tropical hygiene continued success in their efforts to eradicate pestilence and disease, and to improve nutritional standards in the tropics. It is meet, also, that we should wish continued success to the School which has been such a potent factor in the spread of knowledge of the diseases peculiar to the tropics and of the public health measures to be adopted to combat them.

It is of interest that the Jubilee should have coincided with two spectacular pieces of work, which go a long way to justify the hope that malaria may soon be, at most, of minor importance in tropical countries. These are the Anopheline Eradication Scheme in Cyprus and the elimination of *Anopheles darlingi* from the populated part of British Guiana. Reference has already been made in the CIRCULAR to the latter, the work of Dr. Giglioli to whom all honour is due. The Cyprus scheme has in fact been completely successful, no anophelines having been seen in the island for some months now.

There are, however, still malarial spots in the West Indies in or in the proximity of which men and women must live and work. A knowledge of what to do to control the disease or possibly to eradicate it, is of great value to planters and others who must live in these areas and whose interests depend upon having a healthy labour force at their disposal. For them, particularly for junior planters, a Lay Course in malaria control is being run at the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene in July, particulars of which will be found elsewhere in this issue. We would urge employers to encourage members of their staffs who will be in London at that time to attend the course which will more than justify the five days of leave spent at it.

New Governor of Barbados

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Alfred William Lunghley Savage, C.M.G., Financial Secretary, Nigeria to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Barbados, in succession to Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G., who has been appointed Governor of Mauritius.

Mr. Savage was born in London in 1903 and educated at Owen's School. He served in Northern Rhodesia, Fiji and Palestine until he was transferred to Nigeria in May, 1946, as Deputy Financial Secretary. He was appointed to his present post in January, 1948.

From a Londoner's Notebook

THE Budget of 1949 has given a severe but salutary shock to the more irresponsible sections of the Socialist party's supporters. As the day drew near there was a good deal of expectation of relief, whether by way of remission of purchase taxes or by reduction of the standard rate of income tax, which still stands at 9s. in the pound. If for no other reason, it was thought that the Labour Party would be impelled to make some concessions with a view to their prospects in the general election next year. Sir Stafford Cripps, however, as his opponents would readily acknowledge, has a mind above that sort of consideration, and evidently his ruthless honesty imposed itself upon his colleagues. The only concession he made was the taking of a penny a pint off the price of beer, with a similar reduction of the import duty on light French wines; and these changes were sufficiently dictated by the evident operation, at the present high prices, of a law of diminishing returns to the disadvantage of the revenue. The reductions were balanced by an increase of the already very heavy death duties on large estates.

The most striking feature of the Budget, and that which has been most bitterly attacked, is the decision to call a halt to the subsidies of food. These measures for keeping prices artificially low are already costing us over £400,000,000 a year, and would now have to be raised still further if retail prices were to be kept at their present level in face of the increasing price of food in the world market. Sir Stafford Cripps has therefore ordained that the subsidies shall not be extended, and therefore that the latest increases in the price of food must be borne directly by the consumer instead of by the tax-payer—a healthy reminder that these two are in fact the same person. The immediate effect is that our modest weekly ration of meat, hitherto priced at 8d., goes up to 1s. 1d., without looking any bigger on the dish; and there are similar increases in other staple foodstuffs.

The moral deliberately pointed by Sir Stafford Cripps is that the process of "redistribution of wealth" by means of taxation has reached its limit. A vastly expensive new system of social services has been brought into existence in response to a public demand. The voters have now to realize that there is no large and vague wealthy class with bottomless pockets out of which the cost can be recovered; there is in fact no-one to pay for these things except themselves. They can have their social services or they can have tax relief; but they cannot have it both ways. Though the Conservative Party may remind the country that this is what they themselves have been saying for many years, they cannot justly refrain from applause when a Socialist Chancellor of the Exchequer says it so forcibly for them, and acts so firmly upon the unpalatable truth. The wrath of the Trades Union Congress, however, has been kindled; and it is not improbable that we shall now see formidable demands for wage increases, which

if granted may involve us in the further inflation that the Budget has been designed to prevent.

Although no one can take lightly the misgivings expressed by so great an imperial statesman as General Smuts, opinion in all parties in England is most favourably impressed by the outcome of the Conference of Prime Ministers, which has done much to enhance the personal prestige of Mr. Attlee. That India would not be content with anything but a republican constitution had been for some time foreseen; that she should nevertheless wish to remain within the British Commonwealth, and should continue to acknowledge the King as its head and the symbol of its association is remarkable diplomatic achievement. At present, it may have to be recognized, the agreement does not go beyond words, and it remains for events to show in practice precisely what the association of India with the Commonwealth on these terms means. For the rest of us, so far, there is no change; that is to say, for Great Britain and the other Dominions membership of the Commonwealth means that each has the same person as head of its individual Government. That will not be true of India; she will be within a society of which the King is the head, but the head of the Government of India will not be the King. It may be that Indians will think of the King as a symbol of association who is wholly outside politics; but we have reached a state of feeling here to which that need not seem a revolutionary conception.

A remarkable situation occurred in the triennial election for a new London County Council. There are 129 elected members, with 21 aldermen whom they co-opt; it has been the custom for aldermen's seats to be allotted between the parties in proportion to the elected members. The Aldermen, however, are appointed for six years, and only half their places become vacant after each election. In the 1946 council there was a 3 to 1 Labour majority, and the aldermen's places were filled in that proportion. This April there was a heavy swing against Labour and the voters returned 64 Conservatives, 64 Socialists and one Liberal. As it happened the ten aldermen carrying on from the last Council were all Labour men; so Mr. Brooke, the Conservative leader, proposed that for the eleven vacant places ten Conservatives should be appointed, and perhaps one Liberal or Independent. Since the sitting aldermen had no vote for this purpose, it looked as if this plan could be put through (with the probable support of the one Liberal elected member); and it would certainly have done no injustice to Labour, which had in fact been in a minority of over 100,000 in votes cast at the election. Since single-party Government is by no means essential in municipal affairs, it might have been expected that the chairmanships of the various committees would be equally divided.

Mr. Hayward, the Labour leader, however, announced that he would secure a "working majority" for his party

(Continued on page 108)

The West India Committee

AT a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, held on April 21st, the following seven candidates were admitted to membership:—

<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposer and Seconder</i>
TRINIDAD SHIPPING CO., LTD. (Trinidad)	Messrs. R. Landry & Co. Barclays Bank (D. C. & O.), Trinidad
S. R. MENDES LTD. (Antigua)	Mr. José Anjo Hon. Alexander Moody-Stuart, M.C.
MISS STEPHANIE ILVA LAFOREST, B.A. (Trinidad)	Miss M. Eugenia Charles Mr. H. Alan Walker
Mrs. E. J. A. SIMPSON (Barbados)	Mr. J. W. Pearl Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller
Mr. R. D. O'NEALE (Barbados)	Mr. J. W. Pearl Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller
Mr. ARTHUR ROBERT EYARE KING (Barbados)	Mr. Alexander Elder Gillespie Bros. & Co., Ltd.
Mr. LIONEL BELASCO (London)	Mr. H. Alan Walker Mr. N. P. Sherlock

The Obituary List

The chairman referred, with great regret, to the deaths of the following members: Mr. E. G. Bennett (British Guiana), Mr. G. M. Bethune (Country), Mr. R. J. Burrell (Country), Mr. Storke de Roux, J.P. (Jamaica), Mr. J. W. Gemmel (Country), Mr. S. M. Jacobsen (Country), Sir Lennox O'Reilly, K.C. (Trinidad), and Dr. F. J. Pound, O.B.E. (West Africa).

Executive Members Return to London

Mr. J. M. du Buisson, chairman of the West India Committee, returned to London on April 19th after a visit to the West Indies and Canada which had occupied three months. The following members of the Executive have returned to London after visiting the West Indian colonies: Mr. H. Alan Walker, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques, Commander H. V. Lavington, Lieut.-Colonel Kenneth Previté, Mr. N. P. Sherlock and Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott.

Mr. R. L. M. Kirkwood, a member of the Executive resident in Jamaica, arrived in London on April 5th.

Members of the West India Committee are invited to further the work of the Committee by introducing suitable candidates for election.

Jamaica Cement Plan

Reference was made in last issue to the arrangements then being made in London, New York and Kingston, Jamaica, to provide finance for the Caribbean Cement Co. which is to build a factory in Jamaica under Government licence.

Lists opened simultaneously in the three centres on April 25th and will close on May 16th unless fully subscribed before that date.

At the time of going to press, we understand that the amounts offered in London and New York have been fully placed and that in Jamaica the offer is "going well."

It is hoped to start building the factory in October next and to begin manufacture in October, 1951.

The Colonial Exhibition

MR. DAVID JONES asked the Secretary of State in the House of Commons on March 30th whether he had any further statement to make about the Colonies Exhibition to be held in London in the summer.

Mr. Rees-Williams, who replied, said that arrangements for the mounting of the exhibition by the Central Office of Information were going ahead very satisfactorily. The exhibition would be called "Focus on Colonial Progress" and he ought, he thought, to make it clear that it did not attempt to do more than give the public, by means of carefully chosen examples and striking illustrative material, a broad picture of what this country and the peoples of the territories were trying to achieve together, and of the problems which had to be tackled. It would not be the kind of exhibition in which separate sections were devoted to individual territories, products or industries. Limitations of space and finance would preclude anything on those lines, but quite apart from that he thought that the approach which had been chosen should be more valuable for the purpose in view. As Mr. Creech Jones had already announced, a "Colonial Month" was being arranged in London from June 21st, and the exhibition would take place against that background. He was glad to report that a very gratifying response had already been forthcoming from the many organizations who were being invited to participate in the "Colonial Month."

Mr. W. R. Williams then asked whether Mr. Creech Jones would keep in touch with the Minister of Education to see that school-children were enabled to see the exhibition.

Mr. Rees-Williams replied that they were doing that.

[The West India Committee is participating in "Colonial Month" and a special display will be staged at 40, Norfolk Street, Strand.—Ed.]

The Rebuilding of Castries

Lord Trefgarne, chairman of the Colonial Development Corporation, announces that the Corporation has been entrusted with the task of rebuilding Castries, St. Lucia, a large part of which was destroyed by fire in June last.

The work will consist of planning and rebuilding the town on modern lines and with modern services, in accordance with the new town plan prepared by the associated architects appointed for that purpose by the Windward Islands Government—Mr. J. C. Rose, A.R.I.B.A., and Mr. A. C. Lewis, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A.

Holland and Hannen and Cubitts, Ltd., have been appointed contractors to the Corporation for this work under the supervision of one of the architects in the engineering and works division of the Corporation—Mr. E. W. J. Mitchell, A.R.I.B.A., and other professional assistants.

Local labour will be employed to the full, and the chief materials to be imported are cement, steel, manufactured goods and fittings. Work will begin some time this month.

The Colonial Development Corporation will act as agents for the Government of St. Lucia.

The Budget

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS, Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced his second Budget in the House of Commons on April 6th.

His proposals included a penny a pint off beer; a reduction of 2s. a bottle in the duties on light wines imported in cask; an increase in certain telephone calls and rentals and in the duty on football pools and other forms of pool betting.

Probably the most controversial of the Chancellor's proposals was that dealing with a reduction in the food subsidies which will cause a rise in the direct cost to the consumer of cheese, meat, butter and margarine.

Sir Stafford pointed out that the food subsidies had now risen to about £485 million and that it was estimated that if the present prices were maintained and there was a very moderate increase in supplies, the total subsidies payable would amount to about £568 million.

He continued: "Now that just cannot go on. We must call a halt, or else we shall find ourselves in the ridiculous position of having to refuse to import much needed food, because we cannot afford to pay the subsidy out of our Budget. Besides which, prices have got out of all relationship with realities, and the longer that state of affairs persists the more impossible it becomes to bring about an adjustment. We propose, therefore, to put an effective and firm limit on subsidies so that if there is a further rise in cost it will have to be added on to the price.

The Tea and Sugar Duties

"We must also make immediate provision to prevent the prospective rise in subsidies this year, which would inevitably take place if we were merely to leave prices where they are. As I have pointed out, that prospective increase is of over £80 million. The changes which I propose to make to deal with this situation have already been allowed for in the Estimates actually submitted to Parliament, so that they will not require any further adjustment. This is the adjustment of which I spoke earlier.

"The major part of this adjustment must, of course, be by retail price increase; but about one-third of it can be accomplished by the remission, in the case of tea and sugar, of part of the duties now charged on these commodities. That, in reality, is merely a book-keeping change. The Tea Duty will be reduced by 6d. a lb. all round, and the Sugar Duties by 1½d., with appropriate reductions on molasses and glucose, which are in the same class. Prices, both to the public and to manufacturers, will remain unaltered, and special arrangements will be made to ensure that exporters do not suffer from the reduced rate of Customs drawback. The result will be to reduce the subsidy required to maintain the existing prices by £11 million in respect of tea and £22 million in respect of sugar.

"The rest of the adjustment must be by increased prices. It is, of course, immensely difficult to decide what changes in price are least objectionable. Individual views will differ, but, after full consideration, and, of course, after consultation with my right hon. Friend the Minister of Food, I have come to the conclusion that regard should be had to the relationship

of the present subsidized price to the pre-war price, with a preference for raising those prices that are low compared to pre-war prices in the light of the general price increase that has taken place; to the actual cost compared with the present price; and to the countries of origin of the particular foods.

"I propose, therefore, that, as from an early date to be arranged by my right hon. Friend the Minister of Food, the following increases in prices charged retail should be made: cheese, 4d. a lb.; meat, 4d. a lb.; margarine, 1d. a lb., and butter, 2d. a lb. Of these, cheese is actually at less than its pre-war price at present, and butter is the same price as pre-war. These changes in price, together with the change in import duties for tea and sugar, will mean that the subsidies should not exceed £465 million in the current year, and whatever happens to prices, we must not allow them to rise above that level.

"These changes will cause a rise in the cost-of-living figure on the All-Items Index of rather less than two points."

The New Sugar Duties

The new duties which came into effect at 5 p.m. on April 6th are as follows:—

Per cwt.	Preferential			Excise Duty s. d.
	Full s. d.	General s. d.	Certificated s. d.	
Sugar of a Polarization exceeding:				
99°	11 8	5 10	2 4.7	4 7
98° but n.e. 99°	11 8	4 9.2	1 6.3	3 7.1
97° but n.e. 98°	8 7	4 7.7	1 5.8	3 6
96° but n.e. 97°	8 4.3	4 6.3	1 5.3	3 4.9
95° but n.e. 96°	8 1.6	4 4.8	1 4.8	3 3.8
94° but n.e. 95°	7 10.9	4 3.3	1 4.4	3 2.7
93° but n.e. 94°	7 8.2	4 1.9	1 3.9	3 1.6
92° but n.e. 93°	7 5.6	4 0.5	1 3.5	3 0.6
91° but n.e. 92°	7 2.9	3 1.1	1 3	2 11.5

Lost Jamaica Mail

The Postmaster General has announced that information received from Jamaica discloses that it was found possible to salvage only a small part of the letter and parcel mails for Jamaica, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands posted in the United Kingdom between February 16th and 23rd, which were damaged by fire en route. The remainder must now be regarded as lost.

(Continued from page 106)

by an ingenious device. The Council could elect a non-member as chairman; and for this office the sitting aldermen could vote. He would use them to secure the election as chairman of a member of his party who had been defeated in the election. Then, in the election of aldermen, for which the pre-existing aldermen were not qualified, he would use the chairman's vote to balance the one Liberal vote and secure equality, and the chairman's second or casting vote to elect eleven more Socialist aldermen. Eventually, bowing to outraged public opinion, he so far "compromised" as to be content with 15 instead of the whole 21 aldermen's seats for his own side; but nevertheless emerged with a majority of 10 in the Council after being so clearly rejected at the polls.



ST. GEORGE'S DAY : THE FLAG AT BROXBOURNE PARISH CHURCH



A SCENE FROM THE NEW CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS FILM



U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET EXERCISES IN THE CARIBBEAN

[See page 116]



The West India Committee



Report of the Executive Committee for the year 1948-49 To be submitted to the Members of the West India Committee at the Annual General Meeting to be held at 40, Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.2., on Wednesday, the 25th day of May, 1949

THE Executive Committee presents to the members of the West India Committee its Annual Report for the year ended April 30th, 1949.

The officers of the Committee, elected by the Executive Committee at a meeting held on June 17th, 1948, were: *Chairman*: Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Hickling, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.; *Deputy Chairman*: Mr. J. M. du Buisson; *Treasurers*: The Chairman and Deputy Chairman, Mr. J. M. Campbell, Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott, Mr. Alex. Elder and Mr. H. Alan Walker.

It was with the greatest regret that the Executive Committee received the news of the death, on September 13th, 1948, of its Chairman. At a meeting of the Committee a few days later Mr. Gordon Miller, presiding, paid a notable tribute to the "conscientious labours, fine character and tenacity of purpose" of Colonel Hickling who, he said, had served the Committee and the best interests of the West Indies with unflagging zeal.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on October 21st, 1948, Mr. J. M. du Buisson was elected Chairman and Mr. J. M. Campbell, Deputy Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. A. M. Armour and Mr. W. F. Watson resigned their membership of the Executive Committee during the year under review and Mr. G. Douglas Pile, O.B.E., Mr. N. P. Sherlock and Lord Tweedsmuir were appointed to membership.

The following members visited the West Indies during the year: The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Mr. H. Alan Walker, Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott, Major S. Clarke, Mr. Harold de Pass, Lieut.-Colonel K. Previté, Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques, Commander H. V. Lavington, Mr. N. P. Sherlock, Lord Tweedsmuir and Mr. L. B. Whitaker. Mr. R. L. M. Kirkwood, Mr. G. Douglas Pile and Major A. A. Nathan, normally resident in the West Indies, visited this country and were present at Executive Committee meetings.

Membership. The total membership at the end of the year 1948 showed a slight decrease from the figure of the previous year. The following are the comparative figures for the last ten years:—

Year	Members		Year	Members	
	New	Total		New	Total
1939	81	1,997	1944	92	1,828
1940	46	1,924	1945	115	1,860
1941	41	1,790	1946	144	1,918
1942	56	1,782	1947	104	1,934
1943	89	1,802	1948	79	1,867

The West India Committee Circular. The Executive Committee again records its appreciation of the services freely accorded to the CIRCULAR by its Honorary Correspondents and others in the West Indies during the year. It would welcome comments by the readers of the CIRCULAR as to its contents and suggestions as to circumstances or problems which might be ventilated in it. The Editor would also be pleased to publish suitable letters to him on matters of general interest relating to the West Indies. Publication date of the CIRCULAR has now been advanced to the middle of the month.

Library. The more valuable books of the Committee's Library, which were stored, by courtesy of Mr. Noel Deer at his home at Oxford during the war years, are now back at 40, Norfolk Street, and have again been in use for research purposes by workers interested in the West Indies. Our debt to Mr. Deer was increased by his presentation of a number of books on West Indian and sugar subjects to the Library, while that indefatigable donor, Sir Algernon Aspinall, continued his gifts.

With the increased interest in the West Indies as places in which to live or to sojourn, the Library is in daily use by callers for perusal of newspapers, reports and documents of all kinds which the Committee is pleased to place at their disposal.

Sugar.

Price. The negotiations, which the Committee conducts annually with the Ministry of Food, on behalf of the B.W.I. Sugar Association, in regard to the price to be paid for the export sugar crop, were even more protracted than usual on this occasion. It will be recalled that the 1948 price was £27 5s. per ton c.i.f. including Imperial Preference of £3 15s. a ton but not the proceeds of the Special Colonial Preference Certificates. It also included the Reserve Funds, details of which were given in the previous Report.

For 1949, a request was made, on October 26th, 1948, for an increase of price of £3 a ton in view of (i) a very marked rise, during the previous twelve months, in the costs of supplies essential to the industry and its employees and (ii) the undeniable prospect of an imminent fall in the returns from the by-products of the industry.

It was also stressed that producers throughout the West Indies have, by government and official action and attitudes, and by their own desire to improve the lot of their employees, been committed to the provision of improved standards of living. It was felt to be inconceivable that Colonial Governments could contemplate, or that the United Kingdom Government by its failure to pay an adequate price would force, a retrogression in these improved standards of living whether directly by a reduction of wages, or by making it impossible to grant increases where necessary, or, indirectly, by necessitating the cutting down of the contribution which the industry makes otherwise to general standards in these colonies.

It was asserted that to maintain the present position, with its reasonable division of the income of the industry between manufacturer, cane farmer and labourer, even without providing for the further improvement of standards which all would wish, an increase of £3 a ton in the 1948 price was required.

In contradistinction to previous practice, when B.W.I. price needs and the Ministry of Food's ideas were discussed at meetings attended by Ministry of Food and Colonial Office representatives, on this occasion, and without intervening negotiations, the Committee had to wait till December 22nd before being informed of His Majesty's Government's decision, which had been communicated to the Governors of the colonies concerned and was being issued for general public information as follows:—

"The U.K. Government have decided that it is not possible to accede to the request of the sugar producers for an increase in the price to be paid to them for sugar for the year 1949. They have, however, authorized continuance of the 1948 price for that year. It is believed this course will permit retention of a large part of the Canadian outlet which is absolutely essential in producers' interests."

This pronouncement was received with dismay by B.W.I. producers and B.W.I.S.A. asked the Committee to protest in the strongest possible terms both against the procedure adopted and the price decided on by the Government, and to press for the reopening of the latter question.

This was done by letter of January 11th to the Minister of Food. In it the Committee recapitulated the reasons for the original request for a price increase of £3 a ton and showed that since it was made production costs and, in particular, costs of certain supplies such as fertilizers, machinery and bags, had further increased and that in some instances Government action had made further increase of wages inevitable. On the income side, it was pointed out that the intervening months had confirmed producers' forecasts of a heavy fall in the returns from the by-products of the industry. The letter went on to show the general world circumstances in which the B.W.I. sugar industry has to exist, to justify the continuance of realistic negotiated prices for their product and, claiming that the £3 increase requested was absolutely justified, concluded on this aspect that, "If the United Kingdom Government, instead of being prepared to negotiate on the basis of these facts, is looking

intently at the so-called ' world free market ' price, then we can only point out that to do so is to set at nought its whole declared colonial policy and will cause social and economic disintegration in the British West Indies."

The Minister of Food replied on February 16th stating that, while our representations had been further considered, the Government's decision regarding the 1949 price must stand. He went on to say that the Government was anxious to avoid a position in which West Indian sugar producers might be faced with a heavy fall of prices such as occurred after the first world war and which had such disastrous consequences to producers. The Government was greatly interested in the questions relating to costs of production raised in our letter and was considering methods by which these questions could be examined in detail.

On March 4th, after consultation with B.W.I.S.A., the Committee replied to the Minister stating that, in the circumstances, the industry must now accept the decision refusing a price increase, but only under vigorous protest and with full insistence that the price of £30 5s. per ton c.i.f. which was asked for is required to cover costs in the circumstances outlined, particularly in the face of a sharply falling market for by-products.

As regards the examination of costs of production, it was pointed out that these questions had been or were being examined in detail by officially appointed Committees or Commissions in every main B.W.I. sugar producing territory. The Minister was therefore urged, in the first place, to consider them in the light of the findings of these bodies and the Committee asked that, in any case before a firm decision was taken, an opportunity be given to representatives of the sugar producers to discuss them with the Minister or with the Department concerned.

There the matter rests for the present.

Meanwhile, British beet sugar farmers have been granted an increased price for their crop for 1949 and 1950 because of increased costs. As the acting Chairman said in a letter to *The Times* of March 25th, why should reasons, which justify an increase in the case of British farmers be regarded as unacceptable in the case of the B.W.I. cane sugar industry?

Slight modifications were made in the scale of premiums and discounts for sugar polarizing above and below 96°.

Long-term Agreement. It will be recalled that for some years the Committee, in consultation with B.W.I.S.A., has been pressing for a long-term extension of existing undertakings by the U.K. Government to purchase the whole B.W.I. exportable surplus of sugar at annually negotiated prices.

On September 22nd, 1948 the U.K. Government announced that they would guarantee producers of sugar in Australia, South Africa, British West Indies, British Guiana, Mauritius, Fiji and East Africa an outlet for their exportable production of sugar either in the United Kingdom or in other countries within the Commonwealth, by arrangement with those countries, up to the end of 1952. Prices would, unless otherwise agreed, be negotiated annually having regard to world market conditions and all other factors.

Meanwhile the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on behalf of the U.K. Government, had announced on September 17th, in general terms its willingness to enter into long-term contracts for many colonial products, the periods of such contracts to vary according to the circumstances of the individual cases, but where appropriate they might extend up to ten years. Tree crops which take a considerable number of years to come into bearing, were cited as examples of crops which might attract such contracts.

B.W.I.S.A., on consideration of the guarantee of purchase till the end of 1952, rejected it as much too short and decided to seek such a guarantee for a full ten years till the end of 1959. Accordingly, on November 1st, 1948, the Committee wrote to the Minister of Food, pointing out that the absence of a long-term guarantee of outlet for B.W.I.'s exportable production of sugar at negotiated prices greatly increased the difficulties of attracting new capital and encouraging growers to expand production; that the Chancellor in his statement of September 17th, had indicated that in certain circumstances the U.K. Purchasing Departments would be prepared to enter into long-term contracts for periods up to ten years. The letter showed the special need for a long-term guarantee of outlet for its products in the case of the sugar industry if the required new factories were to be forthcoming and asked for a ten-year guarantee of outlet at negotiated prices till the end of 1959.

The Government's announcement of December 22nd, 1948, on the price question contained this further statement: " The U.K. Government are examining problems connected with the possibility of further long-term assurances. This is bound

to take some time. It is hoped to make a further announcement in due course. Meanwhile present assurances covering the next four years place no limit on production."

In these circumstances the Committee, in consultation with B.W.I.S.A., decided to place fully before the Minister of Food, and the Colonial Office, the considerations which had led them to seek the ten-year guarantee. This was done by letter of January 11th. In it, it was maintained that the two requests—for a price increase now and for a ten-year guarantee of outlet at negotiated prices—were twin aspects of a policy designed to secure and maintain reasonable standards in the B.W.I. sugar industry and to secure its ordered expansion in the interests of the whole area. That policy involved producers taking all steps within their power to avoid any possibility of a return to the situation existing between the two wars when they were forced to accept a price for their produce based on the price at which Cuba was prepared, indeed forced, to sell her surplus sugar after having sold the bulk of it at favourable prices in a preferred market. Producers and particularly the smaller among them, could not be expected to spend capital even upon measures to maintain basic efficiency in field and factory and on good living conditions for staff and labour, far less on expanding their production, unless they could be relieved of the fear of a return to those conditions.

In a memorandum enclosed with the letter the Committee outlined the Empire sugar production and consumption situation now and for the future and went on to suggest ways of approach to the problem of providing the ten-year guarantee asked for. The key position occupied by Canada was recognised and methods of securing her co-operation suggested.

The Minister of Food replied on February 16th indicating that, as the Committee would appreciate, the question was one which involved considerations of great importance and complexity. Many issues were involved but the proposal would be examined forthwith but it was not possible to say when a decision on it would be possible.

The Committee replied stressing the urgency of the matter and asking the Minister to receive a deputation. At the date of this report no reply had been received to that request but on April 19th the Committee was informed that though the question was being closely examined by the Ministry of Food and the other Departments concerned it might be several weeks before any conclusions are reached.

Special Colonial Preference Certificates. These Certificates are subject to certain standard allocations now based on the average amount of sugar produced for export in the three years previous to the year for which the allotment is made. This has borne hardly on Jamaica, whose production has been consistently increasing. In order to overcome this Jamaica suggested that allotment should be on the basis of one-third of the current annual production for export and requested that the question be taken up with the Colonial Office. B.W.I.S.A. supported this suggestion with the reservation that the existing rights of all participating colonies must be protected on their present basis including continuance of the guarantee of the appropriate minimum standard allocation.

The Committee accordingly discussed the matter informally with the Colonial Office and thereafter raised it in writing with them and with the Ministry of Food and it is now understood to be before the inter-departmental Committee which is examining the whole future sugar position.

Production. Production of sugar for the quota year ending August 31st, 1948 was slightly lower than for the preceding quota year. The current year, however, will certainly outstrip all records, the latest estimate of production being 789,750 tons. Barbados and Jamaica have record crops of 150,000 tons and 234,400 tons respectively, while Trinidad with 150,000 tons is again approaching her 1936 record of 154,665 tons. The following are the figures for recent years:—

Quota year	Production (B.W.I.) in tons
1944-45	504,162
1945-46	587,936
1946-47	607,660
1947-48	603,227
1948-49	789,750 (estimated)

Special Sugars. The Ministry of Food is again taking 15,000 tons of yellow grocery sugars from the British West Indies, allocated to producers in the same proportions as hitherto. An effort was made to persuade the Ministry to purchase 20,000 tons on this occasion but without avail. In addition 2,500 tons

of molasses sugar and 1,000 tons of muscovado sugar is being taken from Barbados and up to 200 tons of muscovado from Antigua.

Sugar Research in the B.W.I. The year has been largely one of preparation. In June 1948 Dr. L. F. Wiggins, the Director of Sugar Research, submitted to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, and secured approval of, estimates both for capital expenditure and for recurrent costs, together with ideas as to staff and allocation of expenses as between research and the College. Approval of the Colonial Office and the Treasury to the financial aspects was later obtained and B.W.I.S.A. has also approved the general scheme and agreed its share of the budget. Plans for the new laboratories at the College have now been approved and the work ought to be started soon.

Rum.

Control of Imports. At the date of the last report rums distilled in 1946 had been released for shipment following on representations by the Committee to the Colonial Office and the Ministry of Food. The Committee, however, continued to press on the authorities its view that the time had come to restore the pre-war freedom to ship from or store in the Colonies as ordinary commercial considerations dictate. On August 19th, 1948, the Ministry of Food announced that, in order to ease storage difficulties in the British West Indies and to assist the United Kingdom export trade in rums matured in this country, authority had been given for the import into the United Kingdom from Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, Barbados and the Windward Islands, of rum distilled in 1947 and 1948. At the same time it was announced that all rums were now free of price control.

Canadian Rum Regulations. The proposed new Canadian Alcoholic Beverages Regulations which *inter alia* made alterations in the generally accepted definition of rum as a potable spirit distilled direct from sugar cane products in sugar cane growing countries, were expected to come into force on April 30th, 1949. While the direct negotiations on behalf of the B.W.I. rum industry with the Canadian authorities have been conducted by the B.W.I. Trade Commissioner in Montreal, the Committee took all possible action with the Colonial Office and the Board of Trade, in regard to points which might affect the legitimate interests of the rum producer in the West Indies or the exporter of rum to Canada. In this the Committee had the co-operation of the Rum Importers' Association.

It is now understood that the new regulations will omit the requirement that rum must be distilled in a sugar cane growing country; that they will prescribe that, before consumption in Canada, rum must be matured for not less than two years in small wood (not more than 150 gallons capacity) and that imported rum may only be blended in Canada with other imported rum, and not with domestically produced rum. The necessity for maturing in small wood and the lack, so far, of any definition of rum or labelling regulations which will enable the Canadian consumer clearly to distinguish between genuine West Indian rum and domestically produced substitutes, is causing considerable concern in the West Indies, and steps are being taken to carry the matter further.

Duty on Rum. Representations were made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the Committee prior to the 1949 Budget, with a view to reduction of the duty on rum. It was pointed out that, on the assumption that all rum or rum spirit imported into the U.K. during the last three years, will eventually attract customs or excise duty at the preferential rate of £10 11s. 3d. per proof gallon, the total amount of duty involved would be almost £240,000,000 or £80,000,000 a year—more than the total annual revenue of the colonies from which the rum is mainly exported. Stress was also laid on the fact that the West Indian sugar industry depends heavily on the successful development of its by-products, a dependence which is increased by unfavourable sugar prices.

No reduction in the duty on spirits was, however, made in the Budget.

Molasses. The price now being paid by the Board of Trade for Blackstrap molasses of the 1949 crop has fallen to 5 to 7 cents per gallon as against 15 cents a year ago. The assistance of the Colonial Office was sought in an endeavour to prevent this heavy cut in the price but it appears that their efforts failed.

Meanwhile the shipment of blackstrap molasses to Canada has been resumed on a small scale; before the war it reached over 6,000,000 gallons. All supplies during the war and since

were diverted by the Molasses and Industrial Alcohol Control to the United Kingdom. At the same time there have been disturbing suggestions of attempts by distillers to secure the abolition of the present preference of 1½ cents per gallon which B.W.I. molasses enjoys on importation into Canada. This matter has been taken up by the West Indies Trade Commissioner in Canada with the authorities there and by the Committee with the Colonial Office and with the Canadian Commissioner for Tariffs. It is thought that the point may be raised at the International Trade talks now going on at Annecy.

Cocoa. The British West Indian cocoa crop season ending on September 30th last showed an increase in production. The Trinidad crop totalled 17,897,187 lb., more than double the 1946-47 crop, which was 8,450,000 lb. Grenada exports were approximately 6,000,000 lb. against a little over 5,500,000 lb. in 1946-47.

The allocations of world cocoa of 1948-49 indicate a similar anticipated level of production, the total allocations of B.W.I. export cocoa amounting to over 24,000,000 lb., and being as follows:—

	Tons
Trinidad	6,030
Grenada	2,230
Jamaica	2,500
St. Lucia	435
St. Vincent	5
Dominica	240

11,440

From these quotas there is an allocation to the United Kingdom of 1,750 tons from Trinidad and 1,000 tons from Grenada. The United States of America will receive 3,300 tons of British West Indian cocoa, and Canada 3,400 tons, including the whole of the Jamaica crop. The total quantity of cocoa recommended for distribution during the current cocoa year by the I.E.F.C. is 703,670 tons (against 591,550 tons for the previous cocoa year).

The prices to be paid by the Ministry of Food for the cocoa allocated to the United Kingdom from Trinidad and Grenada are 195s. per 50 kilos f.o.b. for the first half of each allocation, and 145s. per 50 kilos f.o.b. for the second half. The price agreed last year was 220s. per 50 kilos for the whole of each allocation. The fall in prices which has taken place during the year is also reflected in the price of British West African cocoa, which had fallen by October, 1948, to 217s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f. the continent, and has since declined further to 130s.

In Trinidad prices to producers, which had attained 844 per fanega for Plantation Grade in January, 1948, had fallen in March 1949 to 828 per fanega, the differential of 84 between Plantation and Estates Ordinary remaining the same.

A disturbing feature of the past year was the discovery, on October 15th, of witches' broom in Grenada. Investigation showed that the blight is already prevalent on both sides of the island, and by no means confined to the estate on which it was discovered. Energetic measures for dealing with the disease, and for enactment of legislation to assist in its control, were at once instituted.

Cocoa in the British West Indies is so far fortunately free from the swollen shoot disease which is causing concern in West Africa, and for which the basic method of control, recently confirmed by an independent commission, is the removal and destruction of all affected cocoa trees and other possible sources of infection. Although it is now known that areas from which diseased trees have been removed can be replanted successfully, attention has been directed to the possibility of growing cocoa in new areas in the colonial territories. Dr. Cheesman, at the instance of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has investigated the potentialities for the cultivation of cocoa in Malaya, Sarawak and North Borneo, and the Evans Commission has reported on possibilities of extension of West Indian cocoa cultivation in British Guiana and British Honduras. A common feature of all the proposals for new cultivations is their dependence on supplies of disease-resistant planting material from Trinidad, and the development therefrom of further planting material in sufficient quantity for commercial use. This will take time.

Total imports of raw cocoa into the United Kingdom during the year ended December 31st, 1948, were 107,994 tons of which 3,099 tons were from the British West Indies. Corresponding figures for 1947 were 106,724 tons and 1,799 tons; and for 1946 were 125,020 tons and 2,842 tons. The quantity of cocoa

entered for home consumption in the United Kingdom during the calendar year 1948 was 105,692 tons; in 1947 was 107,829 tons, and in 1946 was 120,944 tons.

Bananas. Banana sales to the United Kingdom continue to be made under the terms of the five year contract negotiated between the Jamaica All-Island Banana Growers' Association, the Jamaica Government, and the Ministry of Food at the end of 1947. The price remains as in 1947 and 1948, viz., £32 per ton f.o.b.

Discussions have taken place, however, between representatives of the Growers' Association and the Colonial Office during which the feasibility of extending the existing agreement to cover a period of ten years has been touched on. No finality has yet been reached and further discussions are to take place shortly.

The feature of the year was the acceptance, after extensive trials, of the Lacatan variety by the Ministry of Food on the same terms as the Gros Michel. After considering the potential development of this new variety the Jamaica Banana Executive Committee gave the following estimates of banana production in Jamaica up to the end of 1952:—

	Gros Michel stems	Lacatan stems	Total stems
1949	6,500,000	100,000	6,600,000
1950	6,000,000	1,000,000	7,000,000
1951	5,500,000	4,000,000	9,500,000
1952	5,000,000	8,000,000	13,000,000

The figure of 13,000,000 stems is equivalent to about 150,000 tons.

Banana imports into the United Kingdom for the last two years from the British West Indies and from all sources have been as follows:—

From	1947		1948	
	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£
British West Indies	...	...	...	...
All sources	2,097,160	5,011,847	2,963,809	6,572,287

The Dominica Banana Association recently entered into a five year contract for the supply of bananas to the Grayson Shipping Line Inc. of Miami, Florida, at \$1.44 B.W.I. per count or equal count bunch f.a.s. Roseau or Portsmouth up to September 30th, 1949, with provision for adjustment after that date.

Citrus Fruit. Agreement was reached between West Indian citrus producers from Jamaica, Trinidad and British Honduras and the Ministry of Food in November last on a ten year contract for the supply of concentrated orange juice up to a maximum of 5,000 tons a year. A formula for the annual revision of prices for the first five years was agreed; a fresh formula for the remaining half of the contract will be worked out later.

As a result, plans are already in hand for an increase of citrus acreage and for the installation of factories and modern equipment for the production of juice.

The promising future before the citrus industry of the West Indies was referred to at length in the Report of the Commonwealth Shipping Committee on West Indian Shipping Services. Its development was seen, however, to be dependent, so far as fresh fruit is concerned, on (a) further provision of chilled space in ships to the United Kingdom and (b) additional shore cold-storage accommodation, particularly in Trinidad. British Honduras and Dominica, so as to enable enough fruit to be accumulated to justify suitable ships calling to pick it up.

Cotton. The area planted to Sea Island cotton in the 1947-48 crop season, excluding the acreage in St. Lucia, rose from 7,265½ acres (in 1946-47) to 9,386 acres. Plantings in St. Kitts were better than had seemed likely when the annual report for last year was compiled, but attained only 333 acres, against 986 acres in 1946-47. The other islands all contributed to the increased acreage.

Total British West Indian production was 1,538,902 lb., or 3,847 bales of 400 lb. each. The f.o.b. price received for clean lint ranged from 2s. 9d. (in Antigua) to 3s. 6d. (in Barbados, St. Vincent and St. Lucia) per lb.

Marie Galante cotton was grown only in Carriacou, 115 bales of lint being produced from an area of approximately 1,200 acres.

The estimated B.W.I. cotton crop for 1948-49 is 2,277,500 lb. lint, or 5,695 bales, and the f.o.b. prices agreed up to Sep-

tember, 1948, were 3s. 6d. per lb. (Nevis and Antigua) and 4s. 2d. (St. Vincent and Barbados).

While an upward trend in prices benefited producers during the past year, there has been increased competition from finer growths of Egyptian cotton, and the demand from spinners and weavers has tended to be for superfine and the highest grades of M.S.I. New fabrics have stimulated demand for yarns spun in the higher counts, while restriction on sales in the United Kingdom, the increased competition from Egyptian cottons, and purchase tax have caused a falling off in the demand for Sea Island cotton for the manufacture of men's underwear. The Advisory Committee in England of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association, on which the West India Committee is represented, made representations in February to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to remittance of purchase tax to assist in the disposal of accumulating stocks of Sea Island cotton. These representations are under consideration.

Another matter, taken up by the Advisory Committee with the Raw Cotton Commission, is the advisability of having one scale of grades for M.S.I. cotton from all the islands, in place of the differing standards at present adopted, which give dissatisfaction in the West Indies.

It is noted that action taken in the West Indies as a result of the proposals of Mr. P. W. Briggs, who was delegated by the Colonial Office and the British Cotton Growing Association to report on conditions in ginneries in the islands, has resulted in a marked improvement in the standard of ginning and preparation of Sea Island cotton.

During the year the issue prices of raw cotton have been subject to frequent adjustments by the Raw Cotton Commission. These adjustments have been reported in the CIRCULAR from time to time.

Nutmegs and Mace. Throughout the year the Committee has collaborated with the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association which, since October 1st, 1947, has been the sole exporter of nutmegs and mace from the island. Cables giving current price quotations have been passed on to the seven U.K. firms which are agents of the Association in this country and through which all sales are effected.

For some time, however, there has been intense local dissatisfaction with the operations of the Association. Protest meetings have been held and petitions presented to the Legislative Council calling for amendment of the Ordinances creating the Association so as to make it a voluntary organization.

Cigar Industry. In spite of representations in regard to the high rate of duty, which adversely affects the sales of cigars in the United Kingdom, no alteration was made in it in the 1949 Budget. In an austerity Budget, however, it was hardly to be expected, particularly as it is linked with the general question of dollar imports of cigarette tobacco which it is the policy of the U.K. Government, in present circumstances, to maintain at a low level. Imports of cigars into the United Kingdom from Jamaica fell considerably during 1948 from the record figures of 1947 as the following table shows:—

	Quantity lbs.	Value £
1946	223,937	452,706
1947	409,232	896,989
1948	231,517	505,616

Comparable figures are not available for Dominica, the only other West Indian colony where there is any considerable production of cigars, but figures given by the Administrator indicate that production in 1948 was expected to be about 600,000 cigars and that in 1949 as many as 2,500,000 might be manufactured, mainly for export to the United Kingdom.

Oil. Production of crude oil for the year 1948 was again about 20,000,000 barrels.

Much exploration work was carried out in new areas and to greater depths than hitherto. Geophysical surveys were carried out during the year over marine areas.

The new wages agreement with the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union, which was concluded in March, 1948, has been working smoothly and there were no stoppages of work due to labour disputes.

The Trinidad Government has recently granted permission to Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd., to import duty free for 25 years,

beginning January 1st, 1949, crude oil and/or charging stocks or blending stocks for its own account. The company has also been permitted to process and re-export these stocks in such quantities as would at any particular time be necessary to maintain its refineries at full operating capacity.

Empire Fruits Council. The Survey on developments in fruit production and marketing since 1939 in the main countries exporting to the United Kingdom, prepared by the Empire Fruits Council in collaboration with the Commonwealth Economic Committee, has now been completed. It contains full information in regard to production and prospects of bananas in Jamaica and on the citrus industries of Jamaica, Trinidad, British Honduras and British Guiana. Only one meeting of the Council has been necessary during the year.

Shipping Services to and from the West Indies.

The Commonwealth Shipping Committee, which had been examining the shipping needs of the West Indies since early in 1947, finally issued its report in November, 1948. A full summary was published in the CIRCULAR of December, 1948. Its main positive recommendation was that a passenger service should be provided between the United Kingdom and the Eastern Caribbean, with ships having accommodation for 50-75 persons and with a speed of not less than 16-17 knots. The service should, if possible, give fortnightly outward sailings, but not less frequently than monthly and might be provided in conjunction with provision of bananas from Jamaica and fresh citrus fruit from Jamaica and Trinidad. Attention was drawn to the high cost of the tonnage required and to the possibility that special measures of assistance, at any rate at the outset, may be necessary to encourage shipowners to provide the service.

The Committee has discussed this recommendation and takes the view that it is the minimum required to meet the needs of the area and to maintain the prestige of British Shipping in the Caribbean and is pressing this viewpoint on the Government.

Meanwhile the actual situation as far as current passenger facilities are concerned has not improved. Some easement may result when the *Golfito*, a new cargo-cum-passenger ship of Elders and Fyffe's Line, with accommodation for 100 passengers, joins the *Cavina* and *Ariguani* on the U.K., Trinidad, Jamaica, U.K. run. She is expected also to call at Barbados. The French Line also hopes shortly considerably to augment its provision for passengers.

Another recommendation of the Report, inspired by a suggestion made by the West India Committee, was that a representative organization of shippers and shipowners should be formed with a view generally to the discussion and settlement of any outstanding difficulties.

The Executive, following this recommendation, had already taken the initiative by setting up a Sub-Committee to prepare the constitution and rules of a Standing Committee, to fulfil the recommended functions as far as shippers are concerned, when an invitation was received from the Colonial Office formally inviting it to take action on it.

This has now been done. A Standing Committee of Merchants and Shippers, with a Constitution and Rules approved by the Executive, will be brought into being within the next few weeks at a meeting of all members of the Committee likely to be interested. Meanwhile the British Lines Secretariat of the Association of West India Trans-Atlantic Steamship Lines has been approached and has agreed to enter into negotiations with the Standing Committee as soon as the latter is ready to do so.

Colonial Employers' Federation. Since the death of Colonel Hickling, Mr. Robert Gavin has served alone on the Executive of the Colonial Employers' Federation representing West Indian interests. The Federation was not represented at the International Labour Conference held in San Francisco in June-July 1948 since the subjects dealt with, though applying to the colonies, were primarily of concern to metropolitan countries. A Committee on Work in Plantations has now been set up by the Governing Body of the I.L.O. following on the Resolution calling for investigation of conditions of work on plantations passed at the Asian Regional Preparatory International Labour Conference at New Delhi in 1947. The Committee is not expected to meet, however, till next year and will in the first instance examine and report only on the basic questions common to workers on plantations as a whole and on the methods for securing within the framework of the I.L.O. consideration

of the special problems of plantation workers employed in the different branches.

Mr. Gavin accepted an invitation from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to serve, for three years, as a member of the Colonial Labour Advisory Committee.

Trade Representation. The Committee has continued to act as official Trade Representative in the United Kingdom of the Governments of Jamaica and Trinidad and unofficially to deal with matters involving the trade interests of the other colonies as they arise. The inquiries received by the Committee continue to be as great in volume and as diverse in character as ever. The interest in the West Indies as travel resorts or as places in which to live has been well maintained. Not all inquirers are, however, likely to be suitable settlers and the Committee regards it as its duty, in the interests of the West Indies, to advise writers and callers of the limited fields in which employment is likely to be available and of the hazards of agriculture there particularly when embarked on by persons with no tropical experience and limited capital.

It will be recalled that a resolution calling for the establishment of a British Caribbean Trade Commissioner Service on a more formal basis than at present was passed at the Montego Bay Conference on Closer Association of the West Indies in 1947. A Conference to discuss this and other Resolutions and to formulate proposals in regard to them was held in Barbados early in 1949. No details are available of the results of that Conference though it is understood that a continuance of collaboration with the West India Committee was envisaged.

British Industries Fair. The Committee again made all the necessary arrangements in regard to the West Indian Exhibit at the British Industries Fair at Earls Court, London, in May, 1948. Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Windward Islands (Grenada and St. Lucia) were the exhibiting colonies, while a special exhibit of Sea Island Cotton and of fabrics and garments made from it was also on view. The Committee desires to express its appreciation of the work of the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Thomas Souness, M.B.E., who, as usual, was in charge of the organization of the exhibit, and of that of Mr. F. G. Harcourt, O.B.E., the Committee's representative on the stand and of their assistants.

A similar exhibit is being arranged in connexion with the 1949 Fair.

Staff. In a particularly strenuous year, in which many problems have been before it, the Committee would like to tender more than perfunctory thanks to the Secretary and his staff for the efficient way in which they have discharged their duties during the year.

J. M. DU BUISSON,

Chairman

40, NORFOLK STREET,
LONDON, W.C.2.

ROBERT GAVIN,

Secretary.

April 29th, 1949.

Economic Problems and The Empire

The Royal Empire Society, in co-operation with Ashridge College of Citizenship, is holding a course of nine lectures at Ashridge from May 20th to May 26th to consider the position of the British Commonwealth and Empire in the world economic crisis, and the individual problems facing the Dominions and parts of the Colonial Empire.

Speakers who will address the course include Mr. Vernon Bartlett, M.P., Mr. Douglas Jay, M.P. (Economic Secretary to the Treasury), Mr. Graham Spry (Agent-General for Saskatchewan), the Rt. Hon. Sir Ronald Cross (formerly High Commissioner for Great Britain in Australia), Professor C. A. W. Manning (Professor of International Relations, London University), Sir Jeremy Raisman (vice-chairman of Lloyds Bank), Mr. Frank Samuel (United Africa Co., an original member of the ground-nut scheme), the Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, M.P. (Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations), and Mr. Norman Crump (City editor of the *Sunday Times*).

The Annecy Conference

THE trade discussions based upon the Washington Loan, the Geneva Agreements and the Havana Charter, have now been transferred to Annecy in France and opened on April 11th. It is stated that they will involve a larger potential number of tariff negotiations than has ever been held simultaneously in the history of world trade.

The countries participating may be divided into two groups: the 23 countries, which comprise those which have already acceded to the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (that is, the Geneva Agreements) are:—

Australia	Cuba	Norway
Belgium	Czechoslovakia	Pakistan
Brazil	France	South Africa
Burma	India	Southern Rhodesia
Canada	Lebanon	Syria
Ceylon	Luxembourg	United Kingdom
Chile	Netherlands	United States
China	New Zealand	

The second group consists of 13 other countries who have expressed their intention of acceding to the Geneva Agreements. These are as follows:—

Colombia	Greece	Nicaragua
Denmark	Haiti	Peru
Dominican Republic	Italy	Sweden
El Salvador	Liberia	Uruguay
Finland		

The move at Annecy will be for the 23 countries to negotiate with the 13, and for the 13 to negotiate amongst themselves. That involves 260 sets of negotiations and 78 sets, respectively, a total of 338. For the purposes of negotiation the Benelux Group counts as one, and Lebanon and Syria also form a single unit. Between 500 and 600 delegates and assistants will participate and they will require 150 offices, which is why Geneva has been evacuated and the whole town of Annecy occupied. It is said that the negotiations are likely to last at least three months.

Mr. A. E. V. Barton, a member of the Executive, and Mr. Robert Gavin, secretary of the West India Committee, spent a few days at the Conference early in May to watch the interests of B.W.I. producers.

West Indian Cotton

St. Kitts' Production in 1947-48

Since the publication on page 95 of the April issue of the CIRCULAR of the figures of production of West Indian Sea Island cotton of the 1947-48 crop, the West India Committee has received intimation that the figures given for St. Kitts were approximate.

The revised figures provided by the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association (Inc.) are as follows: Acres planted, 333; Clean Lint (lb.), Total, 60,130; Stained Lint (lb.), Total, 13,304.

These revisions produce the following further changes in the tabulated statement: Acres planted, Total, 9,386; Clean Lint (lb.), Total for all islands, 1,372,270; Stained Lint (lb.), Total for all islands, 166,632; Total Lint (lb.), Total for all islands, 1,538,902; Average per acre in St. Kitts of Clean Lint (lb.), 180; of Stained Lint (lb.), 40; and of Total Lint (lb.), 220.

Business with the Caribbean

The president of the Incorporated Chambers of Commerce of the British Caribbean invited the Federation of British Industries of the United Kingdom to send a representative to take part in the eighth quadrennial congress of the incorporated chambers held in Grenada last October.

Mr. M. J. Watt of the Empire department of the Federation was chosen as representative, and his report* has recently been published.

Besides attending the congress, Mr. Watt visited various colonies in the area. He gave addresses to the Chambers of Commerce of Barbados and Jamaica, met the members of Council of the Chambers of the Bahamas, Bermuda, Grenada and Trinidad, and had discussion also with several colony governors, the chairman of the Standing Committee for Closer Relations of the British West Indies, and other officials.

During his tour Mr. Watt encountered what he describes as "very strong criticism" of United Kingdom prices and deliveries, and though he considers that "much of the very strong feeling evident on this subject, is to be attributed to the sudden drastic restriction of imports from North America," he makes no bones about "the wave of protests against the alleged inability of manufacturers here to supply the right goods at the right price and at the right time." His general observations on trading conditions in the West Indian markets afford evidence that he made good use of his time while there, and his report, so far as it goes, gives a balanced review of possibilities and limitations.

A slip which demands mention, as it might in some circumstances mislead, is a reference on page 12 to witches' broom disease. This is stated to attack banana plantations, but is, of course, a cocoa planters' worry.

Official Colonial Publications

In June, 1948 the Colonial Office, through its Information Department, commenced the issue of a *Monthly List of Official Colonial Publications*, as an experiment, in the belief that there were numerous research bodies and business organizations which were in the dark as to the wealth of material published in the British colonies.

The list is useful in several ways. It gives particulars of all publications which are available for reference purposes in the Reference Section of the Information Department of the Colonial Office at Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1. In the case of such publications as *Gazettes* particulars are given of the more important contents of each issue which are most helpful in tracing regulations, etc. It shows where copies of the various publications may be obtained, giving prices where these are stated.

The Colonial Office is desirous of extending the distribution of the list, and a specimen copy will be sent to anyone on application to the Reference Section of the Information Department at the above address.

*Report on a Visit to the British West Indies, the Bahamas and Bermuda, by Maurice J. Watt, Federation of British Industries, 21, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1. March, 1949. No price stated.

Canadian National Steamships

THE directors of the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships, Ltd., in their annual report for 1948, state that the operating results compare with the preceding year as follows:—

	1948	1947	Increase
	\$	\$	%
Operating Revenues	7,964,719	7,857,470	1.36
Operating Expenses	7,320,614	7,028,193	4.16
Operating Profit ...	<u>644,105</u>	<u>829,277</u>	

The volume of freight carried during the year, state the directors, was 407,979 tons, compared favourably with the pre-war tonnage, and was exceeded only in 1947, in which year 6 per cent more tonnage was carried. Export tonnage decreased 52,533 tons or 26 per cent, reflecting the import restrictions imposed by the islands consequent upon the dollar shortage—cargo movements being restricted to essential commodities. Import tonnage increased 26,726 tons or 11.5 per cent, principally due to increased sugar tonnage. The number of completed voyages was 65, an increase of one over the preceding year.

Freight revenue amounted to \$6,546,770, a decrease of \$818,361 or 11.1 per cent from the previous year. Passenger revenue amounted to \$962,887, an increase of \$523,088 over 1947, mainly due to the operation of the *Lady Nelson* and *Lady Rodney* for the full year 1948, these vessels having resumed service in July and August, 1947.

There was no change in the fleet during the year, which at present comprises the following vessels:—

	Gross Tonnage	Dead-weight Tonnage
Lady Nelson (Freight and Passenger) ...	7,970	6,370
Lady Rodney (Freight and Passenger) ...	8,194	4,665
Canadian Challenger (Diesel powered and refrigerated) ...	6,745	7,460
Canadian Constructor (Diesel powered and refrigerated) ...	6,745	7,460
Canadian Cruiser (Diesel powered and refrigerated) ...	6,745	7,460
Canadian Conqueror (Non-refrigerated) ...	2,930	4,532
Canadian Highlander (Non-refrigerated) ...	2,966	4,532
Canadian Leader (Non-refrigerated) ...	2,930	4,532
Canadian Observer (Non-refrigerated) ...	2,967	4,532
Canadian Victor (Non-refrigerated) ...	2,963	4,532
	<u>51,155</u>	<u>56,075</u>

The directors continue: "It will be remembered that the company was incorporated in 1927 to implement the trade agreement of July 6th, 1925. In the first five years of operation, while the trade was being built up, operating deficits were incurred, but since 1934 the company has consistently shown operating profits and a surplus after the payment of fixed charges. Out of such operating profit there has been paid \$6,992,237 for interest on bonds held by the public and \$7,689,604 to the Government for principal and interest. The amounts paid to the Government for interest include \$3,456,413 for interest on advances for the deficits in the development period 1929-34. The advances in question did not represent additional capital investment in the

enterprise nor did they provide assets capable of earning an interest return.

"The accounts of the company do not, however, reflect the full financial advantages to Canada of the company's operations. Prior to the inauguration of its services an annual subsidy of \$340,666 had been paid to private operators for service to the eastern group of islands only. Under the 1925 trade agreement Canada undertook to provide certain ship tonnages and services for which tenders were invited from steamship interests. Private interests asked for an annual subsidy of \$582,783 for operation of the eastern service only. No offers were made for the western service. The company was therefore incorporated for the purpose of carrying on both of the services called for in the trade agreement; and on the basis of the above-mentioned tender for part of the service only it is reasonable to assume that Canada has thereby saved a very large sum in subsidy payments.

Canada—West Indies Trade

"During the period of operations, 1929-48, export cargoes from Canada to the islands totalled 2,960,834 tons with a trade value in excess of \$250 millions. Import tonnage was 4,053,852, with an estimated trade value of over \$152 millions. The extensive endeavour put forth by the company to further and develop trade between Canada and the West Indies has been of inestimable value to Canada and the islands. It is hoped that in any new agreement which may be negotiated cognizance will be taken of the greatly increased cost of operation by the inclusion of enhanced subsidy provisions, and that it will contain some measure of assurance that the company will continue to obtain a fair share of the available tonnage movement commensurate with the services operated."

Land Utilization and Sugar

In a period when world population is increasing rapidly and there is a limit to the number of acres that can be put under cultivation, foods which are efficient from the standpoint of yield per acre make special appeal.

In this respect sugar, whether from cane or beet, takes a high place, and Dr. Robert C. Hockett, Scientific Director of the Sugar Research Foundation, Inc., of New York, has thus compared the land area required by various crops to produce one million calories, roughly the annual requirement of an average man:—

Food	Acres of Land	Ratio to Sugar Acreage
Sugar ...	0.13	2½ times
Corn (maize) ...	0.32	3 "
Sweet potatoes ...	0.36	less than 3 "
Irish potatoes ...	0.44—0.53	more than 3 "
Rice ...	0.59	4½ "
Soya beans ...	0.67	5 "
Beans ...	0.91	7 "
Whole wheat flour ...	0.90	7 "
Corn meal ...	0.90	7 "
Refined wheat flour ...	1.20	8 "
Hogs (pork and lard) ...	2.00	13 "
Whole milk ...	2.80	19 "
Eggs ...	7.00	46 "
Chickens ...	9.30	62 "
Steers ...	17.00	113 "

Imports into West Indies

Effect of Dollar Shortage

THE following letter from Mr. W. G. Medlam, of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, appeared in *The Times* of April 21st :—

In your issue of April 4th, in the article on page 7 on the economic role of the Government, you quote from Lord Brand's writings in *Lloyds Bank Review* as follows : "No British Government can force other countries to buy our products if they are relatively too expensive." May I be allowed to state that this is at present happening in the West Indies ?

Before and during the war the West Indian colonies built up a considerable trade both with the United States and Canada and drew the majority of their day-to-day supplies from those sources. As the hard currency crisis grew more severe, these colonies, in company with the rest of the Commonwealth, were restricted in their dollar expenditure. The current needs of these colonies could be purchased more cheaply by at least one-third from dollar sources if the currency quotas and allocations so allowed.

It is the opinion of many people in these colonies, therefore, that this group of the British Commonwealth, where approximately 90 per cent of its native population already suffer a very poor standard of living, is being forced to purchase from United Kingdom sources, thus subsidizing United Kingdom exports and the standard of living of the British worker at the expense of their own already meagre standards.

New Bauxite Company

A new bauxite company, Plantation Bauxite, Ltd. (jointly owned by the Demerara Bauxite Co. Ltd. and the British and Colonial Bauxite Co. Ltd.) has been formed to take up undeveloped bauxite mining leases on the west bank of the Demerara River.

The work of this company will be planned in conjunction with the mining programme of the Demerara Bauxite Co.

The Pictorial Pages

ST. GEORGE'S DAY, April 23rd, was celebrated in many parts of the United Kingdom and there were several ceremonies in London including a parade of the volunteer auxiliary fighting services. The annual service of St. Michael and St. George was held in St. Paul's in the morning and in the afternoon the Cathedral was the scene of the service of the Royal Society of St. George. In the photograph reproduced in the first of the pictorial pages in this issue may be seen the flag of St. George flying from the tower of the ancient parish church of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, a landmark well

known to railway travellers between London and Cambridge. In a corner of the flag are the arms of St. Albans Diocese, an addition which makes it the correct emblem to fly from churches in this area on St. George's Day.

A scene from the new Gainsborough Pictures film, "Christopher Columbus" is pictured in the top half of the second page. It shows the crew of the wrecked *Santa Maria* hard at work salvaging timber and provisions from their sinking ship. Long boats are on their way to the shore from the *Nina*, to assist with the rescue. The film, in colour, was produced by Frank Bundy, and directed by David Macdonald and filmed at Shepherd's Bush and also on location in the West Indies. It has an impressive cast headed by Fredric

March, Florence Eldridge, Kathleen Ryan, Linden Travers, Francis L. Sullivan, Derek Bond, James Robertson Justice and Dennis Vance.

It will be recalled that while the film was being made the *Nina* blew off her course and was missing in the Caribbean for more than 24 hours and that the *Santa Maria* was burnt out at Barbados and completely destroyed.

The photograph in the lower half of the page, for which we are indebted to the U.S. Navy Department, was taken recently during the U.S. Atlantic Fleet exercises in the Caribbean. It shows an amphibious landing on the island of Vieques with fighter aircraft in support.



From the new Christopher Columbus film.

Carib Indians with drawn bows await Columbus as he prepares to land.

See this page

Notes of West Indian Interest

"YOU leap 'alf, you fall a-trench."

* * *

SIR WILLIAM MURPHY is retiring from the Governorship of the Bahamas, and the Colonial Service, in July next.

* * *

THE Barbados Sugar Producers' Association, Inc., wish it to be known that their cable address is now "Sugarbar, Barbados."

* * *

HARRISON DILLARD, U.S. Olympic sprint champion, set up a new Trinidad record for the 100 yards flat race on April 23rd. His time was 9.4 seconds.

* * *

MR. G. LINDSAY, who, for 28 years has been with Messrs. E. D. and F. Man and has managed their rum department for the last five, has joined the firm of Rowett, Legge and Co., Ltd., of Eastcheap.

* * *

RECENT visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have included the following: Mr. Justice E. P. S. Bell, Mr. Wyatt Bryce, Mr. H. W. de Freitas, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. de Verteuil, and Mr. C. R. Stollmeyer.

* * *

SIR EDWARD TWINING, Governor of Borneo, has been appointed Governor of Tanganyika. Sir Edward was Administrator of St. Lucia from 1944 to 1946 when he was promoted to Borneo.

* * *

THE British Guiana Government, according to a telegram received as we go to press, has announced its support of the request of the local sugar producers to Britain for a two-year price agreement and a ten-year market guarantee.

* * *

BECAUSE of continuing tension in Jamaica, Sir John Huggins, the Governor, has decided to continue the ban on street meetings and marches in Kingston and St. Andrew to which reference was made in this page last issue.

* * *

TWO Trinidad civil servants have been seconded for service in the United Kingdom: Mr. E. Murray of the Trinidad Secretariat will work for two years in the Colonial Office, and Mr. J. R. Pounder of the Audit Department will gain experience in the Colonial Audit Department in London.

* * *

MR. NIGEL THOMAS, of Barbados, who has been studying at Glasgow, graduated last month B.Sc. (Agric.). Mr. Thomas was reading at Glasgow from 1937 to 1939 and volunteered for the army on the outbreak of war. He later received a commission in the Glider Pilot Regiment and was not finally demobilized until May, 1948.

MR. C. R. STOLLMAYER, Trade Commissioner for the British West Indies, British Guiana and the Bahamas in Canada, arrived in London, on leave, on April 26th. He was accompanied by his wife and their young son. Mr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer are leaving shortly for a visit to the Continent and will return to Canada at the end of July.

* * *

MR. WYATT BRYCE, of the Information Services section of the Secretariat, Jamaica, is in London for a few weeks in order to study official and unofficial methods of disseminating information to the general public. Before entering the Colonial Service, Mr. Bryce was engaged for about seven years with local newspapers and magazines. He is the editor of the *Reference Book of Jamaica*.

* * *

SIR JOHN SIMONSEN, Director of Research, Colonial Products Research Council, has been selected by the American Chemical Society as the first recipient of the Fritzsche Award. The award, which consists of a gold medal and \$1,000, was instituted "to recognize and encourage outstanding achievement in analysis, research and new applications of essential oils, essential oil isolates, and related chemicals." The award will be presented at the autumn meeting of the American Chemical Society at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

* * *

IN his report on local government in Barbados, Sir John Maude recommends that the 300-year-old system of 11 vestries and 32 parochial boards should be abolished and that the colony should be divided into three areas for local government purposes, a Northern District and a Southern District—each with a council—and the town of Bridgetown, which should be granted municipal status, with its local government entrusted to a city council. The new councils, according to *The Times* correspondent in Bridgetown, would take over the non-ecclesiastical functions of the vestries and would be given housing and planning powers.

Malaria Control

Course for Planters and Miners

The Standing Committee of the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene have now decided to re-establish the "Lay Course" for planters and miners which was so very successful before the war and so much appreciated. Then, it was the main agency which produced a generation of planters and others who not only understood the gravity of malaria but had a considerable special knowledge. Acquisition of that knowledge is just as necessary for efficiency and economy in these days of D.D.T. and paludrine as it was before.

Planters and others interested from the West Indies who would like to attend this course, which will be held from 18th to 22nd July, 1949 should signify their intention of so doing as soon as possible to the Organizing Secretary, Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene, Keppel Street (Gower Street), London, W.C.1. There is no fee.

Shippers' Committee to be Formed

Discussions with Shipping Lines Proposed

THE West India Committee has decided to set up a Standing Committee of Merchants and Shippers with the following objects:—

- (a) To confer with steamship owners and companies engaged in the trade to and from the West Indies, British Guiana or British Honduras, as to rates of freight, passenger fares and other matters relating thereto.
- (b) To negotiate with governments, chambers of commerce or other public bodies, or associations representing particular interests on these and other cognate and general subjects.

A meeting of all members of the Committee likely to be interested in the formation of such a committee will be called in the near future when the Standing Committee will be formally constituted and a small working committee set up to enter into relations with the shipping companies concerned. These, through the British Lines Secretariat of the Association of West India Trans-Atlantic Steamship Lines, have already indicated their willingness to discuss with the Standing Committee, when formed, matters of mutual concern in the West Indian trade.

The decision to form the Merchants' and Shippers' Standing Committee was taken by the West India Committee following on a recommendation of the Commonwealth Shipping Committee in its *Report on West Indian Shipping Services* dated October 28th, 1948 which reads as follows:—

"In Paragraph 52 we have set out in detail the recommendation made by the Committee in 1923 that a representative association comprising shippers and ship-owners be formed with a view generally to the discussion and settlement of any outstanding difficulties. While this recommendation was framed to apply to all areas, we believe it to be particularly applicable to the West Indies where there are great possibilities for development in trade. Expansion of the West Indies export trade would necessitate the purchase of machinery and materials from outside sources for setting up factories and plants, with a consequent need for additional shipping tonnage. Although the potential trade of the areas is considerable, there are several doubtful factors which must be taken into account, such as the varied and seasonal nature of certain export crops and the unpredictable climatic conditions which might have some bearing on rates of freight. This would form a basis for discussion between the parties concerned."

While the Commonwealth Shipping Committee recommended the setting up of an organization representing shippers and shipowners the West India Committee, knowing that shipowners were already organized for discussion of matters of mutual concern to them, decided that it could more appropriately represent merchants' and shippers' interests separately in this matter.

Since taking the steps indicated, the West India Committee has been formally invited by the Colonial Office to take the necessary action to carry out the recommendation of the Commonwealth Shipping Committee.

Factors Affecting Cocoa Markets

IN the issue of March 25th *Gordian* reproduces the provisional allocation of world exportable cocoa surpluses recently announced by the International Emergency Food Committee, and discusses the market situation brought about by the fact that production is now up to peace-time level while there is doubt whether the individual countries will be able fully to absorb the allocated quantities.

Though the drop in prices during the last few months has naturally increased interest in buying, present quotations are still by 400 to 500 per cent in excess of pre-war prices and trade is declining in almost all countries. *Gordian* considers that when the I.E.F.C. revises its present decisions in the summer it can hardly be expected that there will be many countries eager to obtain allocations of surplus. "This, in turn, will bring up the question of a possible termination of the international control of cocoa when every country will be allowed to buy wherever the greatest advantage offers. There is no doubt but that the restriction to certain producing countries is rather irksome to the consumer countries. Many will prefer Brazil to West Africa and *vice versa*. In addition, the producers will find it incumbent upon them to once more solicit buyers, and the price will again regulate international trade. At the moment neither Brazil nor British West Africa feels inclined to make any allowances with regard to prices."

The federal government in Brazil is prepared to grant the farmers credits that they may not be compelled to sell their crop at any price, and it is reported that New York offers around 18 to 19 cents per lb. have been refused. Great Britain is stated to have been trying of late to support the West African markets. The reports of the Nigeria and Gold Coast marketing boards have disclosed sufficient means in hand to permit of a discrepancy in buying and selling. A contract between the Ministry of Food and Canada at 20 cents per lb. is regarded as a concession made in order to obtain dollars. "Prices on the New York futures market declined slightly after a recovery at the end of February . . . it seems as if the price level will now stabilize between 17 and 20 cents. The lowest level could not be maintained; on March 17th Accra good fermented spot was quoted at 18 cents. But in spite of all the chocolate industry is little inclined to buy and this makes the trade likewise hold aloof. There is no change in the statistical situation of the United States of America. Arrivals are only up to half of last year's extent, and stocks are declining further. Hopes regarding the Easter business are but moderate in view of the general decline of the purchasing power. Unemployment figures in the States soared past the three million level, which brings the country back to the stage of 1942."

Mr. Arthur S. Burleigh, who died in tragic circumstances at Barbados on March 17th, had for some years been manager in Dominica for L. Rose and Co., Ltd. Mr. Burleigh, who was 55 years old, was spending his leave in Barbados.

Publications Received

Who is Who in British Guiana, 1945-48. This is the fourth edition of a most useful work, published by the "Daily Chronicle," Ltd., at Main Street, Georgetown. In addition to a large number of biographical sketches there are lists of firms, businesses, associations and clubs.

Thirteenth Annual Report, ending September 30th, 1946, British West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station, Barbados. Gives detailed particulars of breeding work and select seedling trials carried out during the year, and of the performances of seedlings in contributing colonies to that time.

The Tropical Agriculturist, Vol. civ, No. 2, April-June, 1948. Dr. M. F. Chandraratna and K. D. S. S. Nanayakkara contribute a paper on breeding technique and preliminary results in the production of hybrid cassavas with high tuber yield and low prussic acid content.

Chas. R. Turbet and K. Thuraisingham give an account of successful cattle feeding trials in Ceylon with the sensitive plant, *Mimosa pudica*.

Jamaica Department of Agriculture: Extension Circulars, No. 14, *Do You Know the Soil of Your Farm?* Notes on nine main types of soil which occur in Jamaica, by T. O. Ellis, Agricultural Chemist, with particulars of the areas in which each soil type is found.

No. 15, *Silage for the Small Dairy Farm*, by C. D. Hutchings, Senior Agricultural Officer, describes how to make a small silo and how to make the silage according to the material available.

No. 16, *Starting in the Poultry Business*, by D. Rodrigues, Poultry Specialist. A guide for beginners.

No. 17, *Silage for the 20-cow Dairy Farm*, by E. J. Gregory, Senior Agricultural Officer, Central Division. Gives possible combinations of suitable silage materials, with simple directions for growing the crops and timing the operations, to obtain about 50 tons of silage to carry the stock over the three dry months of the year.

No. 19, *Housing and Feeding Poultry*, by D. Rodrigues. The erection and equipment of houses suitable for Jamaica conditions, and useful notes on feeding.

No. 20, *Tomato Growing in Jamaica*, by E. A. Tai, Senior Agricultural Officer. Deals with choice of variety, propagation, cultivation and harvesting.

No. 21, *Tomato Diseases and Their Control*, by E. B. Martyn, Plant Pathologist. Gives short descriptions and spraying recommendations for the principal fungus blights.

The Yield of Sugar Cane in Barbados in 1948, by C. B. Foster, Bulletin No. 12 (New Series), Department of Science and Agriculture, Barbados, July, 1948. Rainfall during the year was much below the average and badly distributed. Total rainfall for the critical period August-December, 1947 was 15.23 inches against a 100-year average of 35.27 inches. This made for a short crop, and 40,486 acres of cane gave a yield of 78,226 tons of sugar or 1.93 tons of sugar per acre. The cane variety B.37161 comprised 90 per cent of the area reaped. Average yield of cane per acre was 19.85 tons.

West Indian Imports

Licensing Regulations

THE following amendments are to be made to the particulars, which have appeared in various issues of the CIRCULAR commencing with that for November, 1948, in regard to the treatment accorded to imports of United Kingdom goods into British West Indian colonies:—

Jamaica

The Open General Licence for goods of United Kingdom origin imported direct from the United Kingdom which expired on March 4th (see CIRCULAR, November, 1948, page 247) has been superseded by another which will remain in force until further notice. The list of goods which still require to be imported under a specific licence is as follows:—

Cereals, including rice—(a) wheat and wheat flour; (b) rice, whole and broken, and all edible rice products, including rice, starch and flour; cocoa beans; nitrogenous fertilizers; fats and oils—all oil-bearing materials, vegetable, animal and marine fats and oils (edible and inedible) including manufactured products of which the principal component is fat (such as margarine, vegetable ghee, shortening and soap) *excluding* butter and animal ghee, flax seed and linseed oil, tung nuts and oil, castor beans and oil, oiticica oil and perilla seed and oil, fish liver oils, sperm oil, other waxes and glycerine; manufactured foodstuffs—cereal products (cereal filler, oat products, macaroni, semolina), dairy products (butter, cheese, evaporated dried whole milk, sweetened condensed milk, skimmed milk powder), dried fruit, glucose, milk-based infant foods, dried lentils, sugar (as sugar), salt, potatoes, black pepper; manufactured tobacco; cigarettes; iron and steel (unmanufactured); tinplate; glass, plate and sheets; lead semi-manufactured; gold; knitted woollen garments made of cashmere, mohair, camel hair, llama and vicuna; poplins and linings; wool stockings.

For the purpose of determining whether or not an article is of United Kingdom origin for entry into Jamaica under the Open General Licence, the same rules will be effective as those applying to the determination of eligibility for entry under the British Preferential Tariff.

Trinidad

"Patent fuel" should be added to the list of goods for which individual import licences are still required. (CIRCULAR, November, 1948, page 248.)

Customs and Tariff Regulations

British Guiana. The government announced on February 28th the withdrawal of subsidies on flour and salted fish, and the remission of import duty and bill of entry tax on these items and on condensed milk.

The remissions are as follows: flour, per bag of 196 lb., \$1.25 British preferential tariff and \$1.74 general tariff; salted fish (except shrimps and morocut), per cwt., 97½ cents British preferential tariff and \$2.92½ general tariff; condensed whole milk, 5 per cent *ad valorem* British preferential tariff and 15 per cent *ad valorem* general tariff; and bill of entry tax 3 per cent *ad valorem*.

It was also announced that price control had been removed from flour.

West Indies at Westminster

Water Supplies. Major Beamish asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on April 6th, if he would make a statement on his plans to sink wells in the Leeward Islands with a view to overcoming the shortage of fresh water for agricultural purposes; when that project would be begun; and what would be its approximate cost over the next five years.

Mr. Rees-Williams, who replied, said that a drilling plant was being bought from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and exploratory borings should start in July. The cost of sinking wells if those borings were successful could not yet be indicated, but £170,000 had been provisionally earmarked for water supplies in Antigua under the development plan.

Oil Boring Project. Major Beamish asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on April 6th if he would make a statement on his immediate plans to proceed with under-water boring for oil along the coast of the Leeward Islands; what would be the approximate cost of that project over the next five years; and when boring was to commence.

Mr. Rees-Williams, who replied, said that Mr. Creech Jones had consulted the Governor, and would communicate with Major Beamish when a reply had been received. In reply to a further question by Major Beamish, Mr. Rees-Williams said that the Governor had been asked to consult the Director of the British Guiana Geological Survey with regard to taking the necessary steps.

Newspaper Advertising. Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies why the Government of Jamaica had permitted the *Gleaner* to increase its advertising content up to 60 per cent of the total newsprint used on the condition that the paper reverted to its original price of 2d. a copy, in view of the fact that in this country the percentage regarded as reasonable for advertisement was only 25 per cent and that much of the newsprint had to be bought from dollar sources.

Mr. Rees-Williams, in a written reply dated April 6th, said that Mr. Creech Jones had not been informed of the increase mentioned, but was in correspondence with the Governor on the question, and would write to Mr. Gammans.

Electoral Reform. Mr. A. E. Davies asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what measures of political reform he had under consideration for the Windward and Leeward Islands.

Mr. Rees-Williams, in a written reply of April 7th, said that Mr. Creech Jones had informed the Governors of the Windward and Leeward Islands that he agreed that adult suffrage should be introduced at the next elections to the Legislative Councils of these two groups; that he considered that the right to vote should be subject to a simple literacy test; and that he also agreed to the removal of property qualifications for candidates, subject to further examination of the present arrangements for the deposits which candidates were required to make. He had indicated however that as yet he had been unable to give consideration to the establishment of wholly elected legislatures in the Windward and Leeward Islands and that for the present that had to be deferred.

Profit on Molasses. Mr. Crawley asked the President of the Board of Trade on April 14th, how much of the £4,783,000 profit he hoped to make on molasses in 1949 was the result of a reduction in the price given to the West Indian producer.

Mr. Bottomley, the Secretary for Overseas Trade who replied, said that Mr. Crawley was under a misapprehension. The figure he quoted was not a trading profit. It was the estimate of the excess of cash receipts over expenditure in connexion with the purchase and sale of molasses, etc., during the year 1949-50, as shown in the Civil Estimates published recently.

There was no reply when Mr. Crawley asked whether Mr. Bottomley was aware that the price in the West Indies had been cut by a half, and was having a serious effect on the sugar producers in the West Indies.

Price of Molasses. Mr. Crawley asked the President of the Board of Trade on April 14th how much molasses he intended to buy from dollar sources during 1949; and at what price.

Mr. Bottomley replied that it would not be in the national interest to give that information.

Mr. Crawley then asked whether Mr. Bottomley was aware that by withholding that information, the worst possible impression was being created in the West Indies, which were absolutely dependent upon the sugar industry for their livelihood.

Would he urge on the President of the Board of Trade to cease treating this as a purely economic question and to consult with the Colonial Secretary, to see if they could not arrive at some better arrangement.

Mr. Bottomley said he would look into the matter.

Asked by Mr. Marlowe why it was not in the national interest to disclose the information, Mr. Bottomley said that the reasons were trading difficulties chiefly, and other national interests.

Jamaica Air Fares. Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 30th why the Finance Control Board in Jamaica had refused to allow passengers on the British Caribbean Airways travelling from Jamaica to Miami to pay in sterling and insisted on dollars.

Mr. Rees-Williams, who replied, said that he had no information on the subject, but was consulting the Governor and would write to Mr. Gammans when he received a reply.

Mr. Rees-Williams did not reply to a supplementary question by Mr. Gammans, who asked whether Mr. Rees-Williams did not agree in principle that a transport Company like that one in Jamaica should not be compelled to demand dollars from potential passengers, and that there should be no differentiation against a company of that sort in order to bolster up B.O.A.C. and its subsidiaries.

Jamaica Sugar Price. Mr. Thomas Reid asked the Minister of Food if he would make a statement with regard to Jamaica's request for an increase of £3 a ton for sugar purchased from the island by Britain.

Dr. Edith Summerskill, the Parliamentary Secretary, replied that H.M. Government had announced in December, 1948, that the price of £27 5s. per ton paid in 1948 to colonial producers of raw sugar would be maintained for the 1949 crops. Careful consideration had been given to the British West Indian request for an increase of £3 per ton, but it had been decided that no increase over the 1948 price could be justified.

In a further question, Mr. Reid asked Dr. Summerskill to see that, in these negotiations, the price of cane sugar would not be based at all on the price of sugar from beet. Dr. Summerskill replied that the price of both were taken into account when the price to be paid was being considered.

Sugar Production. Mr. Charles Smith asked the Minister of Food what was the total production of white sugar in the United Kingdom during 1947 and 1948, respectively, or during the two most convenient twelve-month periods, respectively, indicating in each period how much had been produced by refineries, how much by sugar beet factories during the campaign, and how much by sugar factories during the off-season.

In a written reply of March 25th, Mr. Strachey replied that the total production of white sugar in the United Kingdom during the two calendar years 1947 and 1948 was as follows:—

	1947	1948
1. By refineries	1,517,306	1,803,667
2. Sugar beet factories during the campaign	296,434	283,110
3. Sugar beet factories during the off-season	161,842	211,305
Total tons	<u>1,975,582</u>	<u>2,298,082</u>

The totals include sugar processed here for re-export.

Barbados Police Commissioner. Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he would make a full statement on the dismissal of Colonel Duke as Commissioner of Police, Barbados, and state in particular why the original reason given for his retirement, namely, that of age, had been altered to that of an adverse report; why Colonel Duke had never been shown any such adverse report; and what ruling he had given on the application of the House of Representatives to appoint a sub-committee to consider the facts and take evidence.

In a written answer of April 6th, Mr. Rees-Williams stated that the Governor had reached the conclusion that the maintenance of the efficiency of the Police Force called for the appointment of a younger Commissioner with the requisite energy and drive. Colonel Duke had, therefore, been informed that he would be required to retire on pension under the Pension Act recently passed by the Legislature. In reply to an address by the House of Assembly it had been stated that the decision to retire that officer had been arrived at after consideration of reports

on him over several years. It was not the practice to inform an officer of reports unless they drew attention to faults or shortcomings which it was in his power to amend. Mr. Creech Jones was already in communication with the Officer Administering the Government on the matter referred to in the last part of the question.

New Trinidad Constitution. Mr. Rankin asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was aware that the people of Trinidad had expressed their support through local councils upon the meetings and labour organizations for the constitution proposed in the Solomon Minority Report, and that his despatch of January 7th, had consequently caused grave disappointment; and whether he would now hold a referendum on the proposed new constitution before it was put into operation.

In a written reply of April 8th, Mr. Rees-Williams said that he was aware that various bodies had supported the proposals in the minority report. Others had accepted the proposals in the despatch of January 7th. He did not consider that a referendum was a reliable means of assessing public opinion on a complicated issue and he believed that such opinion was best expressed through normal constitutional channels. The views of the various sections of opinion in Trinidad had been fully ventilated in the debate upon the report of the Constitution Committee last year, and the conclusions in the Secretary of State's despatch had been reached after the most careful consideration of all the views expressed in that debate and in many subsequent representations. Mr. Creech Jones remained of the view that the best course was to give a full trial to the new constitution which was to be introduced.

Workmen's Compensation, Trinidad. Mr. Rankin asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 30th whether he would consider a revision of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago concerning workmen's compensation in order to bring them into line with British law in view of the expressed wishes of the Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council.

Mr. Rees-Williams, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, said in reply that the Government of Trinidad was appointing a committee to consider and make recommendations for the revision of the existing workmen's compensation legislation in the light of present-day conditions, regard being paid to any principles and provisions laid down in current international labour conventions and recommendations dealing with workmen's compensation.

Mr. Rankin then asked whether Mr. Rees-Williams would keep before him the fact that at present there was no provision whatsoever in compensation for dealing with diseases that arose directly from the nature of the employment; would he consider incorporating a schedule to cover that aspect of compensation; would he also provide for the payment of children's allowances and also for accepting the principle of minimum compensation.

Mr. Rees-Williams replied that he assumed that those matters would be considered by the committee.

Mr. Awbery then asked whether, in view of the fact that workmen's compensation would become a great problem in our industrially developed colonies, would the Minister lay down a minimum standard of workmen's compensation as a future guide to the colonies so that they could incorporate it in any industrial legislation which they might introduce?

Mr. Rees-Williams replied that the Secretary of State for the Colonies was constantly in communication with the colonial governments on that very matter.

Bulk Importation of Sugar. Mr. De la Bère asked the Minister of Food on April 27th, whether it was the intention of the Government in future to encourage the importation of sugar loose in bulk instead of in bags so as to secure a saving in cost by the use of mechanical grabs and an additional saving in the cost of jute bags.

Dr. Summerskill said in reply that the report on the first experimental bulk shipment had not then been completed. Until they knew the results of that experiment, they were not able to assess the advantages of bulk importation.

In a supplementary question, Colonel Haughton asked if Dr. Summerskill could say what the attitude of the trade unions concerned was to that form of discharging ships carrying sugar.

Dr. Summerskill replied that she certainly could not without consulting the trade unions. There would be a report on the question, and no doubt the workers would be asked to give any information they could on the matter.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions, transfers and new appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

BEVIS, J. H. (Senior Master, Queen's Royal College, British Guiana), Education Officer, African Education Department, Northern Rhodesia.

CHAMBERS, S. B. (Statistician, Jamaica), Assistant Statistician, Nigeria.

DEACON, C. T. (Senior Engineer, Hydraulic Department, Trinidad), Water Engineer, Works and Hydraulics Department, Trinidad.

DRAKE, T. N. (Superintendent of Police, Trinidad), Principal Immigration Officer, Tanganyika.

FARRELL, A. C. (Master, Queen's Royal College, Trinidad), Senior Master, Queen's Royal College, Trinidad.

GUILBRIDE, P. D. L. (Veterinary Officer, Jamaica), Senior Veterinary Officer, Jamaica.

JACKSON, D. E. (Registrar of the Supreme Court, British Guiana), Puisne Judge, Windward and Leeward Islands.

LAURENCE, S. O. (Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Trinidad), Divisional Engineer, Works and Hydraulics Department, Trinidad.

McWILLIAM, A. P. (Agricultural Officer, Trinidad), Agricultural Officer, Sierra Leone.

MARTIN, E. E. (Anti-Malarial Engineer, Trinidad), Public Health Engineer, Sierra Leone.

NICOLLS, J. N. N. (Agricultural Assistant, St. Christopher-Nevis), Produce Officer, Nigeria.

O'NEALE, D. M. (Divisional Engineer, Public Works Department, Trinidad), First Assistant Director of Works and Hydraulics, Trinidad.

PIKE, P. E. H. (Crown Counsel, Jamaica), Legal Draftsman, Kenya.

RERRIE, J. I., M.R.C.S., D.P.H. (Health Officer, Tuberculosis Clinic, Jamaica), Tuberculosis Officer, Jamaica.

ROBINSON, Miss P. M. (Assistant Matron, Trinidad), Nursing Sister, Tanganyika.

STOLL, W. G. (Senior Inspector of Taxes, British Guiana), Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax, British Guiana.

TOO-CHUNG, C. V. (Inspector of Taxes, British Guiana), Senior Inspector of Taxes, British Guiana.

TURNER, A. G. (Senior Clerk, Collector General's Department, Jamaica), Supervisor, Head Officer, Collector General's Department, Jamaica.

WHITE, G. F. (Deputy Postmaster General, Jamaica), Postmaster General, Jamaica.

WOODING, J. C. (Crown Attorney, St. Lucia), Attorney General Leeward Islands.

New Appointments

ALLSOP, M. P., Radiographer, General Hospital, Barbados.
HUTCHINSON, F. H., Consulting Engineer, Drainage and Irrigation, British Guiana.

ROBERTSON, E. L. S., M.B., F.R.C.S., Medical Officer, Grade B, Trinidad.

SIMMONDS, C. A., Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department, Windward Islands.

WATSON, H. P., B.Sc., M.B., F.R.C.S.(Ed.), Medical Officer, Grade "A" Surgeon, Trinidad.

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of March production of crude oil and casing head gasoline amounted to 253,831 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the four weeks ended March 28th was 427,798 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for March was 254,750 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of March crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 516,256 barrels.

The West India Committee

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1948

1947					
£					£
29,012	ENDOWMENT FUND	..	..	..	29,012
4,130	LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	..	..	..	4,242
	SUNDRY CREDITORS, PROVISION FOR ACCRUING				
2,364	EXPENSES, ETC.	..	..	..	2,575
	CONTRIBUTIONS, SUBSCRIPTIONS, ETC.,				
70	RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	..	..	..	541
7,113	SPECIAL FUNDS, BALANCE UNEXPENDED	..	..	..	1,063

1947					
£					£
19,220	ENDOWMENT FUND INVESTMENTS at cost or	..	..	..	19,221
	under	..	..	..
	(Market Value at 31/12/48, £20,832)				
3,637	LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND INVESTMENTS at cost	..	..	..	3,628
	(Market Value at 31/12/48, £3,624)				
408	OFFICE FURNITURE, at cost (less depreciation)	..	..	..	408
	LIBRARY AND PICTURES, as per Valuation,				
795	made in 1914 with subsequent additions at cost	..	..	..	795
482	STOCK OF PAPER AND PUBLICATIONS at cost	..	..	..	374
	SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS				
	IN ADVANCE	..	..	..	2,218
	(Less PROVISION FOR DOUBTFUL				
	DEBTS)	..	..	..	100
3,270		..	..	..	2,118
22	SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ARREAR RECEIVED IN 1949	..	..	..	15
	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND—				
	Cash at Bank, No. 1 Account	..	..	..	2,125
	No. 2 Account	..	..	..	760
					2,885
	Cash in Hand	..	..	..	56
1,194		..	..	..	2,941
	INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT—				
	Accumulated deficit to 31st Dec., 1947	..	..	..	7,661
	Add Excess of Expenditure over				
	Income for the year	..	..	..	272
7,661		..	..	..	7,933
£36,689					£37,433

J. M. DU BUISSON }
 J. M. CAMPBELL } *Treasurers.*
 ROBERT GAVIN, *Secretary.*

£36,689

£37,433

£36,689

£37,433

We report that we have examined the books of The West India Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1948, and have checked therewith these Accounts, which we hereby certify to be correct.

3, Frederick's Place, Old Jewry, London, E.C.2.

May 4th, 1949.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the Year ended 31st December, 1948.

<p>1947 £</p> <p>To SALARIES, PENSION, WAGES AND STAFF £ 7,847 ENDOWMENT INSURANCE... 8,480</p> <p>RENT OF COMMITTEE ROOMS AND OFFICES, AND RATES ... 1,983 Less RENT RECEIVABLE ... 240 1,840 1,743</p> <p>2,090 ,, PRINTING AND STATIONERY ... 2,091</p> <p>69 ,, NEWSPAPERS AND PRESS CUTTINGS ... 86</p> <p>190 ,, LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND COPYRIGHTS 59</p> <p>134 ,, BLOCKS ... 124</p> <p>424 ,, POSTAGES AND CABLES ... 444</p> <p>138 ,, TELEPHONES ... 102</p> <p>42 ,, AUDIT FEE ... 71</p> <p>109 ,, OFFICE LIGHTING AND HEATING... 105</p> <p>283 ,, SUNDRY OFFICE AND GENERAL EXPENSES 483</p> <p>33 ,, DEPRECIATION ON FURNITURE ... 33</p> <p>250 ,, Secretary's West Indian Tour (Balance) ... —</p> <p>— ,, NET LOSS ON SALE OF INVESTMENTS ... 5</p> <p><u>£13,449</u></p>	<p>1947 £</p> <p>By SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS, AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS, sales of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and other publications and amounts received from Subscribers to the "Circular" ... 5,248 5,254</p> <p>713 ,, INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS ... 707</p> <p>750 ,, JAMAICA TRADE REPRESENTATION (Contribution from Government of Jamaica) 750</p> <p>171 ,, CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS for Special Purposes ... 136</p> <p>CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COLONIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHERS :— B.W.I.S.A. Subscriptions :—</p> <p>166 Antigua Sugar Association (Inc.) 179 Barbados Sugar Producers' Association (Inc.) 902 British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association ... 1,296 St. Kitts Sugar Association Ltd 249 Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica) Ltd. 1,339 Sugar Manufacturers' Association of Trinidad (Inc.) 719 St. Lucia Sugar Association Ltd 50 4,734</p> <p>500 British West Indies Sugar Association (Inc.) 500 5,234</p> <p>50 Barbados Publicity Committee .. 50</p> <p>1,000 Trinidad Oil Companies' London Committee 1,000</p> <p>25 West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association (Inc.) 25 105 Jamaica Imperial Association West Indian Island Owned Bottled Rum Importers Association ... 100</p> <p>114 ,, SUNDRY RECEIPTS FOR SERVICES RENDERED 193</p> <p>160 ,, BALANCE being Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ... 272</p> <p><u>£13,449</u></p>
<u>£13,826</u>	<u>£13,826</u>

SPECIAL FUNDS

for the Year ended 31st December, 1948.

	Balance at 31st December, 1947		Expenditure during year	Income during year	Balance at 31st December, 1948	
	Due to Committee	Due by Committee			Due to Committee	Due by Committee
	£	£			£	£
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TRADE REPRESENTATION ACCOUNT	—	431	611	*600	—	420
TRINIDAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	—	197	19	—	—	178
BARBADOS PUBLICITY COMMITTEE	—	485	517	497	—	465
	£ —	1,113	1,147	1,097	—	1,063

* The above contribution is in respect of the year to September 30th, 1949.



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

Crop News. A correspondent, in a letter from St. John's of April 16th, says: "Cotton continues to come in although the amount is lessening and the end of the harvest season is in sight. Excellent weather during this year has resulted in a plentiful supply of locally grown vegetables. The sugar crop is proceeding slowly; during the six weeks since the commencement of crop the factory has been out of cane for 160 hours and deliveries of cane to the factory on Mondays and Saturdays are noticeably poor.

"**The Hon. V. C. Bird**, president of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union arrived here from Trinidad where he attended meetings of the Standing Closer Association Committee. The welcoming steel bands were conspicuous by their absence.

Prison Farm. "It is understood that the Government are negotiating to purchase about 25 acres of land near the city for the purpose of running a prison farm which it is hoped will provide fresh vegetables for all Government institutions.

Obituary. "At the Cathedral on April 12th, funeral services were conducted for Mr. John E. Jeffery, young businessman and popular band leader, second son of the Hon. J. L. E. Jeffery, one of our leading merchants. Mr. Jeffery, who was apparently in the best of health, died suddenly in the morning. He is survived by his wife and four children."

BARBADOS

The Governor. Miss Joan Kysh, secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee, in a letter dated April 1st, says: "Sir Hilary Blood, Governor of Barbados and Lady Blood, left the island in the s.s. *Lloyd Crest* on March 15th. Sir Hilary has been appointed Governor of Mauritius.

Shipping. "Six destroyers, two light transport ships and an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy visited Barbados during the month. The frigate H.M.S. *Whitesand Bay* arrived in Carlisle Bay on March 12th for a short visit.

Art Exhibition. "The Inter-colonial Art Exhibition held under the auspices of the Barbados Art and Crafts Society at Queen's Park continued until March 5th.

Recital. "Under the auspices of the Barbados Choral Society and the Cameo Club, Mr. Herbert Fryer gave a piano recital at the British Council rooms, on March 18th."

BRITISH GUIANA

New G.P.O. A correspondent writing from Georgetown on April 19th, says: "The General Post Office building in Georgetown which has twice been razed by fire since 1945 is being replaced by a \$1,500,000 fire-proof building. The contract has just been awarded by Government.

Rugby Football. "A Trinidad Rugby team has been on tour in the colony and three matches have been played against British Guiana for the McGregor Cup. The visiting side was not up to standard and was unable to win any of the tests; nevertheless games were most enjoyable and played in an excellent spirit.

Sugar and Nationalization. "The local Press has unfortunately given the impression that the proposals of the U.K. Labour Party, if re-elected, to nationalize the British beet-sugar manufacturing, and cane-sugar refining, industries, involves the nationalization of colonial sugar production also. The position is now being made clear however.

Radio-Active Minerals. "More bad publicity has recently taken place in North America where it has been reported that exceedingly rich finds of radio-active minerals have been made in the colony. In fact, euxenite was found in the Kanuku Mountains in 1941 but there seems to be nothing to justify the extravagant claims made.

Transport and Harbours Department. "Mr. W. T. P. Perkins, the new general manager, who succeeds Lieut.-Colonel R. V. Teare, has arrived in the colony. He was formerly general manager of the Trinidad Government Railways.

Canadian Seamen's Strike. "Two bauxite ships have been held up at Georgetown as a result of a strike by the crews, who are members of the Canadian Seamen's Union. The crew of one vessel has been arrested for 'wilful disobedience of a lawful command.' Action with regard to the other crew who resisted arrest is awaited. Members of a rival union (the S.I.U.) have flown to the colony from Canada and are reported to be ready to sail the two ships."

GRENADA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *April 4th.*

The biggest demonstration mass meeting ever held in Grenada, numbering some 3,000 nutmeg growers was held on April 3rd, at Queen's Park Pavilion under the chairmanship of Walter De Gale, one of Grenada's biggest landed proprietors and grower of nutmegs, to support petitions filed with the Legislative Council praying that the Grenada Co-operative Nutmegs Association should be voluntary and protesting at the compulsory feature exercised under the Ordinance governing the said Association. The Governor, Brigadier Arundell, and Members of the Legislative Council were invited to attend in order to obtain first-hand information and sense the people's feelings personally, but only the latter attended, the Governor having sent an excuse. There was some adverse comment by certain speakers on the Governor's absence and delay in replying to the invitation, which was signed by large and influential nutmeg producers. The meeting was extremely orderly and there was no doubt that the people were firm in their conviction that the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association has proved a failure and that mismanage-

ment was largely contributory. The following mandate by resolution was passed unanimously, and was delivered to each Member of the Council :—

"Whereas we the Nutmeg Growers from every parish of this island of Grenada have assembled at the Queen's Park Pavilion on this solemn day, Sunday, April 3rd, 1949, for the purpose of demonstrating to His Excellency the Governor, Brigadier R. D. H. Arundell, C.M.G., O.B.E., and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council who have been invited to attend this meeting the following :—

"(1) Our complete and intense dissatisfaction with the operations of the Nutmeg Association and in particular with the Association's Board who although admonished by the Legislative Council continue recklessly to spend our money in useless buildings and have taken no apparent steps to improve their methods.

"(2) Our lack of confidence in the Nutmeg Board by reason of the foregoing.

"(3) Our resentment to the compulsory feature contained in the principal Ordinance No. 8 of 1946, which makes it binding upon us to dispose of our nutmegs through one channel.

"(4) Our strenuous objection to the inadequate advances on nutmegs and mace being made by the Board which have reached such a low level as to make it unprofitable for us to gather this produce. Be it resolved that we do hereby by these presents charge and mandate our representatives on the Legislative Council to :—

"(a) Amend the Principal Ordinance hereinbefore mentioned in such manner as to make the Nutmeg Association a voluntary one, thereby eliminating the compulsory feature complained of and so as to leave those growers who so wish free to dispose of their produce as hitherto.

"(b) To represent vigorously our cause to the best of their ability in accordance with the terms of this resolution.

"(c) To lay this resolution on the table at the next Legislative Council Meeting and to request His Excellency The Governor to transmit the same to the Right Honourable The Secretary of State for the Colonies."

Four speakers at this meeting, all nutmeg growers, protested vehemently at sundry errors and omissions detrimental to the best interests of the Association, with which the meeting signified concurrence. Principally these were :—

(a) Bad marketing.

(b) Lack of care of stocks.

(c) Inadequacy of advances to growers which are not in keeping with market prices and so low as to make it unprofitable to gather nutmegs.

The principal speaker, Mr. Frank Winslow, an Englishman and a large grower of nutmegs, resident here for 15 years, stressed the absolute necessity of making the Association voluntary and removing the compulsory element, which savoured of slavery.

JAMAICA

New Schools. Thirty-two new elementary schools are to open throughout Jamaica during this year, giving educational facilities for 6,000 children. The cost of erection of these schools will be approximately £212,000.

part of a £500,000 education programme under which a further 45 schools are planned.

The Jamaica Banana Producers' Association Ltd. which was first formed 20 years ago, marked its anniversary on April 1st by distributing bonuses to its staff both in Jamaica and England. Shareholders received a dividend of 9d. on the 2s. 6d. share.

Water Supplies. Mr. William Kirkpatrick, Chief Engineer of the Water Commission, left the island by air on April 2nd for Montreal, New York and London, in an effort to speed up the delivery of essential equipment needed for the extension of water supplies in Jamaica.

Visit of Chinese Athletes. A group of 17 Chinese from British Guiana, headed by Dr. Heung Ho, president of the Chinese Sports Club in Georgetown arrived in Kingston on April 6th on a goodwill visit.

TRINIDAD

The Constitution. Our correspondent, Mr. Keith McCowan, in a letter from Port-of-Spain dated April 25th, says: "The Hon. Dr. P. V. J. Solomon sought in the Legislative Council to obtain approval of a referendum on the new Trinidad Constitution, to ascertain the wishes of the people in the matter. The move was rejected after the Council had sat in a specially lengthy session from 10 a.m. on April 1st to 12.58 a.m. on April 2nd, with intervals totalling less than two-and-a-half hours.

Salary Increase. "Trinidad legislators are to be paid \$320 per mensem from the beginning of 1949, as compared with \$150 in 1948.

Emigration. "The Trinidad Legislature is concerned about the U.S.A. move to limit to 100 the number of persons to be admitted annually into the United States from each of the B.W.I., and the United States Secretary of State has been so informed. The view has been expressed locally that Trinidad should receive better treatment in the matter because of the lease of bases to the United States.

Trade. "The Governor told the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce recently, at the annual luncheon given by the Chamber, that the Trinidad Government was in need of a department which might be designated 'Department of Commerce and Industry' or one of the nature of a Board of Trade. Mr. Eric Grell has been re-elected president of the Chamber. He has emphasized the need for a reduction in the rate of company tax, which is now 40 per cent as compared with 12½ per cent in 1939.

Visit. "Sir William Rootes, chairman of the Rootes group of United Kingdom motor vehicle manufacturers, has paid a business visit to the colony, in the course of a tour of the Western Hemisphere.

Food Supplies. "A new white loaf of bread has been placed on the Trinidad market, with a nutritive value 25 per cent higher than that of the normal white loaf. This is achieved by the addition of food yeast, made in Jamaica, to the ordinary white flour.

Fire Tragedy. "A building housing Government offices was destroyed by fire in Port-of-Spain on April 6th. Mr. Alan Ross, Government Industrial Adviser, leapt 20 feet from an upper story window, struck his head, and was taken to hospital unconscious. He died two days later without recovering consciousness."

Company Reports and Meetings

Tate and Lyle, Ltd.

At the annual general meeting, held in London, on March 31st, the president, LORD LYLE OF WESTBOURNE, in the course of his speech said: "Some shareholders in this company have asked me to comment on the rumours now circulating about a Socialist plan to nationalize Tate and Lyle and other sugar refining businesses. I shall say nothing about rumours, except to tell you that your board will not meekly remain in office under nationalization, and that we will never be participants in the destruction of a company that has rendered great services to the public in home and export trading.

"If your company is assailed by the nationalizers I shall ask your shareholders in Britain and overseas to give counsel to your board at an extraordinary general meeting, and I shall also consult with the authorities in many lands where Tate and Lyle and our associated companies are employers and taxpayers.

"There is a sharp increase in the profit compared with last year, both for the parent company and the group. This is almost entirely due to the increased turnover, which is a record in our history, and amounted to £78,500,000 sterling. It is not generally realized by you or the public how large our production is. It amounted last year to the huge total of 32,000 tons per week, which is the staggering figure of four tons per working minute. You may be interested to know more about how the total income was disbursed. This is a summary:—

	per cent
Raw materials (including duty), fuel and services...	90.3
Wages, salaries, pensions, etc.	4.0
Overhead expenses, including amount provided for deferred maintenance and renewals	1.8
Taxation, including tax deducted from dividends paid	1.9
Profits retained in the business	1.3
Net dividends... ..	0.7

"You will notice particularly that the net dividends amounted to only seven-tenths of one per cent of turnover. This was equivalent to one-seventh of a farthing per lb. of sugar sold. No one could say that this was other than an extremely modest figure.

"Our financial arrangements since the outbreak of war have been under the control of the Treasury. Frequent cost investigations have ensured that the profit per cwt. of home consumed sugar did not rise above that which obtained in 1939. I should like to emphasize that these arrangements contain no element of subsidy and that we have never received any subsidy whatsoever. Any confusion that there may be arises because there is a subsidy to the growers of sugar beet, and because there is also a subsidy to the domestic consumer of sugar of 1½d. per lb. To offset this there is a levy on manufacturing users of sugar of ½d. per lb., and a duty of 1½d. per lb. on all imported sugar.

"The increased profits of the subsidiary companies were, in the main, consequent upon the larger turnover of the parent company. This increase of turnover came from our export trade as the sales of golden syrup and sugar for home consumption remained substantially unchanged.

"Approximately one-third of our output was exported, amounting to 500,000 tons, valued at over £17,000,000, the greatest quantity we have ever exported. It was a notable contribution to the export drive because a large proportion was sold for dollars or their equivalent. The sellers' market is, however, now disappearing and in consequence the margin is no longer as attractive as last year. We believe, however, that many opportunities still exist for increasing British trade and to this end we have recently carried out a special investigation of the markets in West Africa. We captured a large part of the export markets of the world as long ago as the early 1930's by means of scrupulous attention to quality and price. This policy we intend to continue.

"Substantial sums have been placed to reserves, necessitated by the increased capital required to finance stocks and to maintain our existing assets. We have also thought it prudent to place a large sum to a staff pension reserve. This will be used to pay for the past-service pensions arising from the pension scheme which was adopted four years ago.

"Your board has recommended the same dividend as last year. The distribution has remained virtually unchanged since 1935. Since then we have made additions to our reserves either by way of special allocation to General Reserve, some of which

has been capitalized, or by increasing our provision for taxation and to other reserves, some of which have not until this year appeared in our balance sheet. These allocations represent a total sum of about £6,000,000 for the parent company and a further £1,000,000 for our subsidiary companies. Moreover, the company had depreciated its plant by means of charging renewals to revenue and it follows that its plant thus stands in the balance sheet at a figure far below its replacement value. Neither has there been any increase in dividend over last year in those subsidiary companies in which there are minority interests. Your board has pursued the same policy in these companies as in the parent company of retaining profits for the maintenance of existing assets and for development.

"Our financial position would have warranted an increased distribution this year had it not been for our wish to co-operate with the Chancellor to combat inflation. A capitalization of reserves by means of a bonus issue has not been a practical proposition because of the heavy tax which such an issue would have attracted. We regret very much that present circumstances prevent us from making recommendations for an increased distribution of profits or for a capitalization of reserves.

"World supplies of sugar have increased considerably, and if the present estimates are attained, a world record of about 32,500,000 tons will be produced during the 1948-49 crop. Isolated, but important pre-war producing areas, principally Java, have not yet recovered from the effects of the war. The greatly improved production of the world has resulted in the loosening of controls on sugar in many countries. Few are left with sugar rationing still in force. H.M. Government is apparently waiting until there is either a considerable increase in production of sugar from soft currency areas or until the dollar position allows it to purchase more western hemisphere sugar.

"The large stocks of raw sugar which must necessarily be held in this country at certain times of the year seem to have given rise to the impression that supplies are greater than they really are. Most of the Empire sugar produced arrives here in the autumn and early winter, and coincides with the beet sugar campaign in this country. Large stocks are thus built up during the late autumn and are progressively reduced during the ensuing months. This is no new thing, as a study of stock figures before the war will show.

Increase in Empire Production

"Great strides have been made by the Empire in increasing its production. The improvement is largely due to the resumption by Australia and Mauritius of large scale exports to this country. The increase from the Empire, including home grown beet, amounted to 239,000 tons which has, of course, displaced raw sugar which otherwise would have had to have been imported from dollar areas. The small increase in sugar distribution in this country was made possible by the increase in Empire supplies. Last year about 650,000 tons of non-Empire raw sugar had to be imported into this country for home consumption. If rationing could have been abolished, this would have amounted to over a million tons. In our opinion there is plenty of scope for increased production within the Empire, assuming that countries such as Canada continue to draw their supplies from Empire sources. The Empire need have no fear that there will not be a market for their production. Your company has always bought all the sugar the Empire has offered for sale, even during the time of world over-production, no Empire country was ever burdened with surplus stocks.

"We have, therefore, continued our policy of expansion in the West Indies where we already have large sugar interests. Closely allied to sugar manufacture is our flourishing rum business. Rum has always been justly popular in the Navy, and with our up-to-date equipment we hope by very strict attention to quality to increase its popularity throughout the country. As you will have seen, the West Indies Sugar Co. has recently carried out the construction of a new sugar factory at Monymusk in Jamaica. This factory will have a daily capacity of more than double that of the unit it is replacing. The financing of this development has recently been placed on a permanent basis by the issue of 1,400,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each, and £1,000,000 3½ per cent debenture stock issued at £99 10s. 0d. per cent. This development will increase the amount of non-dollar sugar available to this country, and should save about \$4,000,000 a year. The factory will achieve substantial economies and will be a model for further development within the Empire.

"We have great faith in our powers to increase Britain's earnings overseas. We shall continue to expand in the Empire

and are in the course of working out more plans both for raw sugar manufacture and refining. We have the support of many powerful friends overseas for this policy. This support is given because it is known that our business at home is capable of providing the drive and technical ability necessary to ensure success in ventures of expansion.

"We are extremely proud of our technical ability and efficiency. We can claim with confidence that we are the most efficient refining organization in the world. We have the finance and technical efficiency quickly to increase our lead when development restrictions are removed. You will no doubt have heard that parties financed by H.M. Government are being sent to America in order that the methods employed in industry there can be applied in this country. You will be pleased to hear that the position is reversed in our case. A leading American refining organization is paying us a regular fee in dollars for technological advice. Our refining margin is the lowest and our quality the finest in the world. This insistence on quality and low prices has in my view been the foundation of our success.

"We welcome comparisons with the sugar refining industry of any country in the world. Our mechanization is of a high order. There is over £2,000 worth of equipment for every person employed. All this is as things are now. If it were not for the restrictions imposed, we would be well ahead with plans for a further economy in refining costs, more particularly in the direction of handling raw sugar and distributing our refined products. A bulk raw sugar cargo is due to arrive in this country next week and we hope to demonstrate by this experimental shipment that jute bags can be dispensed with and that great economies can be made by the quicker turnaround of ships. Bulk delivery of white sugar to manufacturers will start before the year is out, and this will show large distribution savings.

"Long-term plans for improvement, however, depend on persistent research. This is a costly affair and we cannot expect quick returns. I am confident that the large sums which are being spent at our research station will in due course reap their reward. Sugar, apart from being the only food that can be kept indefinitely without deterioration, is the purest article produced on a commercial scale. The possibilities of its use other than for food are limitless. We must not shrink from continuing to spend large sums on research.

"Our labour relations have always been excellent, which is proved by the remarkable long service record of our employees. About 50 per cent of all men have had more than 15 years' service and 20 per cent more than 30 years' service. Wages are high and working conditions good. We work a 44-hour week and everybody has two weeks paid holiday a year, as well as the usual Bank Holidays. Pensions and sick pay are on a generous scale. Relations with the Unions are most cordial.

"On your behalf I should like to extend our grateful thanks to all our managers and workpeople who together have contributed so effectively to the success of your company. Tate and Lyle is a partnership between all who serve it. Directors or the newest entry of employees belong to this partnership; indirectly many millions of satisfied customers can claim a share in that partnership. I am often humbled by the confidence placed in your board by all connected with Tate and Lyle in many parts of the world. We shall use our best endeavours to discharge the trust placed in us."

Sugar Cane Bagasse

Dr. Clarence J. West, who prepared the useful annotated bibliography on the utilization of sugar cane bagasse for paper, board, plastics and chemicals which was published as Scientific Report Series No. 3 by the Sugar Research Foundation, Inc., New York, in March, 1946, has compiled a supplement which brings the bibliography so far up-to-date as to include all the important references through December, 1948.

The new list brings the number of references summarized up to 1937, and maintains the arrangement followed in the original paper, a note on which appeared on page 118 of the June, 1946 issue of the CIRCULAR. It is dated April, 1949, and is published as Supplement to No. 3, Scientific Report Series.

West Indian Passenger List

Booker Line

Sailings to British Guiana in s.s. Enid (Captain O. Njerve), from Liverpool, April 14th:—

Mr. & Mrs. W. Chamberlain	Mrs. M. Eden	Miss L. A. Shaw
Miss C. M. Eden	Miss I. N. Shaw	Mrs. M. Veitch
	Mr. & Mrs. K. Shaw	Mr. D. B. Wight

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. Enid (Captain O. Njerve), at Liverpool, April 4th:—

Mr. & Mrs. C. G. Errey	Mr. & Mrs. D. Jackson	Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Windebank
Mr. & Mrs. J. Grierson	Miss M. Johnson	

French Line

Sailings to Trinidad, in s.s. Maurienne (Captain R. Betainby), from Plymouth, April 16th:—

Rev. & Mrs. T. Campbell	Mr. J. Rank	Mrs. M. Ullman
Mr. & Mrs. P. Foley	Mrs. M. Rank	Miss M. Wilson
Mr. R. Foley	Miss M. Rogers	

Fyffes Line

Home arrivals from Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), at Avonmouth, March 29th:—

Mrs. L. Boys	Mr. & Mrs. J. Foster	Mr. & Mrs. T. Molyneux
Mr. & Mrs. N. Briggs-Bury	Lt.-Col. & Mrs. L. Galloway	Mr. N. D. Norman
Mr. F. R. Britten	Mr. B. Gonsalves	Mr. P. C. Phillips
Lord & Lady Courthope	Miss J. Gordon-Luhrs	Mr. & Mrs. J. Portage
Mr. C. E. Crowley	Mr. S. W. Henwood	Miss A. Rix
Mr. T. B. Cunningham	Mr. K. D. Huggins	Mrs. E. Rix
Mr. & Mrs. T. A. Deat	Mr. & Mrs. G. Iver	Mr. & Mrs. W. Ross
Mr. & Mrs. H. de Pass	Mr. R. M. Jack	Mr. D. E. Silveira
Mrs. J. E. Donald-Hill	Mr. & Mrs. H. Laidler	Mr. I. V. Sinclair
Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Douglas	Mr. & Mrs. D. M. Logan	Miss G. H. Smith
Mr. B. Doyle	Mr. M. Logan	Mr. & Mrs. T. Vander Meersch
Misses (2) Fisher	Mr. & Mrs. P. Logan	Mrs. E. Walker

Home arrivals from Trinidad and Jamaica, in s.s. Ariguani (Captain G. S. Gracie), at Avonmouth, on April 25th:—

Mrs. S. M. Browne	Miss D. M. Hall	Mr. H. Owen
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Cock	Mr. D. Hendry	Prof. & Mrs. R. Peers
Mr. & Mrs. A. Donohue	Mr. & Mrs. J. K.	Mrs. N. B. Rodwell
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Duffus	Mr. J. Higgimbotham	Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Scott
Mr. & Mrs. I. H. Fincham	Mrs. J. C. Hog	Mr. & Mrs. K. J. Watt
Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Foster	Rev. J. I. Mitchell	

Mrs. A. M. Baddeley	Mrs. E. I. Hillier	Mr. & Mrs. T. Ogier
Mr. S. H. Bennett	Mr. & Mrs. Hodgson	Miss M. O'Leary
Mr. C. Elliott	Mr. & Mrs. Hutchinson	Mr. P. D. Ramkisson
Mr. & Mrs. J. Consalves	Mr. & Mrs. H. Lissons	Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. A. Green	Mr. C. J. Mongui	Mr. F. C. Taharally
Miss D. Harms	Mr. & Mrs. C. Nixon	Mr. & Mrs. Webb
Mr. & Mrs. H. Harrison		

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Manistee (Captain C. R. Hodder), at London, April 4th:—

Lady Agar	Mr. & Mrs. Iver Deans	Miss J. P. Shields
Mr. D. W. Bowen	Mr. Moustafa Djemal	Mr. L. Spencer
Mr. E. Charlesworth	Mr. & Mrs. G. H. Hale	Miss M. Watt
Mrs. F. M. Cox		

Home arrivals from Jamaica and Bermuda in s.s. Bayano (Captain A. G. Jones), at Avonmouth, on April 12th:—

Mr. & Mrs. K. Bakewell	S/Lieut. J. F. Harrison	Mrs. G. M. Newton
Mr. S. Bird	Mr. & Mrs. S. Hassock	Mr. & Mrs. P. E. Pike
Mr. W. E. Bryce	Mrs. J. M. Home	Mr. G. A. Reid
Mr. H. Chiu	Dr. Madeline Kerr	Mr. & Mrs. G. H. Scott
Miss V. R. Dantra	Mrs. M. Krouker	Major N. Wainwright
Mr. & Mrs. A. Darbysburg	Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Lamb	Miss B. Weatherall
Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Foster		

Mrs. M. M. Ashley-Dodd	Mr. M. E. Keene	Mr. G. H. Round
Mr. & Mrs. S. Bleadale	Mr. H. M. Lever	Mr. & Mrs. Stansfield
Mr. & Mrs. L. G. Blight	Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Lilley	Mr. T. W. Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Brindle	Mr. & Mrs. G. McCraith	Mr. H. C. Symonds
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Card	Mr. J. J. Mackenzie	Mr. C. H. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Edge	Mr. & Mrs. J. Paterson	Mr. A. D. Townsend
Mr. D. Hays	Mr. P. H. Pearson	Mr. J. Vale
Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Keeble	Mr. H. Pierce	

DEATH

SCOTT.—At Pertis, Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset, on March 8th, 1949, Margaret, widow of Charles William Scott, of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and beloved mother of Sybil and Margaret.

The Markets

May 2nd, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below:—

Dividend for Latest Year	Latest Quotation		Price Year Ago	
	80½	82½	75½	77½
2½ Consols	102½	103½xd	101½	102½xd
3½ War Loan				
20 Angostura Bitters	82/6	87/6	75/-	85/-
10 Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	38/9	43/9	40/-	45/-
Antigua Sugar Factory	12/-	13/-	19/-	19/6
*30 Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	33/-	35/-	46/6	48/-
8 Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	52/6	56/6	58/-	62/-
14 Broker Bros. McConnell	80/-	85/-	95/-	105/-
6 Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	25/9	31/3	29/4½	31/10½
5 British Guiana Cons. Gold 3/9	1/1½	1/7½	2/-	2/6
8 Caroni Ltd. 2/-	3/-	3/9	2/9	3/9
6 Caroni Ltd., 6% Pref.	22/-	24/-	23/9	26/3
*7½ Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6...	5/-	6/-	6/-	7/-
12½ Kern Oil Co. 3/4	8/9	9/9	11/9	12/9
10 Lumber & Trinidad Asphalt Ord.	46/3	48/9	45/-	50/-xd
— Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	-/6	1/6	1/6	2/6
8½ Royal Bank of Canada 8/10	140/-	160/-xd	145/-	165/-xd
*17½ St. Kitts (London) Sugar	70/-	75/-	80/-	82/6
*3 Ste. Madeleine Sugar	17/-	18/-	17/6	20/-
10 Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	17/3	19/3	22/6	24/-
— Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	1/9	2/9	3/-	4/-
*14 Trinidad Leaseholds 5/-	24/6	26/9	33/-	34/6
*16½ Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	23/-	25/-xd	33/-	34/6xd
6 Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 6% Pref.	22/-	24/-	24/-	26/-
7½ Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/6	6/3	5/9	6/9
8½ United British Oilfields 6/8	20/3	22/3	24/6	26/-
5 West Indies Sugar	18/9	21/3	23/9	26/3
6 West Indies Sugar 6% Pref.	22/6	25/-	24/-	26/-

*Free of income tax.

Honey continues under Government control and the price is unchanged at 72/6 per cwt. c.i.f., U.K.

Pimento. There is no business to report. Spot is offered at 1/2½ per lb., and the price for forward shipment remains at 119/- c.i.f., U.K.

Ginger. There are no first hand sales to report. There have been offers from Jamaica at 185/- for No. 3 grade and 190/- for No. 2, but buyers are not prepared to pay these prices.

Nutmegs. Prices remain unchanged with sound unassorted still offered at 1/8 per lb. c.i.f., and defective at 1/4. There is no business to report and the market remains nominal.

Mace. Whole pale remains unchanged at 5/- per lb. c.i.f. with no business reported. The spot trade is extremely quiet. Broken is still quoted at 1/- to 4/- but buyers are not interested.

Sugar. The Board of Trade Returns for March are as follows:—

Imports of Unrefined	Month of March		January-March	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Mauritius	8,533	22,417	36,954	76,062
Australia	—	25,938	5,366	100,407
Fiji	—	—	—	4,412
British West Indies	11,500	25,089	32,478	34,459
British Guiana	2,672	12,888	21,422	27,101
Other British Countries	—	—	—	—
Dutch East Indies	—	—	—	—
Cuba	59,925	18,788	68,543	41,096
Hayti	—	—	—	—
Dominican Republic	45,268	27,051	74,232	45,430
Mexico	16,795	—	16,795	—
Peru	—	—	—	12,147
Other Foreign Countries	—	—	—	—
Total	138,693	132,171	255,790	341,114
Consumption	Month of February		January February	
Refined	2	4	43	4
Unrefined	177,954	152,074	325,902	270,342
Total	177,956	152,078	325,945	270,347
Stocks (end of February)				
Home Grown Beet	128,400	191,050	—	—
Imported Refined	—	—	—	—
Imported Unrefined	356,350	322,400	—	—
Total	484,750	513,450	—	—

Rum. The Board of Trade Returns for March are as follows:—

Imports	Month of March		January-March	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Union of South Africa	69,430	154,352	381,447	232,563
Mauritius	201,286	350,295	1,107,650	584,492
British West Indies	99,321	552,631	500,531	982,208
British Guiana	85,869	253,305	137,590	591,768
Other British Countries	21,303	374	21,314	3,901
Foreign Countries	14	1	74	6,109
Total	477,223	1,310,958	2,148,606	2,401,041
Exports	21,375	67,630	53,651	150,888
Consumption	Month of February		January-February	
Stocks (end of February)	5,475,000	8,743,000	678,854	351,226

Cocoa. The Board of Trade Returns for March are as follows:—

Imports	Month of March		January-March	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
British West Africa	438,740	467,424	880,206	1,198,997
British West Indies	2,907	13,276	2,907	20,386
Other British Countries	2,033	520	2,889	527
Foreign Countries	—	—	2	41,330
Total	443,680	481,220	886,004	1,261,260
Exports	Month of February		January-February	
Stocks (end of February)	291,368	165,101	417,864	747,088

West Indian Sugar Production

The following statement of the estimated production of sugar for the quota year ending August 31st, 1949, summarizes the latest information received by the West India Committee:—

	tons	tons	
Barbados	150,000	Windward Islands—	
Jamaica	234,400	St. Lucia	10,900
Leeward Islands—		St. Vincent	2,600
Antigua	16,000	British Guiana	189,850
St. Kitts	34,000	British Honduras	2,000
Trinidad	150,000		
Total	789,750		

Of the estimated total of 789,750 tons, approximately 100,000 tons is required for consumption in the West Indian colonies. Further, the production figure for Barbados in terms of actual sugar will be reduced by 20,000 tons the equivalent of which will be manufactured as fancy molasses.

Visitors from Overseas

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. W. L. Alston. | His Honour G. C. Green, |
| Mr. C. E. S. Bailey, M.B., | C.M.G., M.B.E. |
| CH.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. | Lt. Colonel E. F. Moulton- |
| His Honour Chief Justice | Barrett, O.B.E., M.C. |
| O. L. Bancroft. | Mr. M. B. Parker |
| His Honour Mr. Justice E. P. S. | Mrs. E. J. A. Simpson. |
| Bell. | Mr. N. V. Stafford Solomon, |
| H.E. Sir Hilary Blood, | M.B.E. |
| K.C.M.G. | Mr. C. R. Stollmeyer. |
| Mr. J. St. F. Dare. | Mr. Christopher Swaby. |
| Mr. H. W. de Freitas. | Lt.-Colonel F. Wood, M.B.E. |
| Mr. A. G. L. Douglas. | Mr. W. Young, M.C., |
| Mr. E. M. Eldridge. | A.M.I. Mech. E. |
| Mrs. Elsie Gamble. | Mr. Noel B. Yule. |

IT would greatly facilitate the forwarding of correspondence if members of the West India Committee visiting this country would inform the Secretary of the date of the arrival and the address or addresses to which they would like THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and correspondence despatched.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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June, 1949.

Sugar in the Commons

THE recent debates in the House of Commons, reported elsewhere in this issue, in the course of which the Government's bulk buying policy has been discussed, proceeded largely on party lines in that the Conservatives, on the whole, opposed bulk buying as unsound in theory and disastrous in practice while there was spirited defence of its virtues in principle and of the results of its operations over the past few years from the Government benches and from those of its supporters.

Nevertheless, the debates showed that there is an increasing realization among all parties that, whatever the merits or demerits of bulk purchase as a system of trading, primary products coming from colonial sources, in general, and sugar in particular, require exceptional treatment. The case for the sugar industry could not have been better put than it was by Mr. Michael Foot and Mr. Aidan Crawley. Lady Tweedsmuir also pleaded its special position with eloquence and knowledge. Incidentally she, as well as others, made three very telling points: (1) that there is no such thing as a world price for sugar—the so-called world price being the price that Cuba can sell her surplus after disposing of the bulk of it to the U.S.A. at favourable preferred prices; (2) that the world dollar shortage has a constantly depressing effect even on this so-called world price and (3) that the so-called world price plus Empire preference can no longer be regarded as a proper basis for fixing the price to be paid to the colonial sugar producer, more particularly in view of the fact that the amount of the preference is not now flexible owing to the operation of the Geneva and Havana agreements. It can only be revised downwards or eliminated and therefore cannot be used effectively to assist the producer in unfavourable circumstances such as may well occur in the near future.

The Minister of Food, Mr. Strachey, replying to the Bulk Purchase debate, while seeming to indicate that an undertaking to extend the present four-year contract to sugar producers of the West Indies and the rest of the Commonwealth to a ten-year contract, was "going rather far" on grounds which were not quite clear, went on to say: "We agree with the very strong pleas and views expressed on this side of the Committee about the necessity for supporting the sugar and other primary producers of the West Indies and elsewhere, but I think hon. Members will find that we shall come to

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reasonable arrangements with them and will give them all the measures of security for which they can reasonably ask and which we can afford to give them and which will not be too financially dangerous to us."

Mr. Rees-Williams, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, was more non-committal in his reference to the subject in the debate on Colonial Development and Welfare on the following day, confining himself to a statement that, "we are going into the question of prices, how long ahead they can be fixed and the like, and the industry is being consulted so as to obtain its views on the whole matter."

There have been other indications that the case, which the British West Indies sugar industry, through the West India Committee, has laid before the Government for a ten-year contract at fair prices, is recognized as valid. Dr. Martin Goetz, writing in the May issue of the *Economic Digest*, says: "The case that was recently made for the West Indian sugar producers in a letter to *The Times* (Mr. Campbell's letter, April CIRCULAR, page 79) is logical. If long-term contracts are attacked on principle, the same objections apply to the principles of domestic agricultural policy. The arguments may be brought forward that such a policy is against the tradition of cheap food. This need only be true if it implies that cheapness should be carried to the point of being ruinous to the producer. This, however, is hardly the meaning of that "liberal" doctrine. It is, however, true that the new domestic agricultural policy has made no attempt to define efficiency in agriculture or to establish effective standards for promotion of low cost production and the elimination of high cost producers (high costs arising out of lack of skill or of unsuitable soil). Only if the problem of costs and efficiency is being tackled both at home and in the case of partners in long-term arrangements, can the new policy ward off the danger of becoming a policy of dear food—at any rate in the long run."

In spite of these signs of recognition of the justice of our cause this is no time for complacency. Not only must there be this recognition but it must be followed by an effective change in Government policy towards the West Indies. The dichotomy which is the most pronounced feature of its present attitude must be transformed into a single policy applying alike to the British farmer and the colonial primary producer the benefits of guaranteed markets and fair prices. It is for this that the Committee is striving. That it has the backing of the whole of the British West Indies in its efforts towards that end is shown by current talk of the

(Continued on page 132)

From a Londoner's Notebook

SIX months after the announcement of the King's illness, and rather less than three months since his operation, His Majesty has begun to appear again occasionally in public, and so to show that his recovery, though slow, is going steadily and encouragingly forward. He moved among his guests at the Buckingham Palace garden parties, held in May for the presentation of debutantes; he went to Lord's to see the New Zealanders play their match against M.C.C.; and it is announced that he will be on the Horse Guards Parade for the ceremony of Trooping the Colour on June 9th, his official birthday. Apart from the actual weakness in the leg, His Majesty is looking very well; and it is being seriously considered in high quarters whether it may not after all be possible for him to pay before very long his postponed visit to Australia and New Zealand. It is indeed out of the question that he should ever be subjected to the strain of the strenuous overland journeys that had been originally planned; but some sort of convalescent cruise in Australian waters, perhaps in a comparatively small ship that would allow him to show himself in most of the seaport towns, is well within the bounds of possibility.

* * *

The last phase in the eight-hundred-years story of "the Irish Question" has generated a curious storm in a teacup. Ireland having claimed her full independence, the British Government announced that Irishmen in England would still be "treated as" British subjects—as would seem to be almost a necessity, when one comes to imagine the fantastic complications that would be involved in any attempt to sort them out from all employments not open to aliens, and even from the voters' lists. Lord Simon and other eminent lawyers, however, pointed out that to treat an alien as a subject cannot alter the fact that he is an alien in law and will be so regarded by the courts; and when the Government attempted to cite last year's Nationality Act, which gives Irishmen full rights in England, they replied that that Act applied to citizens of the British Dominion of Eire, and the Republic of Ireland was quite another thing.

Accordingly the Government have felt impelled to bring in the Ireland Bill—also known as the Eat Your Cake and Have it Bill—to cause these aliens to be legally "deemed" to be what they are not. They found it necessary, however, to reassure anxious Orangemen by including a clause to guarantee that Ulster shall never be forced out of the British Empire without the consent of its own Parliament; and this clause has not only precipitated a furious campaign of southern Irish oratory against the alleged interference of England in order to perpetuate the partition of Ireland, it has stimulated a large section of the Labour Party to support the Irish protests against the Government.

* * *

This in its turn has brought about a considerable heresy hunt in the Socialist Party, which is always inclined to be heavy-handed with its dissenters. Five

of the "rebels" held the inconspicuous and unpaid position of parliamentary private secretary to various junior Ministers; the Prime Minister ordered that four of them should be dismissed. The fifth had already resigned, "committing suicide to save his life." The other sixty-odd were formally rebuked for the offence of voting against a "three-line whip," and warned that repetition of the offence might have the effect of bringing the Government down.

At the same time two of the extreme left-wing members, who have consistently leaned towards Russia and criticized the foreign policy of Mr. Bevin, were expelled from the Labour Party.

* * *

These anxious inspections and reviews of the Government troops are no doubt partly responsible for the crop of rumours that there may be a general election in the autumn. Mr. Attlee has emphatically denied any such intention, but the rumours have not been entirely allayed. Mr. Churchill has warned the Conservative Party, with some vigour, to be constantly on the alert and ready for an election campaign at any moment. The main reason for expecting an early appeal to the country appears to be that the "sellers' market" in international trade shows ominous signs of coming to an end, and that there is in consequence reason to fear substantial unemployment next winter. To wait therefore for mid-1950, when by law Parliament *must* be dissolved, might compel the Government to fight at a very inconvenient moment. On the other hand, to dissolve in the autumn of 1949 would be to risk losing the Steel Nationalization Bill, so dear to the Labour left wing, besides the Parliament Bill, which is required as an instrument to force it into law against the opposition of the House of Lords. It is true that, if the Government survived the election it could still compel the passage of both Bills in the first session of the new Parliament; but the Labour leaders are by no means so confident of a renewal of their mandate as they were a year ago. On the whole, most observers judge that they are unlikely to go to the country this year unless some fresh circumstance, not yet foreseen, supervenes upon the present situation.

* * *

One by one the pleasant pre-war ceremonies are being restored, and this year we have had, among others, the renewal of the Royal Academy Banquet, at which the members of the Academy entertain the leading personages of the country in the galleries at Burlington House, with the pictures for the summer exhibition hanging on the walls. The event was made memorable by the speech of the retiring President, Sir Alfred Munnings, famous for his realistic paintings of thoroughbred horses. For many years now the Academy has been superciliously dismissed with the delicate sniffs of the highbrows; but, now, in a rollicking speech, delivered with the utmost gusto to the listening earth (for it was broadcast) Sir Alfred launched his counter-attack. All the fashionable schools of non-realistic art, from Picasso

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The West India Committee

Chairman's Speech at the Annual General Meeting

THE annual general meeting of the West India Committee was held at 40, Norfolk Street, on May 25th, Mr. J. M. du Buisson, the chairman, presiding.

Rising to move the adoption of the report and accounts, which, having been circulated, were taken as read, he said:—

I do not think we can proceed with consideration of the report and accounts without referring in the first place to the untimely death of Colonel Hickling, who was in the chair on this occasion a year ago. No one served the West Indies more faithfully, and the Committee and the companies with which he was associated feel deeply the loss of a man of such ripe experience in West Indian affairs.

The general West Indian picture has changed little in the last twelve months except that everywhere the full impact of the dollar crisis is now being felt. The drastic reduction of imports from the United States and Canada, traditional sources of a large part of the requirements of the West Indies, and the consequent enforced switch-over to goods of United Kingdom origin has caused a good deal of dissatisfaction throughout the area and complaints are rife of unsuitability of British goods for the market, slow deliveries, and of prices higher than for similar goods from the United States or Canadian sources.

It is not for me to pronounce generally on the justification or otherwise for these complaints. There is undoubtedly some truth in them and the fact that they continue to be made without serious challenge from official quarters, does indicate, to say the least of it, a failure on the part of the United Kingdom Government to convince the Colonial peoples of the justification for and fairness of its financial policy as it affects their daily lives and their standard of life. Much indeed remains to be done by way of explanation in the simplest possible terms of the policy not only of the United Kingdom Government but of the colony Governments themselves.

We are glad to see that the situation warranted release of a small extra amount of dollar currency for the purchase of goods in Canada and the United States in the early months of this year. Canada, in particular, remains far from satisfied with the present position and will undoubtedly continue to press hard her claims for a greater share in the West Indian market. It may well be therefore that before long we shall see discussions on Canada-West Indies trade on the widest basis, possibly leading to a new Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. The present agreement, concluded in 1925, is now subject to termination on six months' notice by either party.

The position of Canada has been much in our thoughts also in connexion with the negotiations undertaken by the Committee on behalf of sugar producers for a long-term agreement for purchase of their sugar at negotiated prices. The progress of these negotiations is fully set out in the report. At the moment our

proposals are under examination by a Government inter-departmental working party and we hope that at an early stage we shall have an opportunity of sharing in the search for a solution of the admitted difficulties and complexities which stand in the way of the giving of a long-term guarantee in the terms we seek. We are convinced that with goodwill on all sides an answer can be found.

We hope to see Canada as a party to such a long-term agreement and this in spite of her general aversion to "controls." We feel that in view of the world-wide network of subsidies, bounties, tariffs and other barriers to the establishment of a proper world market price for sugar generally, a specially strong case for long-term arrangements which will ensure a market at a fair price, both in the United Kingdom and Canada, can be made for *our* sugar. The deputy chairman and I, as well as other members of the Executive, have recently visited Ottawa and have had conversations with various members of the Canadian Government on these questions and these have been followed up by other talks with them as occasion has arisen here. We have stated our position to them quite frankly and we think they fully appreciate our point of view. Certainly they lack nothing in goodwill or in the friendliness of their feelings towards the West Indies.

As regards price, you know that, in spite of all our efforts, the Government rejected our claim for an increase of £3 a ton for the 1949 crop, the figure remaining at £27 5s. per ton c.i.f. which includes £3 15s. per ton Imperial preference as well as the amount of the reserve funds. This has caused much resentment throughout the West Indies. It is fair to say, however, that in some colonies at least the exceptionally large crops should in some measure help producers to offset higher costs of production which have occurred.

Three colonies are likely to touch new production records in 1949—Barbados, with an estimated 151,000 tons, Trinidad with 156,775 and Jamaica with 235,180 tons. Commissions of inquiry investigated the sugar industries of Trinidad, Antigua, St. Kitts and British Guiana during the year. Only one report—that of the Trinidad Commission—has so far been published.

The price of bananas has been maintained at the level of the previous year and citrus fruit growers have reached an advantageous ten-year contract for the supply of concentrated orange juice to the Ministry of Food. West Indian Sea Island cotton prices continued to rise during 1948, but have shown signs of a recession recently. Cocoa prices have fallen heavily from the high levels reached some eighteen months ago and so far show no signs of recovery while nutmegs and mace are also in the doldrums. The cigar industry has suffered a severe decline from its 1947 record. High customs duty and to some extent indifferent quality, plus the lack of money in the hands of people here, have combined to halve consumption in a period of twelve months. With the former quantities of exports not likely to be reached

again in the near future the industry would be wise to concentrate on quality and price.

Although the Commonwealth Shipping Committee issued its report on West Indian Shipping Services as far back as November last year, there has been no real improvement in passenger services so far and I know of no action which has yet been taken which gives hope of any permanent accretion to the present deplorably inadequate service by British vessels. While our friends Messrs. Elders and Fyffes' new ship the *Golfito* will make her maiden trip to the West Indies in July calling at Barbados and Trinidad, the contemplated return of the *Ariguani* and *Cavina* to the normal U.K.

—Jamaica run will leave the Eastern Caribbean as badly served as ever. It is a measure of the exigencies of the situation that an Australian emigrant ship has to be diverted via the Panama Canal in order to bring West Indian residents home on leave for the summer. Evidence of the hand to mouth arrangements can be drawn from the fact that it is not yet known how the 600 or 700 people concerned can be got back to the West Indies in the autumn.

A useful recommendation by the Commonwealth Shipping Committee was that a representative organization of shippers and shipowners should be formed for the discussion and settlement of any outstanding difficulties. The West India Committee has taken action on that recommendation and is setting up a Merchants and Shippers Standing Committee to negotiate on freight rates, passenger fares, and other matters of mutual concern with the already established shipowners' organization. Member firms likely to be interested will shortly be invited to a meeting to inaugurate this Standing Committee, which we feel will be of the greatest value to many members whose interests are connected with imports to or exports from the West Indies.

Turning now to the accounts, you will see that there has been a deficit of £272 in the year's working, bringing the accumulated deficit up to £7,933. This further deficit and the impossibility in present circumstances of reducing expenditure, forced the Executive to take the step which the chairman in his speech last year indicated as a possibility, namely, to raise subscriptions from £1 5s. to £1 10s. in the case of individuals and from £3 3s. to £5 5s. in the case of firms. Regretful as the Executive was to be forced to do this I think it right to say that this is the first alteration in the subscriptions which has been made for 24 years, a tribute to the wise management of our predecessors under pressure of ever more unfavourable circumstances, the generosity of the sugar and oil industries in particular, and the help of other representative bodies.

The chairman then moved:—

THAT the annual report of the Executive Committee for the year ended April 30th, 1949, the audited statement of the income and expenditure account for the year ended December 31st, 1948, and the balance sheet be and are hereby adopted.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. J. M. Campbell, deputy chairman, and carried unanimously.

Executive Re-elections

On the proposal of Sir Claud Hollis, seconded by Mr. Evelyn Davson, the following resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously:—

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following fourteen members of the Executive Committee who retire by virtue of Article VI

of the Royal Charter of Incorporation be and are hereby elected: Mr. J. Gordon Miller, Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., Mr. H. I. Q. Henriques, Sir Harrison Hughes, Bart., The Hon. R. L. M. Kirkwood, Mr. M. S. Moody-Stuart, M.C., Mr. Cecil W. Murray, D.F.C., Mr. T. H. Naylor, The Hon. G. Douglas Pile, O.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel Kenneth E. Previtte, O.B.E., Sir Alexander Roger, K.C.I.E., Mr. Lauchlan Rose, M.C., Mr. N. P. Sherlock, Lord Tweedsmuir, O.B.E.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, carried with acclamation, was proposed by Mr. A. F. Mallory, and seconded by Mr. H. P. Sheldon.

In addition to those mentioned, those present at the meeting were:—

Lord Hailsham, president of the West India Committee, Mr. J. Gordon Miller, a vice-president, Lord Tweedsmuir, Mr. J. V. Armstrong, Mr. A. E. V. Barton, Mr. H. Buish (J. R. Martin and Co., Ltd.), Mr. C. J. S. Butterfield, Mr. R. E. Carey, Mr. Sharston Chapman (Cement Marketing Co., Ltd.), Mr. J. C. Cox, (Cox, Ritchie and Co.), Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Davson, Mr. C. Emy (representing Mr. Alexander Elder), Mr. H. D. Fletcher, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. H. R. Guy (G. Hettencourt and Co., Ltd.), Mr. Gordon D. Hodge, Mr. Stanley Jones (Gillespie Bros. and Co., Ltd.), Mr. O. H. Keeling, Commander H. V. Lavington, Mr. D. Mackintosh, Mr. R. S. Mackilligin, Mr. M. S. Moody-Stuart, Mr. Leslie R. Morlecai, Mr. N. S. Murray, Mr. G. D. Owen, Mr. J. N. Payne (Royal Bank of Canada), Lieut.-Colonel K. E. Previtte, Mr. George R. Reid, Mr. W. T. Russ (E. A. de Pass and Co., Ltd.), Mr. A. J. Ruthven-Murray, Mrs. H. P. Sheldon, Mr. N. P. Sherlock, Lieut.-Colonel J. B. Sheringham (Industrial Publicity Service, Ltd.), Mr. R. D. Smith (Barclays Bank (D.C. and O.)), Mr. W. A. B. Smith, Mr. G. E. E. Webster, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Westwood, Mr. L. B. Whitaker, Mr. C. Ernest Woodhouse, Mr. Robert Gavin, secretary, Mr. T. Souness, assistant secretary.

Colonial Month

HIS MAJESTY THE KING, at a special ceremony at the Colonial Office, Church House, Westminster, will inaugurate the series of colonial exhibits which are to be on view in London during the period June 21st to July 20th.

Among the organizations which have arranged to participate, and at whose premises visitors will be able to see displays representative of production and progress in the colonial territories, are the Central Office of Information, Marble Arch; the Imperial Institute; the Victoria and Albert Museum; the Horniman Museum; the Public Record Office; the Royal Geographical Society; the Royal Anthropological Institute; The Travel Association; British South American Airways Corporation; Cable and Wireless, Ltd., and the West India Committee.

(Continued from page 129)

possibility of a high level political delegation from the West Indies being sent to London to make representations on the subject to the Government, and by the temper of newspaper articles, which show a rising tide of anger at the suggestions, seriously made in some quarters, that Britain should continue to get her sugar from the colonies at prices which need not bear any relation to the cost of efficient production and that the West Indies should be saved from the resultant bankruptcy, desolation and despair by paupers' doles or grants-in-aid.

Let those who make such suggestions do so in public in the West Indies if they have any doubt about their unworthiness and absurdity, or about the way they would be received.



YACHT RACING ON THE THAMES



THE QUEEN AT THE JAMAICA STAND



THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER



MR. REES-WILLIAMS ASKS ABOUT SEA ISLAND

THE WEST INDIES AT THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR

Cocoa Association of London

Annual Dinner Revived

AFTER a lapse of ten years the members of the Cocoa Association of London, Ltd., entertained their guests at an Annual Dinner held at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, on Friday, May 6th.

Mr. R. W. Bennett, chairman of the Association, presided, and members marked their appreciation by attending in large numbers.

In proposing the toast of "Cocoa," the chairman paid tribute to the manner in which cocoa and chocolate manufacturers in this country had succeeded in maintaining the public interest in, and taste for, cocoa products during the last eight or nine difficult years. The Association itself had not been very active during the war, due to circumstances beyond their control, but they had kept going and had always tried to work out plans for the post-war days. The Association's contracts were now in use in all the consuming countries of the world, and since the end of the war the Association's members were handling a considerable portion of British West African cocoa crops through the United Kingdom. That had been made possible by the co-operation and help of Mr. E. C. Tansley and the Cocoa Boards in London, to whom they owed a great deal. More controls and restrictions must go, however, if London were to be restored to its pre-eminent position in the cocoa world. He pleaded for a sane policy of free marketing in the interests of producers and consumers alike.

Mr. Paul Cadbury, the principal guest, responding, said that it was a matter of very serious importance that to-day there was no cocoa market in the great Metropolis. It was interesting to recall the importance of the industry, nationally and internationally, which had been brought to notice in the series of cocoa conferences which had been held since the war. There would be a further conference this year in which, for the first time, the Association would take part.

Discussing the position of cocoa in West Africa, Mr. Cadbury emphasized the vital necessity of eradicating the swollen shoot disease. The staff of the West African Cocoa Research Institute had clearly demonstrated what needed to be done, and the commission of inquiry—"The Three Wise Men"—had left no doubt about what was necessary. On the shoulders of the Colonial Office lay the responsibility for ensuring that the necessary staff was available and that the work was prosecuted much more vigorously than had been the case in the past, but as government would act only in so far as public opinion was really enlightened and behind it, all concerned for the future of cocoa had a responsibility in the matter. There was a danger that the bumper crop of 1948-49 would lull public opinion.

More attention must be paid to the quality of cocoa, and particularly to its fermentation. The Cocoa Boards should be encouraged not to give the full price for under-fermented cocoa.

During the war years the International Emergency Food Council had been of real service to individual countries and to manufacturers, but it was no secret that only by a very small majority were the countries

of the world agreeing to continue those international allocations. The governing body of the Cocoa and Chocolate (War-Time) Association were now of opinion that the system of Ministry buying of cocoa had outlived the reason for its inauguration, but those who held that view must be prepared to put forward an alternative. It was fairly clear that in this country the balance of payments would inevitably mean that for many years the Treasury would take an interest in general overseas purchases. Some other regulations would continue; the West African Marketing Boards had, for instance, he believed, come to stay. Nevertheless, in his opinion there was good reason why the industry should start buying its own cocoa again, and one of the important features in the reversion to industry-buying should be the reopening of the London Terminal Market.

Other guests at the function were four leading cocoa manufacturers—Sir Harry Methven, Mr. W. M. Hood, Mr. A. M. Salmon and Mr. R. S. Worth; Mr. C. G. Monk, secretary of the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance; Senhor Egidio da Camera Souza, of the Brazilian Embassy; Mr. Paul Nyhus, of the American Embassy; Mr. J. M. du Buisson, chairman, West India Committee; Sir Frank Stockdale, deputy chairman, Colonial Development Corporation; Mr. H. F. Heinemann, Colonial Office; Mr. C. R. Stollmeyer, Trade Commissioner in Canada for the British West Indies, British Guiana and Bahamas; and Mr. A. I. Irving and Mr. A. E. Feather-year of the Ministry of Food.

New Governor of Bermuda

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir Alexander Hood, G.B.E., K.C.B., formerly Director General of Army Medical Services, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bermuda, in succession to Admiral Sir Ralph Leatham, K.C.B., whose term of office will shortly expire.

Sir Alexander Hood was born in 1888 and educated at George Watson's College and Edinburgh University. He joined the R.A.M.C. in 1912, attaining the rank of Lieutenant General in 1941.

Administrator of St. Kitts

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has selected Mr. Hugh Burrowes, Commissioner, Montserrat, to be Administrator of St. Kitts, in place of Mr. F. M. Noad. Mr. Noad returned on May 31st to his previous appointment as Assistant Secretary, Bahamas, which he left in January.

Mr. Burrowes was born in London in 1909, and educated at Antigua Grammar School. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1935. Mr. Burrowes was appointed magistrate and District Officer in Dominica in 1937 and later served as Warden of Nevis. He was assistant to the Administrator of Antigua from 1943 to 1945, and was promoted Commissioner, Montserrat, in 1945.

Festival of Britain

Getting Ready

A FEW indications of the colossal nature of the task which has been undertaken by those responsible for the organization of the Festival of Britain, to be held in 1951, are becoming evident.

On a fine day, when circumstances permit, it is pleasant to walk along the Thames embankment from the West India Committee's offices in Norfolk Street to the West Indian Club. Too often the rain, or fog, or the exigencies of the unforgiving minute, compel the choice of a speedier and more sheltered route, but on a good day for walking, just beyond Waterloo bridge, men can be seen at work on the other side of the river.

These men are constructing a new river wall which, when completed, will be roughly one-third of a mile long, and will reclaim an area of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres to form part of the site for the London section of the Festival. It will bring the south bank of the Thames closer by an average distance of 110 feet, and make a permanent change in the appearance and width of that part of the river—King's Reach.

A contributor to the *Daily Telegraph* has disclosed particulars obtained from the chairman of the contracting firm. The wall has to be built in sections. For each section steel sheets have to be driven to a depth of 36 feet below the river bed to form a huge cofferdam. Mechanical excavators then scoop out the interior until the London clay is reached, when mechanical spades have to be brought into use because of the toughness of the clay. The section of wall is then built up in the enormous cavity thus formed, of concrete re-inforced with worn rails from London's underground railway tracks.

In one way the underground railways are a handicap, for at that part of the river two of the tube railways pass below the Thames from north to south, and the room to spare is so slight that piles for the foundation of the wall have to be driven to within six feet of the tunnels. Pile-driving, therefore, has to be restricted to three hours in the day, from 1.30 a.m. to 4.30 a.m., when no trains are running. The contract requires that the work shall be completed by December 31st, 1950, but by the extensive use of labour-saving equipment the contractors hope to complete the task, with the employment of only about 60 men, before the contract date. The mechanical equipment provided works out at 12 h.p. per man, which is believed to be a higher proportion than has ever been used before in any comparable operation.

The space reclaimed is to be laid out in public gardens, behind which will rise the exhibition buildings, including the national theatre and the £1,250,000 concert hall which are to become a permanent feature of that part of London, and those who gaze across the river in 1951 will hardly notice the wall.

The 1949 issue of *Franklin's Year Book* is now available, and copies can be obtained from the West India Committee, price 5s. (5s. 6d. post free). The annual is now in its 84th year of publication, and this new issue fully maintains the standard to which users have become accustomed.

The Price of British Goods

A Trinidad Survey

MR. GAMMANS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the House of Commons on May 25th, if he was aware that, as a result of a survey made by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, it was clear that the prices of many consumer goods from the United Kingdom were more expensive than the price of similar articles from the United States of America and Canada, and that there was growing dissatisfaction that consumers were compelled to buy from the sterling area; and what action he proposed to take in the matter.

Replying, Mr. Rees-Williams said that some imports from the United Kingdom were dearer than similar goods from the United States and Canada. It was quite true that owing to the shortage of American and Canadian dollars imports from those countries had to be carefully controlled by import licensing. Mr. Creech Jones was aware of the difficulties and importance of the problem and had it under examination.

Mr. Gammans then asked whether the Colonial Office realized the economic and political repercussions of that sort of thing, which, if it continued—if the disparity continued—must either mean dissatisfaction with this country, as the people with whom the question was concerned were compelled to take goods at higher prices, or else lead to the loss by Britain of markets on which it must rely to balance her external trade?

Mr. Rees-Williams replied that the Colonial Office realized all the implications.

Caribbean Commission :

A New Co-Chairman

Dr. Ch. J. H. Daubanton, formerly head of the economics division of the Netherlands Embassy in Washington, with the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, now Netherlands Ambassador to Mexico, has been appointed Netherlands co-chairman of the Caribbean Commission in succession to Dr. J. C. Kielstra, who has retired.

Dr. Daubanton will attend the eighth meeting of the Caribbean Commission in Trinidad in June, and will take the opportunity to familiarize himself with the working of the Commission's central secretariat.

Dr. Kielstra, formerly Governor of Surinam and more recently Netherlands Ambassador to Mexico, has been Netherlands co-chairman of the Caribbean Commission since the establishment of the Commission following the West Indian Conference (second session) at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands of the United States, in 1946.

(Continued from page 130)

and Matisse downwards, were subjected to a blistering denunciation; and next day, when the private view opened, it was found that the few "modern" pictures that had been admitted had all been herded together in a sort of "bad boys' room" in gallery XI—the last to which the visitor who follows the catalogue normally comes. Naturally the modernists have not been restrained in their replies; and those many people, whether artists or not, who enjoy a good slanging match have had the time of their lives.

Bulk Buying and State Trading

Debate in House of Commons

IN Committee of Supply, on May 26th, Mr. Oliver Lyttelton led for the Opposition in a House of Commons debate on bulk buying and state trading.

After pointing out that 50 to 55 per cent of imports into the United Kingdom totalling something over £2,000 million are now bulk-purchased by the Government, he referred to the signs of a coming fall in commodity prices and the need for reconsideration of methods of purchase against this new background.

Bulk purchasing had been defended by the President of the Board of Trade and others "as an instrument of Imperial Preference and a means of Colonial development." While it might be appropriate, for the purpose of promoting the growth of some particular crop, to fix a price for a commodity over a long time, such a policy had dangers. One was that this country, which is now living very largely on the benefit of foreign aid, might not be able to carry these contracts out in three or four years time, when, perhaps, there would be no more Marshall Aid and the agreed prices might turn out to be wildly above world prices. While not dissenting from the proposition that as a means of colonial development this was one of the possible instruments, he thought it should be used sparingly, and that in many instances direct aid would be sounder.

Unsound in Theory

Bulk buying was unsound in theory. Market prices are made by the state of people's order books, not by the exercise of some preternatural capitalist intelligence. When supplies greatly exceed demand, the bulk purchaser is able to get concessions from the seller, but in times of shortages the converse must be true.

It was claimed that bulk purchase leads to stability and tends to banish speculation from the markets in primary commodities, but "in the economic field, as in anything in a dynamic situation, if we take one part of the dynamic factors and make it static, instability is bound to occur somewhere else." It was impossible to imagine that there can ever be stability in the price of an agricultural crop, which is inherently unstable because of vagaries of weather and pests. We import nearly all our supplies of non-ferrous metals, and only when supply and demand were roughly in equilibrium could prices be stable; with disequilibrium there must be price changes.

Bulk buyers had been having the advantage of a rising market, but when world prices begin to fall the bulk buyer will always be found to have bought above the market. The Treasury was in agreement with the general justice of this agreement, and in the *Bulletin for Industry* for May, 1949, published by the Treasury, it was stated: "The fixing of prices over a period by long-term contracts is an advantage when prices are rising and a disadvantage when prices are falling." Bulk buying comprised two divisions: first, the purchase of raw materials used primarily in manufacture; second, the purchase of those used in consumption.

The exhortations of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other Ministers to cut costs and increase efficiency were apt to sound a little hollow to the manufacturer whose fabrication costs were well under £10 a ton, when he started off by buying his raw material at £20 a ton above the competitive price. While it was true that the Raw Cotton Commission, by following the international price up and down—"at a respectful distance"—had made an attempt to make cotton available to the spinner at more or less the world price, the argument that the abolition of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange would lead to stability had been shown to be completely unfounded, and the international price is now fixed by other people instead of ourselves. In regard to commodities of consumption His Majesty's Government "are the largest uncovered bull that has ever been seen in history."

Insupportable in Logic

Bulk buying was insupportable in logic, whether necessary to democratic planning or not. He believed that it should be done away with and the terminal markets reopened as quickly as possible.

The Minister of Supply, Mr. G. R. Strauss, in reply, first dealt with the suggestion that bulk purchasing was unsound in theory, particularly because it disregarded the ordinary economic rules. He wondered what the economic rules are now-a-days? New rules were being forced upon us and on the world every month, and we could not possibly conduct our international trade or our industrial affairs according to conditions which existed 20 or 30 years ago. To-day all the economic rules were broken, there was restriction on currency conversion between one country and another, and we in this country were in particular difficulty over our dollar payments. We must adjust our international trading and the purchasing and selling of our commodities in the light of these conditions. He would, therefore, leave aside theory, and argue the practical side of the problem.

He then quoted figures from the *Economic Survey of Europe in 1948*, prepared by the Research and Planning Division of the Economic Commission for Europe, to show that the United Kingdom, in 1947 and 1948, had paid lower prices for its imports, in terms of 1938 prices, than the United States. These figures gave some indication of the immense benefits brought to the United Kingdom by the policy of bulk purchases pursued by the Government, a view supported by impartial comment in the *Survey*, which he also quoted.

He would deal in particular with the raw materials which were the responsibility of his department. If, during the last few years, the policy of bulk purchasing of non-ferrous metals had not been adopted, it was quite certain that many of the industries using these raw materials would have had to close down from time to time. It would have caused not only an upset in our export programme, but unemployment to the

people concerned. The arrangements made for the purchase of copper and lead, which he quoted as examples, had given a substantial price advantage to everybody concerned, apart from the fact that we had also been able to obtain goods which might otherwise have by-passed this country.

It would be wholly wrong, and might be looked upon as something like sharp practice by many of those producers, who had played the game with us so very well, and had entered into agreements from which we had had the benefit, to terminate these arrangements straight away now that prices are coming down. Those producers were mostly Empire producers.

Views of Exporters

It had been said that at the moment the result of our bulk purchase agreements is to have brought about a difference in price in non-ferrous metals for the consumer in the United Kingdom compared with the consumer in the United States, with serious damage to our industry and to our export trade. The raw material content of our exports, in general, includes 15 per cent imported raw material. Therefore, if there were a price differentiation of even up to 10 per cent—and it was nothing of the sort—the net effect on the price of the finished article would be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This observation, which he made with all reservation and with the admission that it was an average figure, made nonsense of the argument. The interests of the exporters were not the only considerations to be taken into account; there were also budget considerations which were not without importance. Exporters, however, did not want the price put down immediately to the American price. They had stated that it would be very much better from the point of view of their industry if violent fluctuations in price in America were followed slowly rather than rapidly by changes in price in this country. He thought their arguments were sound. Another factor to be borne in mind was the fact that where there was no bulk buying there would presumably be more stocking up by consumers than here, and that they were not likely to take an immediate loss on those stocks.

Finally, Mr. Strauss referred to a suggestion that the time was now ripe for some abandonment of bulk purchasing of non-ferrous metals and possibly the opening of the London Metal Exchange. This was under consideration by Government at the moment, but without in any way prejudicing the final decision he would put forward one or two of the difficulties which would arise through the introduction of a free market for some or all metals and the opening of the London Metal Exchange. It was doubtful whether a market opened under present conditions would not be so inevitably restrained and restricted that it would not serve the purpose which those who advocate its opening would require of it. Secondly, there would be serious risk of a drain on our dollar resources. During the years of rising prices Government had passed to the consumers the advantages of the cheap prices obtained, taking only a small addition as cover against possible losses in future. It was a question of debate as to what extent the difference in prices, necessitated by our need to buy sterling goods and to avoid the purchase of dollar goods, should be carried solely by the taxpayer

or to what extent it could be borne without damage by the consumer of those goods. There may be for some time a difference in price of the same commodity bought in sterling as compared with the price at which it might be bought if it were paid for in dollars.

He maintained that any impartial survey of the problem showed that it is inevitable, if our industry is to survive and prosper, that we should continue our bulk purchases, to some extent at any rate.

Although the two opening speakers had confined their observations mainly to the impact of bulk buying on commodity consumers in the United Kingdom, the debate soon widened to include the interests of commonwealth and colonial producers. Mr. Eccles (Chippenham) said that with the Dominion and Empire countries there should be long-term contracts with annual price reviews, and with other countries a new technique which should embrace underwriting a guaranteed quantity without a firm price.

Mr. Michael Foot (Devonport) considered that long-term contracts and bulk purchase had now become an essential part of the economic structure of the British Empire. He quoted from the *Jamaica Gleaner* a statement by Mr. R. Williams to the effect that "planned production and planned marketing is something we are going to live by or die without," and another by the Hon. R. L. M. Kirkwood in regard to "the misapprehension that our problems could be solved by Imperial Preference." There were millions of people in this world who were certain that the old system, of prices having free play on the world's markets, did not work. He instanced the people of the pre-war distressed areas of the United Kingdom, and the people of the West Indies.

No World Price for Sugar

The commission of Lord Olivier had reported in 1930 in favour of the system of bulk purchase as the only way to save the industries of the West Indies and, in particular, the sugar industry. A new hope was born during the war when these bulk purchase arrangements were made. It was of no use lecturing people in the West Indies about world prices. There was no such thing, for instance, as a world price for sugar. Most of the sugar we ate in this country was heavily subsidized sugar, and he thought it a mistaken policy to go on increasing beet sugar production in the United Kingdom when we could buy sugar much more cheaply by expanding production in the West Indies. The so-called world price of sugar talked about to-day was the dumped Cuban price. There had not been a world price for sugar for 20 years. The price had been arbitrarily fixed by nationalism, by governments, by discriminatory arrangements. And what applied to sugar applied to all manner of these products, and, in particular, to great numbers of these primary products which we got from the British Commonwealth.

He urged the Minister of Food to examine these matters. The Minister had entered into a contract with the West Indies to end in 1952, and had talked of increasing West Indian sugar production by some 40 per cent. He (Mr. Foot) thought that if that is to be achieved there must be a ten-year contract with those producers. It was a legitimate expectation on their

part, because that was the basis of the policy announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the question of the bulk purchase of primary products. There should be a much fuller investigation of the effects of this bulk buying system on the economy of the British Commonwealth, and the great part which it had played in bringing new hope to territories which had suffered so much in the past, and to whom we owed a special obligation. He asked the Government to go boldly forward with it.

Mr. Odey (Howdenshire) made the point that both our exports and the British Empire represent two of the main things by which we may hope to survive. The matter should be looked at sanely from the point of view of advantage for the people of this country. If that came about there would be some hope.

Long-term Contracts

Lady Tweedsmuir (South Aberdeen) emphasized the importance of differentiating between bulk buying where the Government buy from the growers, and State trading which is essentially government-to-government negotiation. After setting out the arguments against the latter, she turned to the question of long-term contracts with sugar producers within the Empire. There were two major factors which make the old system of world price plus preference more precarious to-day. First, the world dollar shortage might force Cuba to sell her sugar at a lower price than she does at the moment, and secondly, because of the Geneva and Havana agreements, preference could only be revised downwards or else eliminated altogether. She suggested that the Government should differentiate between Colonial and Empire production, because the British West Indies were entirely dependent upon sugar, while Australia, which was seeking to expand her production up to 500,000 tons or 1,000,000 tons in a few years, had a much more diversified economy. Barbados had a sugar production of 91 per cent of her total economy; British Guiana had 62 per cent, Jamaica 53 per cent and the Leeward Islands 89 per cent. There had been many changes in the West Indies since the war. Wage rates had risen. There was a strong endeavour by primary producers to improve labour conditions. The West Indies were buying loyally from the United Kingdom at prices sometimes higher than those which could be procured in dollar areas. There was the very difficult local problem of finding employment for the increasing population. The manner in which the sugar crop price was negotiated in 1948 had caused a great deal of ill-feeling and misunderstanding in the West Indies. It was felt that the United Kingdom had defaulted on their agreement; that they had come to a decision when, in fact, the principle was to negotiate those annual prices. She asked the Minister what was the cause of the delay in those negotiations, why they were carried out in such manner, and for an assurance that next year he would negotiate the price in plenty of time to get on with their job.

Mr. Blackburn (King's Norton) said that it was important to appreciate that the two main reasons for the policy of government trading were first that it is essential for a policy of full employment, and secondly, it was the only method by which we could ensure the

development of the Commonwealth and Empire as a whole. How could we possibly insulate ourselves in this country against the consequences of a world-wide depression starting in America unless we could have reciprocal bulk purchase contracts throughout the Commonwealth and Empire?

Mr. Walter Fletcher (Bury) said that whereas the Minister of Supply had thought it right on the whole to pay a rather higher price for goods in the sterling area than for dollar goods, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was trying to defend sterling and keep it stabilized at the point where it is now. This was one of the great problems which makes the whole question of bulk purchase so dangerous. It was based at the present moment, or supposed to be based, on the fixed sterling rate, whereas in fact the seller was selling or wished to sell at the opening market sterling rate. Marshall Aid might one day be withdrawn, and we were not necessarily going to be able to fulfil contracts at fixed prices in 10 years' time. (At this point Mr. Blackburn intervened to say that there were escape clauses, and plenty of devices by which one could prevent a fixed price under an agreement from becoming too burdensome when the situation changes. Mr. Fletcher retorted that if that were so, then to the sugar producers in the West Indies a contract did not mean anything at all.) It was a fatal thing to write a long-term contract if there were any doubt about one's ability to carry it out. It was even more fatal to do it with people who are primary producers in an early stage of their political development. A benefit which was lost by Government bulk buying, and which had not been touched upon in the debate, was arbitration. One of the great vices of bulk purchase, which had been emphasized in other places, was that the relative honesty of the two parties enters into the matter. By all means let the Minister direct policy. While it was a question of lack of dollars, let him guide policy; but let him use existing machinery to a much greater extent than he had done.

Bulk Buying on Falling Prices

Mr. Strachey, Minister of Food, who wound up the debate, said that there had been no attempt to deny seriously that bulk buying in the four years since the end of the war had been successful. A falling market would, of course, call for different methods of procurement and supply to this country. It was not by any means the case that the Government, while retaining in their own hands the procurement, the import, of a commodity, need either make long-term contracts in advance for that commodity, or need buy it in large quantities at individual transactions. "Certainly, if we are entering a period of falling markets the Government, in buying the commodities they do buy, reserve the right - they have always done so - to buy, when they think it advantageous to do so, in very small quantities, cargo by cargo, to buy without any fixing of the price in advance, and to buy not necessarily directly but through various agents and traders."

They regarded long-term contracts as at least as valuable, although, perhaps, for different reasons, in conditions of a falling market as in conditions of a rising market. In saying that, he agreed on the importance of not making these contracts too long and not making

them with fixed prices, but of having annual price reviews and review clauses by which the price could not vary by more than a certain percentage each year.

They agreed about the necessity for supporting the sugar and other primary producers of the West Indies and elsewhere, "but I think hon. Members will find that we shall come to reasonable arrangements with them and will give them all the measures of security for which they can reasonably ask and which we can afford to give them and which will not be too financially dangerous to us. In passing, I might refer to the fact that the noble Lady the Member for South Aberdeen (Lady Tweedsmuir) asked me why the arrangements for this year's price took so long to negotiate. The answer is because we were taking great care to consider all the representations from the sugar producers of the West Indies. We fixed the price, in consultation with them, at what I think they will in the end find to be a fair figure. But we cannot, for the reasons which have been given again and again in this Committee, give just any price for which we are asked in these transactions."

Speaking next day on the second reading of the Colonial Development and Welfare Bill Mr. Crawley (Buckingham) endorsed the remarks of Mr. Foot and said: "We are subsidizing our own agriculture more heavily than any other country in the world; and yet we are driving down the basic agriculture of the West Indies below a subsistence level in a way that no other country in the world is doing."

Gypsum Industry in Jamaica

The issue of *Foreign Trade* dated April 16th contains a photograph of houses being constructed with gypsum wall panels produced at the plant recently erected in Kingston, Jamaica.

These panels, four inches thick, are produced in two sizes: four feet by three feet and five feet by three feet. They have been tested by the Government Building Research Committee and the Burke Commission, in Great Britain, and declared acceptable for exterior and interior walls.

At present the production of the plant is entirely absorbed by local demand in Jamaica, but it is hoped within a short time to export panels and plaster of Paris to other parts of the Caribbean area, and to ship gypsum ore to Central and South American countries.

Another plant, erected by a local company, is also ready to begin production. At this plant a somewhat similar line of gypsum blocks will be produced, and also ceiling and wall tiles.

Trinidad Balsa

Concessions have been granted in Trinidad to Sampaterson, Ltd., a company newly registered in the colony with interests in the United Kingdom, to cut balsa and other timber in 25,000 acres of forest between Guayaguayare and Moruga.

By the opening up of this area, proper management of a block of forests hitherto largely inaccessible will be made possible. The establishment of a modern band saw mill and seasoning plant is also anticipated.

Current Colonial Questions

THE Royal Empire Society has recently sponsored the issue of a series of reviews of current questions relating to the British Commonwealth and Empire in order to provide a forum for discussion.

The first*, to which forewords are contributed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. A. Creech Jones, and Mr. Oliver Stanley, a former Secretary of State, is by Sir Drummond Shiels, a former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies, and a present member of the Colonial Economic and Development Council.

Sir Drummond's aim has been to give a short and readable account of the economic, social, educational and constitutional problems of the colonies and of the steps taken in recent years towards their solution or alleviation.

The second† pamphlet in the series deals with the defence problems of the British Commonwealth, and is written by Captain Cyril Falls, one of the official military historians of the first world war, a military correspondent of *The Times* in the recent war, and now Chichele Professor of the History of War at Oxford University. Professor Falls defines the military, political and economic considerations which affect this problem and makes suggestions on broad lines for methods of defence based on "an earnest desire for the peace which alone can save the world from catastrophes far worse than those which it has lately suffered and from the effects of which it has as yet hardly begun to recover."

Pamphlet No. 3‡, by Mr. Paul Barreau, who was a member of the United Kingdom Treasury delegation in Washington in 1945-46, aims to explain what the sterling area is and how it works, and to present the facts necessary to assess developments and judge the issues involved.

In No. 4§, which does not deal with the West Indies, Miss Elspeth Huxley discusses the obstacles to "development" in British Tropical Africa.

Hardwood Imports into U.K.

The Board of Trade announces that importers in possession of a licence to purchase and import under the Hardwood Overseas Procurement Scheme, Part III, may now submit for the Timber Control's approval specific offers of any species of hardwood (whether reserved for Control procurement or not) which are to be used in the manufacture of flooring blocks, provided that (a) the specification does not exceed 1½ in. in thickness, 4½ in. in width and 37 in. in length; (b) the buying price does not exceed 10s. per cubic foot, c.i.f., United Kingdom port; and (c) the country of origin shall be named in a scheduled list which includes the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras.

*British Commonwealth Affairs—No. 1. *The Colonies Today and Tomorrow*, by Sir Drummond Shiels, M.C., M.B., Longmans, 1/- net.

†British Commonwealth Affairs—No. 2. *The Question of Defence*, by Cyril Falls, Longmans, 1/- net.

‡British Commonwealth Affairs—No. 3. *The Sterling Area*, by Paul Barreau, Longmans, 1/- net.

§British Commonwealth Affairs—No. 4. *African Dilemmas*, by Elspeth Huxley, Longmans, 1/- net.

Jamaica in 1947

THE estimated population of Jamaica at the end of 1947 was 1,340,395 persons. This figure shows an increase of 2 per cent during the year, compared with an average rate of increase, over the period 1931 to 1946, of 1.62 per cent.

Employment figures given in the annual report on the colony for 1946 were those of the 1943 census, but the 1947 report gives estimated figures for the year. The number of persons presumed to be gainfully occupied was 547,200, of whom 239,900 were engaged in agriculture, 1,400 in public utilities, 64,100 in manufacture, 36,900 in construction work, 12,400 in transportation and communication, 42,800 in commerce and finance, 38,700 in minor industries, and 111,000 in service industries: personal, professional, public and domestic. These figures showed an increase since 1943, but unemployment and under-employment still posed a serious problem. The local government approved relief grants approximating £120,320 during 1947, and 40,013 persons were employed on various projects financed from this grant. The sugar industry provided work for 35,962 persons during crop season against 30,290 in 1943, and employment in secondary industries increased by nearly 2,000.

Cost of Living Index

Despite the expenditure of approximately £406,000 on a limited policy of price stabilization, there was an increase of 31 points in the cost-of-living index during 1947. This affected in particular the middle income groups, whose salaries had not as a rule been increased to the extent that they had in other categories. A table in the report sets out the wage rates, hours worked and number of workers in the principal industries of the colony in 1947. The number of registered workers' organizations is given as 23, with approximately 63,000 members, of whom some 52,000 belonged to the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union. There were 14 employers' associations, of which three were registered under the Trade Union Law. There were 28 strikes during the year, three of which assumed large proportions.

There was a slight increase, as compared with 1945-46, in both revenue and expenditure during the year ended March 31st, 1947, revenue being £8,388,887 in 1946-47 against £7,747,679 in 1945-46, and expenditure being £7,849,260 in 1946-47 against £7,613,611 in 1945-46. The Public Debt at March 31st, 1947 was £10,587,933, and at the end of the calendar year 1947 stood at £10,780,843, representing approximately £8 per head of population.

The colony's main production during 1947, as indicated by the value of its exports, was as follows: sugar, £2,775,929; rum, £2,560,485; bananas, £2,088,124; cigars, £827,245; logwood and logwood extracts, £232,793; citrus, £230,641; ginger, £152,573; cocoa, £126,242; pimento, £117,654; coffee, £100,737; and honey, £46,349.

Total production of sugar during 1947 amounted to 170,254 tons, against 177,885 tons in 1946. Again, however, there are discrepancies in the report which preclude accurate comparison. In the chapter on production it is stated that of the 170,254 tons of sugar

produced, 111,458 tons were exported to the United Kingdom and the balance used locally. In the chapter on commerce the figure given for sugar exports is 133,000 tons. Banana exports are given, under production, as 5,955,000 stems; under commerce, as 56,82,000 stems. Values are similar in both cases. The value of rum exports continued to rise; so did that of cigars. Towards the close of the year there was evidence of an increased demand for pimento, though the value of total exports declined. The Department of Commerce and Industry entered into a five-year contract with the Ministry of Food to purchase the colony's exportable surplus of coffee, the contract to commence on January 1st, 1948. The citrus crop was sold to the Ministry of Food and New Zealand, and steps to expand the industry continued. While there was some recovery in the coco-nut industry, imports of oils and fats were still necessary. Expansion continued in the honey industry, and there were 1,331 registered apiaries consisting of 56,483 colonies.

The year 1947 is stated to have produced an all-time record for the tourist industry, both in money value and in the number of long-stay visitors. The total number of visitors exceeded that of 1946 by over 31 per cent.

Caribbean Commission

External Trade Bulletins

The central secretariat of the Caribbean Commission has recently completed and issued two more bulletins dealing with the external trade of the Caribbean.

Compared with External Trade Bulletin No. 1, *The Sugar Trade of the Caribbean*, Bulletin No. 2, *The Cement Trade of the Caribbean*, incorporates three important and useful innovations. In the first place it presents comparative tables not only of total imports, but also of imports from the chief countries of origin—the metropolitan country of the territory concerned, Canada, United States of America, Europe (exclusive of the metropolitan country). Secondly, it presents not only the total imports of all the "Commission territories," but also imports for each national group—French, Dutch, United States and British. Thirdly, it presents population figures for the same years for which imports are given, thereby enabling computations of *per capita* imports, both by volume and by value. These innovations are also incorporated in Bulletin No. 3, *The Fish Trade of the Caribbean*.

For the rest, each bulletin contains statistical tables of imports and exports, by volume and by value, for the various Caribbean territories over the period 1935 to 1947, with informative notes (and as yet, unfortunately, they have to be many) to enable the reader to judge in how far the figures for one territory, or for one year, may be compared with another.

The information in the bulletin on the cement trade is topical in view of the recent formation of the Caribbean Cement Company. This company has been stated to be planning the production of 100,000 tons of cement per year. British West Indian imports in 1947, according to the bulletin, were just over 130,000 tons.

Sugar and Nationalization

False Statement in St. Kitts

CONSIDERABLE publicity has been given to a statement which Mr. R. Bradshaw, president of the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union, is reported to have made at a public meeting on May 8th regarding the St. Kitts (Basse Terre) Sugar Factory. Mr. Bradshaw is alleged to have said that while he was in London recently he had been given an assurance by Mr. Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies, that "it will not be long before we have control of this factory."

The attention of the Colonial Office was drawn to the matter by Mr. Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of St. Kitts (Basse Terre) Sugar Factory, Ltd., and he has been informed by letter that the Governor of the Leeward Islands has been asked to make it known publicly that no such assurance has been given. It is Mr. Creech Jones' view, adds the letter, that the question of the nationalization of the factory must be considered in the light of the report of the Soulbury Commission of Inquiry.

[The matter was raised in the House of Commons as will be seen from page 150 in this issue.—Ed.]

Trinidad Sugar Industry

The Sugar Manufacturers' Association of Trinidad (Inc.), in the course of a letter to the West India Committee dated May 10th, state:—

"The weather remains admirable for reaping, and grinding operations are continuing satisfactorily. The latest estimate of total production is now 156,775 tons.

"The Orange Grove factory closed down on May 4th with a total output of approximately 11,300 tons. The Hindustan factory was forced to close after a very short spell having manufactured 229 tons of sugar only; the balance of their canes are being ground at the Woodford Lodge factory. The Stc. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd. and Gordon Sugar Estates, Ltd., expect to continue grinding till June."

Shippers Committee

Reference was made in the May issue of the CIRCULAR (page 118) to the decision of the West India Committee to set up a Standing Committee of Merchants and Shippers. The inaugural meeting of the Standing Committee will be held at 40, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2, on Tuesday, June 21st, at 2.30 p.m.

Notices will be sent to all members known to be interested, but any member who desires may be present without being specially invited.

B.I.F. 1950

It has been announced that the next British Industries Fair will be held in London and Birmingham from Monday, May 8th to Friday, May 19th, both days inclusive. Forms of application for space are already available.

Visitors to the British West Indian exhibit at the British Industries Fair included:—

Her Majesty the Queen.
T.R.H. the Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, and the Duke of Edinburgh.
Her Majesty Queen Mary.
T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.
H.R.H. the Princess Royal.
The Prime Minister.
Mr. Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade.
Mr. D. R. Rees-Williams, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.
The Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Sheriff and Aldermen of the City of London.
The Ambassador for Venezuela.
The Ambassador for Yugoslavia.
The High Commissioner for New Zealand.
The Agent-General for Queensland.
Mr. Rex Stollmeyer, Trade Commissioner for the B.W.I., B.G. and the Bahamas in Canada.
Lady Duff.
Sir Ralph Glyn, M.P.
Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Bromley, Ceremonial Secretary, Colonial Office.
Mr. J. Gordon Miller, Vice-President, West India Committee.
The Hon. R. L. M. Kirkwood, Jamaica.

The stage and screen were represented by Miss Gracie Fields, Mr. Sid Field, Mr. Jack Train, Miss Adelaide Hall.

The Pictorial Pages

LONDON had its first official yacht race since 1840 when, on May 29th, nearly 60 dinghies took part in the Ranelagh Sailing Club's diamond jubilee races held on the Thames between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges. The photograph reproduced in the first of the pictorial pages was taken from Waterloo Bridge and shows St. Paul's in the background.

The three photographs on the second page were taken at the British Industries Fair to which reference is made in other pages in this issue. That at the top shows the Queen at the Jamaica stand in conversation with Mr. T. Souness, assistant secretary, the West India Committee. Immediately behind the Queen is Queen Mary who is speaking with Mr. F. G. Harcourt. In the lower illustration (left) the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester are seen inspecting the rum exhibit in the Trinidad section. In the other photo, Mr. Rees-Williams, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, is seen examining a handkerchief at the Sea Island Cotton stand.

THE MOST REV. W. G. HARDIE will resign his office as Archbishop of the West Indies in September next and return to England. Dr. Hardie has served for 21 years in Jamaica.



British Industries Fair



West Indian Display at Earls Court

It is safe to say that no-one visited Earls Court during the British Industries Fair of 1949 without seeing the British West Indian display.

The Commonwealth section occupied almost the whole width of the hall at the Warwick Road entrance, and was planned in oval form, around a court whose centre was a large bowl filled with flowering shrubs at the base of a pylon surmounted by a lion. Access to the court was by avenues on the long and short axes of the oval, and it was along the short axis that visitors made their way from the entrance to the Fair. The West Indian display was on both sides of the portion of this avenue leading from the central court of the Commonwealth section to the body of the hall, and giving access to the textile and other sections of the exhibition. The Trinidad, Windward Islands and Sea Island Cotton displays were on the left as one went in; the Jamaica exhibit on the right.

Although the actual stand area was this year somewhat less than last, the effect of the lay-out, and the manner in which the displays were disposed, was to convey the impression of a more extensive exhibit than before, and all criticism of the use made of the space available was favourable. The total floor space allotted on this occasion was 615 square feet, of which 210 square feet were apportioned to Jamaica, 210 square feet to Trinidad, 84 square feet to the Windward Islands,

and 111 square feet to Sea Island Cotton.

The Fair was held, as usual, during the first fortnight of May, opening on May 2nd and closing on May 13th. It was attended by 17,061 overseas buyers, of whom some 800 were said to be from the United States of America, and 124,555 home buyers. These figures are a considerable increase on those of last year. Visits by the general public to the London sections of the Fair were again restricted to two days in the week, and a new restriction made on public entry to the Castle Bromwich section reduced the official figure of public attendance to 111,388. It seemed probable, however, that the number attending the Earls Court section would be as high as last year.

The exhibit of fruit on the Jamaica stand was as big an attraction as ever, and as fresh at the end of the fortnight as on the first day. Credit for this was again due to T. J. Poupart, Ltd., whose whole-hearted co-operation in arranging and maintaining the condition of the fruit in the display ensured its exhibition to the best advantage. Of citrus fruits there were limes, oranges, tangeloes, ortaniques, grapefruit and ughies. The last-named were making their first appearance since the war, and aroused great interest. Her Majesty the Queen, Queen Mary, and Princess Elizabeth were particularly taken with the fruit, and have since graciously accepted sample supplies through the West





India Committee. Press photographers took photographs of the fruit, and trade inquiries were numerous, buyers from the U.S.A. being particularly interested. Bananas, mangoes, pineapples and tomatoes completed the fruit display, and were much admired. They were excellent examples of their kind, and it was their due. As a general observation it may be noted that each Fair emphasizes the esteem in which the public holds the banana, and now that supplies have begun to trickle into this country the members of the younger generation voice their admiration too.

Another exhibit in the Jamaica display was the collection of canned fruit and fruit juices; jars of marmalade, guava jelly, honey and chutneys; ginger, pimento, candied peels and Pickapeppa sauce. This attracted many inquiries and there was evidence of an increasing demand for such products, which finds less expression than it should, largely on account of the import restrictions so many countries find it necessary to impose.

Rum was well represented, bottles of 21 different brands being on view in the effective exhibit featured by the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica), Ltd. With their colourful labels and romantic names they made a brave show, and more than one home buyer who thought he knew a lot about rum had his eyes opened. A goodly supply of attractive and well-produced booklets of enticing cocktail recipes was in great demand, and an entertaining and instructive illustrated brochure relating *The Story of Rum*, produced for the occasion by the Association, was distributed in large numbers. Those famous Jamaica liqueurs, Monte Aguila and Tia Maria, were on show too, with their own amusingly illustrated booklet of cocktail recipes.

The Jamaica Cigar Importers' Association organized a striking exhibit of cigars in boxes, cartons, and aluminium cases, tastefully arranged beneath a diorama of a tobacco plantation with, in the foreground, mature leaf being brought in to be cured. A feature of the exhibit much appreciated by knowledgeable visitors was the fact that two criticisms voiced at previous Fairs had been met, and that packs and boxes had been improved and the proportion of medium and smaller sized cigars increased. Inquiries showed that the pack most in demand was a box containing ten cigars of about five inches in length.

Exhibits of sugar cane, dark crystal sugar, and coffee also attracted their share of attention, and there were nostalgic inquiries as to what happens to Blue Mountain coffee these days.

Opposite the Jamaica exhibit, on the other side of the avenue, was a stand of similar size and design devoted to the produce of Trinidad. Both are illustrated here, and reference to the photographs will show, better than can any description, the effective contrast in arrangement. The Trinidad display lost somewhat in comprehensiveness by the fact that certain of the exhibits being sent forward from the colony did not reach London until after the Fair was over—not, in fact, until May 18th—but as can be seen the space allocated to the colony was effectively filled by judicious arrangement of the material available.

The fresh fruit on show was limited to grapefruit, but canned citrus products—grapefruit, orange, fruit juices, citrus syrup, and marmalade were adequately presented. Sugar canes, dark crystal and yellow crystal sugar, cocoa pods and beans, coffee, tonca beans, and honey, were combined in attractive display. Towards

the end of the Fair these were supplemented with exhibits of coco-nut meal and deodorized oil, and an assortment of handicraft products forwarded by the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board also arrived in time to be put on show during the last two days. This exhibit, which included hand painted ties, table centres, tray cloths, dolls, calabash rattles and raffia slippers, was examined with much interest by the late visitors to the Fair, but by that time most of the serious buyers had gone.

Trinidad rum and Angostura bitters were combined in an effective display which is well shown in the photograph. Literature available in connexion with this exhibit laid emphasis on the qualities of rum as a straight drink. An innovation this year was the display of samples of Caroni bay rum, which attracted a fair amount of interest.

Illuminated Regent petrol signs appeared in the petroleum exhibit for the first time since the war, surmounting a large aerial photograph of the Trinidad Leaseholds oil refinery at Pointe-à-Pierre.

Asphalt was represented by the usual display of specimens of the product in its various forms, but there were also models of portions of buildings showing the manner in which asphalt is used in the construction of roofs, water courses, floors, and damp-proof courses. The exhibit was surmounted by a large photo montage illustrating the discovery of the pitch lake by Sir Walter Raleigh, and various stages in the production and distribution of asphalt. Literature available gave facts about Trinidad Lake Asphalt and its uses.

An effective display of Black Magic chocolate was again provided by Rowntree and Co., Ltd., with beans of Trinidad cocoa as used in its manufacture.

As samples of Trinidad woodwork which were to have been displayed had not arrived when the Fair opened, Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott, a treasurer of the West India



Committee, to fill the gap, kindly loaned specimens of wooden bowls and an inlaid tray which he had acquired in Trinidad, and these remained on exhibition throughout the period of the Fair.

Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica were represented in the Windward Islands exhibit, which adjoined that of Trinidad. Raw sugar, cocoa pods and beans, a collection of the various types of lime juices and lime oils, cassafarina, nutmegs and mace typified the primary products of the area. The exhibit of the fruit of the nutmeg tree—a never-failing source of interest—was called into service on this occasion to explain to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh the relationship between nutmeg and mace, a fact of which a surprising number of people are unaware. Handicrafts were represented by an assortment of raffia hats, slippers, bags, belts and table mats from Grenada, and there were



tortoiseshell fancy goods, brooches and bracelets, and horn ornaments. Sauces from St. Lucia attracted attention, the pepper relish in particular.

The Sea Island Cotton exhibit was again a centre of great interest, and indeed the display was exceedingly fine. A superb black nightdress of filmy material which formed the centrepiece of the lay-out was described by one of the Fashion journalists who visited the Fair as "the smartest thing in the exhibition." There were pyjamas, blouses, materials for lingerie and curtains for the ladies, smart and serviceable children's frocks, and shirts, underwear and pyjamas for the men. Both the Queen and Queen Mary admired the Sea Island cotton handkerchiefs, and supplies were ordered for Their Majesties, Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Duchess of Gloucester. The samples of raw cotton, and cops and cones of yarn, plain, dyed and mercerized, again claimed the attention of the expert buyers, and of those who "like to see what stuff is made of."

As will be observed in the illustrations to this report, photographs of beauty spots in the islands embellished the walls of the various displays. Tourist literature was also available, and many inquiries were dealt with relating to living conditions not only in the British West Indian colonies represented at the Fair, but in others also. Full particulars of all serious trade inquiries were recorded and passed to the West India Committee to be dealt with and communicated to those concerned with the several colonies.

On the second day of the Fair the Royal party made a tour of the Earls Court exhibits. Her Majesty was



received at the West Indies section by Mr. J. M. du Buisson, chairman of the West India Committee, who presented Mr. Robert Gavin, secretary, Mr. T. Souness, assistant secretary, and Mr. F. G. Harcourt. A list of some of the distinguished visitors to the section is given on page 140 of this issue of the CIRCULAR.

Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. F. A. Greenaway and Sir Harold Tempamy, C.M.G., C.B.E., again served as the sub-committee entrusted by the West India Committee with the general supervision of the display. Mr. Thomas Souness, M.B.E., made all arrangements with the Board of Trade and the authorities in the colonies and was in charge of the organization. Mr. F. G. Harcourt, O.B.E., a former Administrator in the Leeward Islands, again acted as the West India Committee's representative in charge on the spot, Mrs. Carmen Manley presided at the Jamaica display, Miss Joyce Gittens at the Trinidad display, and Mr. W. A. S. Hardy at the Windward Islands display. Mr. J. Cook, secretary to the Advisory Committee of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association, again took charge of the Sea Island cotton display, and was assisted by Miss Olive Lewin. Members of the West India Committee staff also attended to assist in coping with the general public on the days on which the latter were admitted to the Fair. By kind courtesy of H. Korner and Co., Ltd., the services and experience of Mr. G. A. Roberts, B.E.M., were again made available.

A regular feature of these Fairs is the readiness with which the West India Committee's requests for co-operation are met by Government departments concerned and the various persons, firms and organizations called upon. In addition to those mentioned, the Committee gratefully acknowledges assistance from Previté and Co., Ltd., Trinidad Leascholds, Ltd., and the various firms who supplied specimens of their manufactured Sea Island cotton goods for display.



Notes of West Indian Interest

"NA all haas wah get fus' jump a-win race."

* * *

MR. STANLEY D. JUPP is the 363rd member of the West India Committee to take up life membership.

* * *

MISS JESSIE CHEESMAN has been appointed assistant secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee. She succeeds Mrs. Hughes who recently resigned.

* * *

MR. JAMES FORBES, of Port-of-Spain, the Netherlands Consul for Trinidad and Tobago, has been informed that Queen Juliana has been pleased to bestow upon him the Knight's Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau.

* * *

THE 3,000-ton Belgian vessel *Frubel Monica*, under charter to the Jamaica Banana Producers' Steamship Co., is on her way from Kingston to London with 100,000 stems of bananas.

* * *

C. CZARNIKOW, Ltd., London, have announced their return to Mincing Lanc. From June 25th their address will be: Plantation House, Mincing Lanc, London, E.C.3.

* * *

THE installation meeting of the Caribbean Lodge, No. 4826 E.C., will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.1, on Tuesday, July 5th, at 4.30 p.m., when Bro. H. G. Clarke will be installed as Master.

* * *

MISS SHEILA MYER is holding a second exhibition of her "Paintings of the Caribbean" at the Kingly Gallery, 1, Kingly Street, Regent Street, London, W.1, from June 13th to July 4th. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (Saturdays 1 p.m.).

* * *

MR. TIMOTHY C. C. DUMAS, who joined the business in 1936, has been admitted a partner of E. D. and F. Man, colonial brokers, of Lloyds Avenue, London, E.C. He is a cousin of Mr. C. E. F. Dumas, the firm's senior partner.

* * *

MISS LAURA EMMELINE MARGARET GOFFE, who, we regret to learn, died at a nursing home in Wimbledon, Surrey, on May 14th, was formerly of Port Maria, Jamaica. Miss Goffe had been a member of the West India Committee for nearly 40 years.

* * *

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR ARTHUR LONGMORE has been elected chairman of the Over-Seas League in succession to Sir Shenton Thomas. Lieut.-Colonel E. ff. W. Lascelles succeeds Sir Arthur Longmore as vice-chairman. Both appointments became effective as from May 26th, 1949.

MR. IAN F. S. GREENAWAY, M.C., only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Greenaway, of Beckenham, Kent, was married on June 4th to Miss Eileen Butler, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. Butler, of St. Leonards, Sussex. The ceremony took place at St. Mary the Virgin, Merton Park, London, S.W.

* * *

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE F. SHARP, of Barbados, are now on their way to London in the *White Star Georgic*. Mr. Sharp, now advertising manager of the *Barbados Record*, and formerly Postmaster General, British Guiana, was last here in 1943. His address will be care of Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.), 29, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

* * *

RECENT visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have included the following: Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Barnes, Mr. S. Bloomberg, Mr. E. A. Boyce, Lady Dorothy de Verteuil, Mr. St. Yves de Verteuil, Captain and Mrs. P. H. Duke, Mr. C. J. Hares, Mr. R. S. Haughton, Mr. L. A. Henriques, Mr. E. Gittens Knight, Mr. Leslie R. Mordecai, Sir Frederick Seaford, Mr. H. L. Smith, Mr. T. E. Noble Smith and Lieut.-Colonel F. Wood.

* * *

THE French Line *Gascogne* will make her first sailing from Southampton for the West Indies about June 18th. Her itinerary will be Havre, Southampton, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Barbados, Trinidad and La Guaira, with return via the same ports to Plymouth. She has accommodation for 220 one class passengers. Some particulars regarding this vessel—formerly the *George Washington*—were published in the CIRCULAR for February.

Caribbean Hurricane Warnings

A press communiqué released last month by the Caribbean Commission disclosed that at a conference on hurricane warnings and meteorological observations, to be held by representatives of the United States Weather Bureau, Air Force and Navy, the question of aircraft reconnaissance in the eastern Caribbean area will be taken up.

To further assist the various meteorological services involved in providing hurricane information to the people of the eastern Caribbean, a revision of the W-E-K (New Orleans) broadcast to provide a more complete coverage of weather reports from this area is planned. Also, an increase in the number and frequency of surface vessel reports from ships in the Atlantic east of the Lesser Antilles, and in the Caribbean, is planned for the 1949 hurricane season. This will assist the meteorological services in the area to keep abreast of the development and path of hurricanes in the ocean areas before they approach the islands.

A climatological survey of the Caribbean to be made this spring is designed to determine the amount of data available, and deficiencies in the climatological reporting network with a view to establishing additional stations where needed.

British Honduras Hardwoods

A Useful Publication

Until recently the interest taken in the secondary hardwood timbers of British Honduras has been slight and sporadic, but the forest officers in that colony have for years been collecting information about them, and now that increased attention has been focused upon their possible usefulness the Forest Department has published a bulletin* in which this information is set out.

The result is a publication which will be very useful to all concerned with timber and forestry. The information on each timber is given under 12 heads which cover the botanical characteristics of the tree, its distribution, and botanical and trade names; description of the wood, its physical and mechanical properties, working qualities and local uses; results of laboratory and other tests and suggestions of purposes for which the timber may be useful; minor produce of the trees; and references to other sources of information.

There is a map of the colony, an index, and a classified index of the timbers under utility classes, weights and uses.

The compilers are to be commended on a useful and well presented addition to the literature on British Honduras timbers.

Jamaica Journey

Mr. W. J. Brown, as befits an Independent Member of Parliament, is a controversial character both in and out of the House. He has decided opinions on most subjects and is able to express them in a way that appeals to the man who likes to occupy his mind on the way to and from the office. But he would never claim to be an authority on Jamaica and no one should buy this book† seriously hoping to find within it any real information about it or any considered comments on its problems.

It is in fact a *pot pourri* of observations and reflections on current events set down in the course of a sea-trip to and from Jamaica and during a few weeks stay there as the guest of Lord Beaverbrook, who, incidentally, never materializes, being at the time ill in Miami. The Jamaican episodes occupy only some forty pages out of a two hundred page book. Besides, it was Christmas-time and anyone who has been in Jamaica at that season knows that it is no time for serious thought on the ills of mankind.

But Mr. Brown describes an alligator hunt, or, more accurately, a hunt for alligators, perfectly. For some this chapter alone will be more than compensation for what the book otherwise lacks.

* *Notes on Forty-Two Secondary Hardwood Timbers of British Honduras*, Forest Department Bulletin No. 1, April, 1946. Government Printer, Belize, British Honduras.

† *Jamaican Journey*, by W. J. Brown, M.P., London, Allen & Unwin, Ltd. Price 10/6 net.

International Sugar Council

Pocket Year Book

The International Sugar Council has issued the 1948 number of the *Pocket Sugar Year Book*.

This issue presents statistics complete to August 31st, 1948, as far as possible, with revision of certain of the figures for previous years.

In handy pocket size, the publication gives tables of sugar production, imports, exports, consumption and stocks for the various countries of the world, and additional tables in this issue deal with world sugar consumption in 1938-39, 1946-47 and 1947-48; free market requirements and supplies for the years ending August 31st, 1938, 1948 and 1949; and retail sugar prices in selected countries at May 1st, 1939 and August 31st, 1948.

Copies are obtainable from the Secretary of the Council, 11, Waterloo Place, London, S.W.1, at 5s. each post free, and the secretary will welcome suggestions for further improvement of the year book.

Visitors from Overseas

Mr. W. R. Alefounder.	His Honour G. C. Green,
Mr. W. I. Alston.	C.M.G., M.B.E.
Mr. C. E. S. Bailey, M.B.,	Mr. C. J. Hares.
CH.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.	Mr. R. S. Haughton.
His Honour Chief Justice	Mr. L. A. Henriques.
O. L. Bancroft.	Mr. H. T. Lissone.
Mr. J. N. H. Bayley.	Mr. Leslie R. Mordecai.
His Honour Mr. Justice	Lt.-Colonel E. F. Moulton-
E. P. S. Bell.	Barrett, O.B.E., M.C.
H.E. Sir Hilary Blood,	Mr. M. H. Parker.
K.C.M.G.	Mrs. E. J. A. Simpson.
Mr. E. A. Boyce,	Mr. T. E. Noble Smith.
B.Sc., M.I.C.E.	Mr. N. V. Stafford Solomon,
Mr. J. St. F. Dare.	M.B.E.
Mr. H. W. de Freitas.	Mr. C. R. Stollmeyer.
Mr. A. G. L. Douglas.	Mr. Christopher Swabey.
Mr. E. M. Eldridge.	H.E. Sir Edward Twining.
Mrs. Elsie Gamble.	K.C.M.G., M.B.E.
Hon. N. W. E. Giles,	Lt.-Colonel F. Wood, M.B.E.
M.A., F.R.G.S.	

It would greatly facilitate the forwarding of correspondence if members of the West India Committee visiting this country would inform the Secretary of the date of the arrival and the address or addresses to which they would like THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and correspondence despatched.

Mexican Bagasse for Paper

A large new factory is shortly to go into production at Zacatepec, Morelos State, Mexico for the manufacture of paper from bagasse, quantities of which are available from the sugar-growing area in which the factory is located.

Bamboo pulp will be used to the extent of 20 per cent of the amount of bagasse, to give added strength.

The product is expected to be marketed as a fine paper. It will be heavier than newsprint, but may find alternative uses in newspaper publishing. Production costs are estimated at about £12 15s. per ton.

Expansion of Empire Sugar Production

Australian and West Indian Viewpoints

WE publish below an article entitled, "Is there a Market for Expansion?" which appeared in the issue of *The Australian Sugar Journal* of February 15th, and a reply which has been sent to that journal by Mr. Robert Gavin, Secretary, West India Committee:—

It is not proposed to discuss here productive capacity in the Australian sugar industry except as the matter arises incidentally to the question of markets. However, it is probably reasonable to assume that, if it were possible to obtain fully adequate guarantees as to the extent of markets and satisfactory prices, and the support of Governments extending for a period of ten years, there could be a very great increase in production by, say, 1959. It will be recalled that there have been references in the press to the effect that, given such conditions, Australia could probably export 1,000,000 tons by 1959.

Let us examine the market position in order to see the possibilities of such conditions and guarantees being forthcoming in an effective form. It is clear that for major expansion we must look to the export market.

One can do no more here than refer briefly to some of the more important points, without going into detail.

In the first place production of dollar sugar (Cuba, San Domingo, etc.), has reached saturation point in respect to the dollar markets for such sugars, and these producers are now becoming concerned as to future prospects. The free market price of dollar sugar declined last year from previous higher levels and the outlets for dollar sugar will be much smaller when Marshall Aid dollars cease to flow—scheduled for 1952; large quantities of sugar have recently been disposed of *via* Marshall Aid to Europe and Great Britain. Also the position for dollar producers is aggravated because the administrators of Marshall Aid have sought assurances that the recipients, including the United Kingdom, would really make a serious attempt to meet their needs for the various goods now purchased with Marshall Aid from their own resources.

The United Kingdom has therefore been forced by all the circumstances to encourage sugar production in sterling areas—more especially the Empire—with the following consequences:—

1. A guarantee by the United Kingdom Government of an outlet for all that Empire producers can make and export up to 1952, prices to be negotiated annually having regard to world conditions and all other factors.
2. This guarantee of outlet for expanded production would seem to inhibit the contemplation of a new International Sugar Agreement at the present time—at least as far as the British Government is concerned. Incidentally, this situation seems to be worrying the Cubans who pre-war sold large quantities to the United Kingdom.
3. The above mentioned guarantee to Empire producers has greatly encouraged the keen expansionists in the Empire, led by certain elements in the British

West Indies; these producers are accustomed to obtain a very favourable hearing from the British Governments for reasons connected with their economics and political position that have been potent in the past, but they have not previously had any occasion to come up against any sort of competition from major political entities or groups inside the Empire, and probably realize neither the bargaining power nor economic strength that the latter can exert. This matter of competition inside the Empire is dealt with further below.

It is fair also to observe that despite hard times in the past the British West Indies sugar producers have not quite the same experience fresh in their memories as Australian producers have of the consequences of over-production. This experience makes the Australian industry very cautious at the possibility of running into a similar situation again—although desirous of going in for sound expansion. Further, it comes as a surprise to Australian sugar producers (and in many ways an encouraging surprise) to know that some at least of the British West Indies sugar producers are quite dissatisfied with the 1949 price being paid by the Ministry of Food—the same price as in 1948.

Is the West Indies attitude justified by sugar economics, as distinct from quite understandable desires for expansion?

What is the extent of the Empire Preferential market for sugar, compared with Empire production for export to that market?

Without going into detailed figures it is nevertheless safe to say that all the evidence points to the United Kingdom outlet being more than saturated by 1952, leaving a surplus that can only find an outlet in Canada.

This shows clearly the predicament already facing the Empire sugar producers. They are dependent on the Canadian market if they are to avoid restriction—the hard road back.

One thing that seems reasonably clear is the Canadian import and buying policy. It is in distinct contrast to that of the United Kingdom and is apparently quite firm and unequivocal.

The Canadians are not unco-operative but their policy is clearly this; no long-term contracts, no bulk buying, no agreements to keep prices up by buying at a price based on that of the costly producers. Canada is expected to return sugar trading to the normal commercial channels very soon and evidently Canada is not a party to the United Kingdom Government's undertaking to buy Empire surplus production up to 1952. The Canadians, in effect, intend to buy on the cheapest market; they are not apparently so seriously troubled by the dollar problem. They seem prepared, as in the past, to concede Empire producers the preference (undoubtedly a great advantage) but no more.

Therefore, if in the long run Empire producers are to retain their outlet in Canada—and it is essential to do so—they must be prepared to sell at the free market price (Cubans, etc.) plus the Canadian preference

which at present, and at current exchange rates, is about £E.5 10s. 0d. a ton.

It is important to note that when a preferential market becomes saturated with imports from various preferential sellers, competition between those sellers reduces, and could feasibly eliminate, the value of the preference. This was illustrated very clearly in the Canadian market before the war, when the preference embodied in the Canadian tariff scales was not fully obtainable by Empire producers. The Canadian buyers, in practice, only had to pay away enough of the preference to persuade Empire sellers to ship to Canada instead of to the alternative market in the United Kingdom. Competition between Empire sellers, therefore, forced down the price to Canadian buyers to approximately the level of the free market price, plus the United Kingdom preference of £E.3 15s. 0d. per ton. Sellers would not in those years go below that level because they could obtain an equivalent return by selling to the United Kingdom, that outlet not then being saturated with preferential sugars.

To sum up for the future, it seems safe to say that Empire sellers will not enjoy the Canadian outlet if they are not able to sell down to the free market price, plus the Canadian preference. This is the maximum obtainable price and competition between Empire sellers may reduce it.

In conclusion, therefore, we can enumerate a number of points on which judgment must be made (and the judgment will need to be based on accurate information or very well informed opinion) before a conclusion can be reached on the question of expansion.

(1) Material expansion of acreage has to be based on production largely for export, and planned expansion for export should rest on the availability of suitable and remunerative export markets which will not be a financial burden on the rest of the sugar produced, nor on Australian consumers.

(2) The International Sugar Agreement is not operative at present and it would seem that it can only be revived in effective form in the near future if there is a change of outlook by the United Kingdom Government and the free market producers like Cuba, entailing their willingness to sell in sterling.

(3) Without the Canadian outlet we are facing the certain problem of over-production within the Empire in the early 1950's.

(4) Material expansion of acreage cannot therefore be considered except on the basis of production for sale to Canada.

(5) With Canada buying on the cheapest market, Australia must, if we are to expand, be able to sell at the free market price plus the obtainable proportion of the preference.

(6) Will our cost structure enable us to do that, and can the expansion be secured without going into high cost per ton for the extra sugar?

(7) The opportunity to take advantage by expansion of market possibilities may not last indefinitely, and there are considerable difficulties at the present time in expanding production within Australia rapidly, and getting the extra sugar shipped through the ports.

(8) To what extent will production in Australia rise in any case, say by 1952, as a result of improved cane varieties, more fertilizer, better fertilizer and agricultural

techniques, plus greater milling efficiency?

(9) We and other Empire producers have at least to think whether it is genuinely desirable to saturate Empire markets, with the corollary of competition between Empire sellers both as to price and the extent of markets.

(10) Would it be reasonable to expect the British Government or British consumers to continue to pay artificially high prices—say, in excess, by more than the preference, of the free market price especially when they have always been keen on a cheap "Breakfast Table"?

(11) It does not seem wise to count, for instance, on Britain continuing to buy Empire sugars based on the price required by current conditions in the British West Indies, where, on a *prima facie* view at any rate, costs of production now seem to be distinctly high.

(12) A radical change in circumstances would immediately operate if Cuba and San Domingo decided, or could arrange, to sell their sugar to Britain in sterling, or if Javan production recovers.

(13) It seems doubtful if the position being contemplated by, for example, some of the British West Indies producers—viz. the full Empire market for Empire producers—could be maintained in the long run, unless Empire producers could accept a price not much above the price of non-preferentials. For lack of a better guide perhaps we could say the price would not be higher than the Cuban free market price, plus the preference.

(14) Java, apparently, a sterling seller, cannot be considered at the present time owing to political turmoil there, but may come into the long-term picture. However, a very important question appears to be: how do Cuban production costs compare with costs in the British colonies, and in Australia? Australia may at present be able to stand on her own feet on a cost basis with some of the British colonies and may not lag very far behind Cuba, but can Cuba reduce costs and/or take lower prices as she has done in the past?

(15) Much consideration and investigation seems to be needed but perhaps (and always provided that costs in Australia do not get out of control and rise sharply) there may be a case for considered expansion based on increased export markets. However, if we will not be able to meet in the future the prices at which others will sell to Canada, there is no case for expansion; obviously also continuation of the Canadian, as well as the United Kingdom preference, is vital.

The West Indian Case

Mr. Gavin replied as follows:—

I have read with much interest the article "Is there a Market for Expansion" in your issue of February 15th. Reduced to essentials the writer's main contentions, so far as they concern the British West Indies, seem to be:—

1. British West Indies producers—stimulated by the United Kingdom policy of encouraging sugar production in sterling areas to save dollars—are out for the whole Empire market being permanently supplied from Empire sources;
2. They are pressing for a higher price for their sugar;
3. Production within the Empire for export is now nearly equal to United Kingdom import require-

ments. The only other main Empire outlet is Canada ;

4. That being so expansion can only be justified if the sugar can be sold on Canada's terms ;
5. The view is taken that Canada will from now on buy sugar where she can get it most cheaply whether it comes from dollar or sterling sources and that in any case she will not pay more for Empire sugar than the free world price plus preference ;
6. Expansion of production within the Empire is only justified therefore if the sugar so produced can be sold at that free world price, whatever it may be, plus preference.

Between the British West Indies producers' desire to see the whole of the Empire's requirements supplied from Empire sources and your Special Correspondent's conclusion that it can only be justified if it can be clearly seen that the resultant sugar can be sold at the free world market price plus preference, there is a vast difference which I will try to explain.

First let me set out in some detail the present position of British West Indies sugar producers and the road by which they have arrived at it.

The British West Indies' production of sugar for 1949 is estimated to be 777,000 tons of which only 100,000 tons are required for local consumption. Their home market is therefore small. Furthermore, sugar is, broadly speaking, the mainstay of the region as a whole and of certain colonies in particular, forming, with its by-products, the following proportions of total exports:— Barbados, 91 per cent ; British Guiana, 62 per cent ; Jamaica, 53 per cent ; Leeward Islands, 89 per cent. By and large it is their main source of wage-earning employment. The population of the area, however, is increasing at the rate of 2 per cent per annum, which means that it will double itself in 35 years. Increased production of sugar, the major if not the only export crop for which the region is generally suited, is, therefore, vital to provide employment and as the broad base upon which the economy of the whole region must rest.

In the decade before the last war, in spite of help from Imperial Preference, the price of sugar, based on the Cuban " free market " price fell and remained so consistently low, that not only was the industry on the verge of bankruptcy in 1939, but the whole region was in the throes of an acute economic and social crisis. The industry in general survived at the expense of the future and at the expense of labour. Wages were low ; adequate depreciation could not be provided and desirable improvements in field and factory and in amenities for staff and labour could not be carried out. Neither internal subsidies nor a large home market, in which a high differential price could be charged, were available to help out.

During the war years prices, under control, were increased gradually to meet higher costs of supplies and higher wages, the latter justified not only in themselves but to offset higher commodity prices. This enabled the industry simply to carry on without making more than a modest profit.

Since the war the system of controlled prices, fixed by negotiation with the Ministry of Food, has continued. Costs are still rising. Prices of supplies mount almost monthly, typical examples being bags and fertilizers.

Wages rise, too, and cannot in practice be pegged in face of rising commodity prices. Local Governments are heavily committed to schemes of social improvement. Some of these call for direct and heavy expenditure by the sugar industry and others must be met out of taxes of which the industry also bears its share. Behind local Governments stands the Imperial Government urging them on and, through the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, morally if not legally, committed to maintain and improve standards in the West Indies. Wage rates must therefore be expected to move upward rather than downward and even in the most favourable circumstances can never again be much lower than they are now. With wages and amenities to labour forming more than 60 per cent of production costs the main hope of reducing costs of production lies in lower prices for supplies, which are not yet in sight, and in increased output and efficiency. Improvements in agricultural practice and in plant and machinery are being undertaken as far as possible but, as already pointed out, ordered expansion of the industry is absolutely necessary in the interests of the area and expansion means new factories and ancillaries. Capital for these will only come if there is confidence in the future. In the view of producers, what is needed to give it is a long-term guarantee of outlet for at least ten years for their sugar at fair prices—that is what they are now seeking.

As far as the 1949 price is concerned they feel that in face of the evidence they presented to the Ministry of Food of increased costs during the previous twelve months, the refusal to increase the price was based on considerations of United Kingdom economy rather than the needs of the industry and the colonial people dependent on it.

But to turn to the future, British West Indies producers recognize that the United Kingdom and Canada must continue to be the main export markets of Empire producers. They see the possibility of those markets being quickly saturated under certain conditions. They certainly know the " bargaining power " and economic strength that major political entities or groups inside the Empire can exert. In particular they remember the action of Australia before the war in subsidizing her exports of sugar from the higher prices charged in her large internal market, thus depressing still further an already ruinous world price. They know also that, in a saturated market, competition from various preferential sellers reduces, and could feasibly eliminate, the value of the preference. They have in mind the avowed aim of the Geneva Trade and Tariff Agreement to reduce, and eventually eliminate, preferences. Therefore they feel that to have their future dictated by the vagaries of this irrelevant world price would be the gravest of mistakes. It would indeed set at nought the carefully thought out plans both of the Imperial Government and of local administrations for social betterment in the Caribbean, based on improved output under better working conditions.

British West Indies producers are not control-minded. Without exception they are philosophically and politically inclined towards private enterprise. For the reasons outlined, however, they are forced to think in terms of a planned future based on a long-term guarantee of outlet at fair negotiated prices.

Such a guarantee of outlet would, naturally, have to be based on agreed export figures calculated to meet the joint requirements of the United Kingdom and Canadian markets, and British West Indies producers would hope that the position of those colonies which largely depend on sugar production would receive special recognition.

As far as the United Kingdom is concerned British West Indies producers consider that the commitments she has undertaken towards the welfare of her colonial peoples of necessity mean that she must do her best to ensure economic stability and improve standards in the colonial Empire. A sugar industry expanding under stable conditions is a necessary condition towards securing these for the British West Indies. If cheaper food for the British workman's breakfast table means starvation standards for the sugar colonies the former must yield pride of place.

Furthermore United Kingdom dollar stringency is likely to last for many years and will be even more acute after the end of Marshall aid than now. This means two things, first that the United Kingdom will have to take all the sterling sugar she can get up to the limit of her requirements and, second, that dollar sugar—and that means Cuban sugar—may fall to ridiculously low prices because of the world shortage of dollars. Is the United Kingdom Government really going to suggest that in these circumstances the Cuban price—then more irrelevant than ever—should be the basis of payment for Empire sugar, and that all that can be added to it is a preference figure fixed to fit pre-war circumstances and only alterable downward? Surely a negotiated price must be the answer.

As for Canada, British West Indian producers believe that her desire and interest to trade with the West Indies, the dependence of her national shipping service to and from them on sugar as a northward cargo, will all incline her to accept readily some arrangement whereby she takes a large proportion of her sugar requirements from the British West Indian colonies. They hope that the United Kingdom Government may be able to conclude such an arrangement within or parallel to a guarantee of outlet for at least ten years at realistic prices to be negotiated annually or at other mutually agreed intervals.

Thus you will realize that British West Indies producers have already passed in anxious review all the considerations which your Special Correspondent adduces. They have rejected them because they cannot provide a solution to their problems. Insistent that some answer must be found, they have put forward detailed proposals for a long-term guarantee of outlet and these are now being considered by His Majesty's Government.

Raw Cotton Selling Prices

An announcement by the Raw Cotton Commission made certain adjustments (reductions in all cases except Sudan "L" types, X4 and below) in selling prices of Egyptian, Sudan and West Indian Sea Island cottons, as from February 14th, 1949.

The reduction in the case of West Indian Sea Island (S.I.) is 200 points per lb.

West Indies at Westminster

Trade Unionists. In the course of a reply to a question by Mr. Sorensen, Mr. Creech Jones said on May 11th, that the Trades Union Congress had agreed to co-operate in a scheme under which West Indian trade unionists were to be given six months' practical courses in trade union work in Britain.

Water Supplies. Major Tufton Beamish asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on May 18th whether he would make a statement on his plans to sink wells in the Leeward Islands with a view to overcoming the present shortage of fresh water for agricultural purposes; when that project would be begun; and what would be its approximate cost over the next five years.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that he could not add to his reply of April 6th [see last CIRCULAR].

British Honduras Ex-Servicemen. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on May 4th what steps had been taken by the Government of British Honduras to remedy the conditions at the ex-Servicemen's camp at Baking Pot on which a report had been made to the Government by Mr. E. A. Grant.

Mr. Rees-Williams, who replied, said that Mr. Creech Jones was asking the Governor for a report on the matter, and would write to Mr. Skinnard when it had been received.

British Guiana Mining Concession. Mr. Platts-Mills asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on May 11th why Mr. John Younglove Cole, an American citizen, was given exclusive rights to search for radio-active, uranium-bearing ores in the Kanuku Mountains area of British Guiana.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that he understood that Mr. Cole had applied for the rights in the usual way. There was no discrimination, on nationality grounds, in the grant of such rights.

In reply to a further question by Mr. Platts-Mills, Mr. Creech Jones said that the Governor had complete control over the exploitation of radium-bearing minerals.

St. Kitts Sugar. Mr. Gamman asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he would make a statement on the proposal for the Government to take over the St. Kitts sugar factory.

Mr. Creech Jones in a written reply of May 26th said that the future of the St. Kitts sugar factory had been one of the questions considered by the recent Commission of Inquiry into the St. Kitts sugar industry. The Commissioner had reported to the Governor. The report was about to be printed and published. Meantime it would receive the consideration of the Governor of the Leeward Islands and of himself.

Passages from Jamaica. Commander Noble asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was aware of the difficulties experienced in Jamaica in booking passages to Britain by sea or air; and what steps he was taking in the matter.

Mr. Creech Jones, in a written reply of May 18th, said that he was aware of the difficulties. Further ships would be brought into service very shortly. Meanwhile arrangements had been made for a steamship homeward-bound from Australia to call at Jamaica about the middle of June.

With regard to air passages, the withdrawal of the Tudor aircraft from passenger service had created a temporary shortage of capacity, but temporary arrangements were being made with B.O.A.C. and other companies.

Grenada Nutmegs. Sir Waldron Smithers asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on May 4th if he had considered the resolution sent him from a large meeting of the peasantry in Queen's Park Pavilion, St. George's, Grenada, expressing dissatisfaction with the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association and requesting that the Association be made a voluntary organization, leaving producers free; and what action he had taken, or proposed to take in the matter.

Mr. Rees-Williams, the Under-Secretary of State, who replied, said that Mr. Creech Jones had not received the resolution, which, it was understood, was addressed to the unofficial members of the Grenada Legislative Council.

In reply to a further question by Sir Waldron, Mr. Rees-Williams stated that a Bill to amend the ordinance referred to would shortly be put before the Legislative Council.

Jamaica Water Storage. Mr. Gamman asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what the cost had been of building the storage tank at Mount Moreland, Jamaica; to what extent

the costs and funds had been met from the Colonial Development and Welfare Funds; and why the tank did not hold water.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that the whole cost totalling £2,795, had been met from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. The Jamaica Public Works Department was not satisfied that there was excess loss of water. Further tests would be undertaken after the next flood rains.

Mr. Gamman then asked whether it was not a fact that the tank had never held water at all, and if Mr. Creech Jones would like to see some photographs, showing that the tank was split from end to end.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that that was a matter within the competence of the Jamaica Government, but that he would be happy to see the photographs.

Shipping to West Indies. Mr. Cooper asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he would give the number of passengers sailing between the United Kingdom and British West Indies in British ships and in foreign ships, outward bound and homeward bound, during 1948, showing how many of such passengers had been officially of committees of inquiry, deputations, Government departments and Government-sponsored organizations.

In a written reply dated May 26th, Mr. Creech Jones said the numbers of passengers carried in British ships sailing between the United Kingdom and the British Caribbean colonies during 1948 had been: outward bound, 4,285; homeward bound, 3,985. Of the outward bound passengers 1,975 travelled at the expense of H.M. Government or of the Colonial Governments concerned. He regretted that he had no information regarding the numbers of passengers who had travelled in foreign ships, or regarding the total number of homeward bound passengers on British ships whose passages had been paid for by Government.

Sea Passages from Jamaica. Commander Noble asked the Minister of Transport on May 16th what degree of priority was exercised by government departments for sea passages from Jamaica to this country; and whether he would give the figures for the May voyage of the *Ariguani*.

Mr. Barnes said in reply that by arrangement with the shipping companies concerned, 50 per cent of the passenger accommodation from Jamaica to this country was being allotted to Service personnel, 25 per cent to colonial government passengers, and 25 per cent to other civilians. He understood that the accommodation on the *Ariguani*, which sailed on May 21st would have been allotted in these proportions.

Commander Noble in a supplementary question asked whether Mr. Barnes was not aware that there was great dissatisfaction in Jamaica about those priorities, which were often taken up at very short notice with the result that someone who may have booked months ahead was put off at the last moment.

Mr. Barnes replied that he was aware of the difficulties, and he had been making arrangements with the Australian Government for the *Georgic* to pick up the backlog.

Sugar Shipments. Mr. Geoffrey Cooper asked the Minister of Food on May 23rd how much of the sugar imported from the West Indies in 1948 had been carried in chartered boats; how much in regular service passenger and freight vessels; and what had been the proportion carried in foreign vessels and British vessels, respectively.

Mr. Strachey replied that all sugar imported into the United Kingdom from the British West Indies and Haiti in 1948 had been carried in British liners. From Cuba, 764,080 tons had been shipped in chartered vessels, of which 38,600, i.e. 5 per cent, had been foreign, and 21,000 tons in British liners. From San Domingo 185,691 tons had been shipped in chartered vessels, of which 16,000 tons, or 7.6 per cent, had been foreign, and 23,750 tons in British liners.

Mr. Cooper asked whether Mr. Strachey had considered any reports to the effect that the British West Indian shipping services would be greatly stimulated if all contracts from his Department were placed for carriage in British ships. As that would be to the great advantage of colonial development in the West Indies, would he look into the matter with a view to stimulating a regular and more frequent service of British ships with the West Indies?

Mr. Strachey replied that he thought that his reply showed the margin was rather small.

Jamaica Newsprint Allocation. Mr. Gamman asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on May 4th if he was in a position to make a statement regarding permission granted to the Jamaica *Gleaner* newspaper to increase its advertising content up to 60 per cent of the total newsprint used; and why the

Jamaican *Daily Express* had been cut in its newsprint allocation to eight pages of tabloid size whilst the *Gleaner* was permitted 14 pages standard size.

Mr. Rees-Williams, replying, said that the Jamaica *Gleaner* newspaper had agreed to restrict its advertising space to an average of 60 per cent as against a previous 70 per cent of the newsprint used. In consequence the Government of Jamaica decided to withdraw a newsprint control Order of 1948 formally restricting advertising content. With regard to the second part of the question, his information was that the Jamaica *Daily Express* still published a 12-page issue.

Mr. Gamman then asked why there should be this disparity between the newsprint allowed to one newspaper, which was of standard size, and the newsprint allowed to the other newspaper, which was of tabloid size; and would he also say what justification there was for allowing Jamaican newspapers to use as much as 60 per cent of their newsprint for advertisements when nothing like that percentage was allowed here.

Mr. Rees-Williams replied that as he had said, the former Order was withdrawn, and the Government were operating on an agreement between themselves and the newspapers. As the hon. Gentleman knew, the conditions in this country were not in all respects similar to those in Jamaica.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions, transfers and new appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

ALLEYNE, K. H. C. (Magistrate, St. Lucia), Crown Attorney, St. Lucia.

BEAUBRUN, K. P., M.B., D.P.H. (Medical Officer, Grade B, Trinidad), Medical Officer, Grade A, Trinidad.

BURKE, M. A. M. (Clerk to the Crown Solicitor, Jamaica), Assistant Crown Solicitor, Jamaica.

CENTENO, A. AMOROSO (Second Assistant Secretary, Inland Revenue Department, Trinidad), First Assistant Secretary, Inland Revenue Department, Trinidad.

DICKSON, A. R. F. (Assistant to the Attorney General and Legal Draftsman, Barbados), Magistrate, British Guiana.

FINLAY, H. M. (Colonial Engineer, Public Works Department, Barbados), Assistant Director of Public Works, Gold Coast.

HARNEY, C. A. (District Magistrate, Leeward Islands), Crown Attorney, Dominica.

HOULDING, Miss W. G. (Matron, Trinidad), Matron-in-Chief, Northern Rhodesia.

JOSEPH, A. E. (Assistant Warden), District Administration, Trinidad), Chief Public Assistant Officer, Social Assistance Department, Trinidad.

LECKY, T. P. (Agricultural Officer, Grade II, Jamaica), Senior Livestock Officer, Jamaica.

LYDER, A. A. (Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Trinidad), Second Assistant Director of Public Works and Hydraulics, Trinidad.

MAINGOT, A. (Secretary, Inland Revenue Department, Trinidad), Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax, Trinidad.

PETERS, W. O. (Postmaster, Antigua), Treasurer, St. Christopher-Nevis.

POTTER, R. C. G. (Inspector of Schools, British Guiana), Principal, Government Training College for Teachers, British Guiana.

SMEATHERS, R. (Assistant Conservator of Forests, Trinidad), Deputy Conservator of Forests, Trinidad.

STUART, W. G. (Agricultural Officer, Grade II, Jamaica), Agricultural Officer, Grade I, Jamaica.

WATLEY, G. H., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.T.M. and H. (Medical Officer, Grade C, Trinidad), Medical Officer, Grade B, Trinidad.

WILLIAMS, C. L. (First Assistant Secretary, Inland Revenue Department, Trinidad), Secretary, Inland Revenue Department, Trinidad.

WILLIAMS, E. V. (Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, British Honduras), Director of Public Works, British Honduras.

New Appointments

COURTENAY, Miss R. B., M.B., School Medical Officer, Grenada, Windward Islands.

CURE, Miss M., Lecturer on Infant Method and Light Handicraft, Government Training College, Trinidad.

McDOWALL, M. F., B.Sc., M.D., Medical Officer, Grade C, Health Department, Trinidad.



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

COTTON Crop. Writing from St. John's on May 23rd, our correspondent, Miss Helen Goodwin says: "We have had an exceptionally good cotton crop this year, which has done much to relieve the poverty of the island."

The University College. "Professor Asprey and Professor Hassel of the University College of Jamaica, have been on a visit to Antigua, and have given helpful talks both to the general public and to school teachers of the island. The scholarship to this university given by the Mill Reef Club has been awarded to Miss Cecily Thomas, one of the junior mistresses of the Antigua Girls' High School, who will begin her studies in September."

BARBADOS

The Weather. Writing from Bridgetown on May 21st, our correspondent says: "The weather during the month of April was again very dry with days of hot sunshine. The showers that fell were so light that they were of practically no value to growing crops. According to rainfall returns the average total rainfall for the island for the month of April was 1.40 inches compared with 0.57 inches for April, 1948. The average total rainfall for the island for the four months period January-April was 5.03 inches."

Sugar Cane. "The harvesting of the old cane crop was continued during the month and nine factories completed grinding operations. It is expected that the majority will finish grinding by the end of May, but three or four factories will continue until the end of the first or second week in June. The number of rotten (i.e. dry) canes increased towards the latter part of the month caused, no doubt, by the drought. The latest estimate of the crop amounts to 151,000 tons of sugar. The young plant cane crop remain in good condition in spite of the continued drought and the ratoons in the early harvested fields have germinated satisfactorily."

Holidays With Pay. "The House of Assembly recently passed a Bill making provision for holidays with pay for all employees. The Bill made provision for the granting of two weeks holidays on full pay to all employees including seasonal workers and other workers whose employment was not continuous throughout the year. In the case of seasonal workers the qualifying period is three months. The Bill, however, was rejected in the Upper House by a majority vote of ten to one."

"Sir John Maude, who recently visited the island for the purpose of examining the constitution of local Government, issued his report earlier in the year. The various Vestries (i.e. local government bodies) are busily considering the recommendations put forward by Sir John. The feeling seems to be that while many of his recommendations would be of practical benefit to the island, some point to an advancement of constitutional reform which the island is not at present in a position to undertake."

"Mr. T. L. Evans, until recently headmaster of the Lodge School, has accepted the position of classical master to the Duke of York School, Nairobi, Kenya. Mr. Evans came to Barbados in 1931 and was appointed to Harrison College where he served as sixth form (classical) and second master until 1942, when he took over the headmastership of the Lodge School. Mr. Evans expects to leave for Kenya in July."

New "Viking." Miss Joan Kysh, secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee, in a letter dated May 2nd, says: "'Barbados,' the fifth Viking of British West Indian Airways Ltd., made its maiden flight to Barbados on April 20th, bringing passengers from Trinidad."

Radio-telephone. "Since April 1st there has been a radio-telephone service between the three western zones of Germany, and Barbados. The minimum charge is \$18 for three minutes, and \$6 for each extra minute."

Tourists. "Many tourists from Venezuela spent the Easter holidays in Barbados. To bring these visitors B.W.I.A. Ltd. made two special flights from La Guayra."

Visitors. "Mr. H. M. Newnham, feature writer of the Central Office of Information, London, who is making a tour of the British Caribbean, was among the visitors to the Bureau this month. Accompanying Mr. Newnham on his trip was Mr. P. Anderson, a photographer. They expect to visit Barbados again sometime in May."

BRITISH GUIANA

Technical Institute. A correspondent writing from Georgetown on May 15th, says: "The Government has, somewhat belatedly, announced that plans have been approved and permission will soon be sought for the construction in Georgetown of a Technical Institute for the training of *employed* tradesmen and apprentices. The estimated cost of building and equipment is \$150,000 and it is announced that 600 students can be accommodated in the building. This development is widely welcomed as a promising step towards the improvement of the standard of craftsmanship."

Free Books for Schools. "The Governor has stated that the Legislature is shortly to be asked to provide funds (\$70,000 for the first year and \$52,000 in subsequent years) for the provision of free text books in primary schools."

Timber Company Sale. "Colonial Development Corporation has announced that agreement has been reached for the purchase by the Corporation of the interests of Bookers Timber Co. Ltd., the largest forest-products organization in the colony. The management will be in the hands of Steel Brothers, formerly of Burma."

Gold Mining. "The Anaconda Mining Co. has been granted exclusive permission to explore for gold over an area of around 5,400 square miles in the interior of the colony. The agreement is effective for six years."

Development. "Most of the proposals of the Evans Commission report depend on the lower reaches of the mighty Essequibo River being made navigable for ocean-going steamers of appreciable draught. The representative, Mr. C. E. Bennett, of the consulting engineers especially appointed to carry out a survey and make recommendations, stated just before his return to the U.K., that in his opinion the bar of the river can be dredged to give passage to steamers with a draught of 22 ft. at a cost of \$3,500,000. Further expenditure though not of this order will be necessary to clear the channel as far as Bartica."

DOMINICA

Tourist Industry. Writing from Roseau on April 30th, a correspondent signing himself "Wintergreen," says: "Our Tourist and Development Association has taken a forward step by appointing 11 male guides who meet tourists when they land and offer their services. The guides have each a numbered badge which they produce on request, and trips can be arranged as far as the Boiling Lake, via Laudat."

Cheaper Goods. "Vacuum flasks and umbrellas are now on sale here from Hong Kong, and soon we are to have Japanese goods. For about a year now we have had butter, cheese and condensed milk of excellent quality from Australia, and at prices a little lower than formerly."

GRENADA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *May 6th.*

The Legislative Council meeting yesterday debated throughout the whole session, concluding at 7 p.m. a Bill further to amend the Nutmeg Industries Ordinance. The Hon. Noble Smith spoke for two-and-a-half hours and gave a full account of his visit, as the association's representative, with the Spice Trade Association in New York. The Hon. Fred Paterson initiated the debate stressing the need for a voluntary association and moved that the Bill be sent to a select committee for investigation, recommendations and a report. In this respect he was ably supported by the Hon. Captain Earle Hughes, Hon. J. B. Renwick, Hon. R. C. P. Moore, Hon. R. O. Williams, and Hon. C. A. O. Phillips. On Mr. Paterson's motion being put to a vote it was carried with only one dissenting vote. The members appointed to the Committee are Paterson, Renwick, Hughes, Phillips, Moore, the Colonial Treasurer and the Attorney General.

In a further cable, dated May 27th, our correspondent says:—

At a meeting of the Legislative Council held on Wednesday, notice was given of a motion by Hon. C. A. O. Phillips that £400 be given for the purchase of a house, presently occupied by Mrs. Petronella Ferguson, as a gift from the people of Grenada in recognition of the bravery which earned her the silver medal and the Stanhope Medal of the Royal Humane Society, as well as £25 per annum for life from the funds of the colony. The motion was accepted by the Government but the Administrator pointed out that the Governor's sanction was necessary.

A resolution by the Hon. E. Mitchell was unanimously passed for the appointment of a Select Committee to revise the existing Workmen's Compensation Ordinance in order bring the same into line with legislation in the

United Kingdom. Acting Attorney-General Edwards, the Hon. J. B. Renwick, the Hon. E. Mitchell, the Hon. Captain Hughes and the Hon. C. A. O. Phillips were appointed to the committee.

Unanimous passage was also given to a motion by the Hon. F. Paterson appointing as a committee all unofficial members of the Legislative Council to consider constitutional reform and report its recommendations to the House. The motion was seconded by the Hon. T. A. Marryshow.

A motion by the Hon. J. B. Renwick, seconded by Capt. Hughes, was passed 8—1, amending the Taxes Management Ordinance.

A motion by the Hon. F. Paterson for the appointment of a Standing Committee other than the Finance Committee was unanimously passed.

JAMAICA

Proposed Conference. According to statements made in the local Press on May 14th, Mr. Bustamante has sent telegrams to trade union leaders in the other West Indian colonies suggesting an emergency conference to consider the sugar situation. His action is said to be the result of reports brought back to the island by the Hon. R. L. M. Kirkwood after a visit to London, where he interviewed officials of the Colonial Office and other departments.

Governor's Tour. On May 4th, the Governor, Sir John Huggins, made an official tour of Upper Clarendon, visiting 11 districts and receiving a warm welcome everywhere.

Methodist Synod. The Methodist Provincial Synod met in the Lyndhurst Church Hall on May 6th, and will continue to meet for about a week. Delegates from nearly all the West Indian colonies will be there.

TRINIDAD

Our correspondent, Mr. Keith McCowan, in a letter from Port-of-Spain, dated May 25th, says:

Political. "It is reported to be unlikely that Trinidad will have a general election under the new constitution this year."

Education. "The Legislative Council has passed a Bill for the inclusion of religious instruction in the curriculum of all assisted schools in the colony. The Bill does not, however, make religious instruction compulsory."

Wages. "The Legislative Council has passed a Bill for the establishment of Wages Councils in the colony. The principal object of the Bill, which is based generally on the United Kingdom Wages Council Act, 1945, is to provide for the fixing of statutory minimum remuneration of workers in respect of whom no adequate machinery exists for this purpose."

House of Commons. "The Colony of Trinidad and Tobago is to make a gift of a writing desk and chair towards the rebuilding of the war-damaged House of Commons."

Agricultural Department. "Mr. C. Holman B. Williams, Deputy Director of Agriculture, British Guiana, has accepted a transfer to Trinidad as Deputy Director for crop husbandry. He is expected to assume duty in his new post during July."

(Continued on page 155)

Company Reports and Meetings

Angostura Bitters (London) Ltd.

MR. Henry Chisholm, B.A., A.C.A., has been appointed a director of the company.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co. Ltd.

An extraordinary general meeting has been called to pass resolutions dealing with an increase of the share capital of the company.

Accompanying the notice calling the meeting is a letter to the stockholders from the chairman, MR. KENNETH A. E. MOORE, in the course of which he says: "Stockholders will remember that at the annual general meeting held on November 2nd, 1948, I referred to the board's intention to undertake a major development programme in the Moruga area of Trinidad. The estimated cost of this programme up to the point where we shall have drilled six exploratory wells in that area is £500,000.

"The directors consider that the funds required can best be provided by an issue of preference shares, and it is accordingly proposed to authorize or create 1,000,000 5½ per cent redeemable cumulative preference shares of £1 each, of which 700,000 will be issued forthwith, subject to the passing of the necessary resolutions. At the same time, the directors propose to give six months' notice to redeem the outstanding 200,000 6 per cent redeemable cumulative preference shares of £1 each at 22s. per share. The consent of the Capital Issues Committee to the proposed issue has been obtained.

"It is proposed to deal with the 700,000 5½ per cent preference shares as follows:—

1. 600,000 shares will be offered at 22s. per share on letters of rights to the existing ordinary stockholders of the company in the proportion of three 5½ per cent preference shares of £1 each for every twenty ordinary stock units of 5s. each.

2. 100,000 shares will be offered to the existing preference shareholders on the following terms:—

Each preference shareholder will be entitled to subscribe at 22s. per share, payable in cash, for one 5½ per cent preference share in respect of every two 6 per cent preference shares held by him, conditionally on his surrendering on June 30th next the whole of his present holding of 6 per cent preference shares for cancellation and redemption on payment to him of 22s. per share together with the dividend for the half-year to that date.

"The objects of the new issue are:—

(a) to finance the execution of the company's Moruga area programme without impinging upon existing capital resources which, though substantial, are likely to be required for the company's normal production and development activities; and

(b) to redeem the 200,000 6 per cent redeemable cumulative preference shares of £1 each.

"Any part of the proceeds of the issue which may not be absorbed in the above objects will be used for the general purposes of the company."

Caribbean Development Co. Ltd.

In their report for 1948 the directors state that during the year the company pressed ahead with the design and construction of its initial projects—brewery, glassworks and their associated services. Substantial progress has been made, nearly all the technical staff being assembled in Trinidad, foundations being laid, buildings erected and some machinery being installed.

The company has not yet traded, state the directors, and therefore profits have not been made. Accordingly, the company has again called upon Alstons Ltd., to implement the terms of its guarantee whereby that company guaranteed the dividend on the 4½ per cent "A" cumulative redeemable preference shares. This sum amounts to \$27,546.91 for the year 1948 and, subject to confirmation by the general meeting, it is proposed to distribute it after that meeting.

Mr. R. W. Siegert and Mr. H. O. B. Wooding, K.C., retire from the board by rotation, and being eligible offer themselves for re-election. Mr. W. G. Medlam was appointed to the board in the place of the late Sir Lennox O'Reilly.

In the course of his speech at the second general meeting held in Port-of-Spain on May 27th, the chairman, Mr. G. R. WRIGHT, said: "Before moving the adoption of the accounts,

I wish to pay tribute to the memory of our late vice-chairman, Sir Lennox O'Reilly. Sir Lennox was one of the outstanding West Indians of all times, and it was our good fortune that his wise counsel, sound judgment and immense energy were always freely at our disposal. It is indeed hard that he should have passed on just when the company was about to enter into the production stage.

"The company's final capital budget has now been agreed by the board of directors and amounts to a sum in excess of \$2,200,000 to be spent on the erection of the brewery, the glass plant and all the ancillary works, offices and living accommodation of the staff, and on initial stocks, etc. The total of \$2,200,000 has been raised as to approximately \$1,400,000 by way of share capital and \$825,000 by way of direct loans from the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. These loans were finalised after the turn of the year and therefore do not appear in our balance sheet. Negotiations for the final capitalization of the company were finally completed upon Alstons Ltd. agreeing to guarantee the repayment of these sums as to both principal and interest thereon. In return for this guarantee, Alstons Ltd. will be issued with a first debenture over the whole concern of this company, granted the extension of their marketing agreement from 10 to 25 years, and the right to subscribe at par for cash during the repayment period for 49,500 ordinary shares. The entering into this agreement with the banks and Alstons Ltd. will enable the company to complete its capital projects by the third quarter of this year, and I have pleasure in informing you that full glass production should commence in August and full brewing in the last quarter of the year if deliveries of the remaining portions of our machinery are up to present schedules.

"You will remember that when I last addressed you, I made reference to the fact that in spite of every effort on our part and in spite of the help given us by the Government of Trinidad, who urged our needs in no uncertain manner to the Secretary of State, we were unable to persuade His Majesty's Treasury to allocate to us a sufficiency of United States dollars to purchase our glass and brewing plants in the United States. This refusal has cost our company not only considerable sums of money through our having to buy more expensive plant in the United Kingdom, but also caused considerable delay in the receipt of that machinery. However, due to the extreme pressure continually applied by us to the manufacturers of the plant, deliveries have been coming forward very rapidly of recent weeks, with the result that we should commence production as already mentioned. Having regard to all the disappointments I think you will all agree with me that these dates are eminently satisfactory being, as they are, in advance of the dates originally projected in the prospectus published early in 1947. It must be a great source of satisfaction to you to know that after a patient wait of around 2½ years, saleable products will be leaving our production line to go into the hands of the sales agents during the current year.

"Since the plant was originally designed there have been a number of changes, of which I may mention only one as of importance. After the refusal of United States dollars we resigned ourselves to using semi-automatic machines for forming the product of the glass furnaces, since the cost and deliveries of fully-automatic machines were prohibitive. About a month ago, however, an opportunity arose to purchase two fully-automatic glass-forming machines at an attractive price. I need hardly say that the board did not hesitate to purchase these machines straight away, as they give the advantage of achieving an earlier date of full output and in the finality a better product.

"With regard to the raw materials necessary for making both glass and lager, I am happy to tell you that contracts have been entered into by the company which will assure an even flow of production. Our supply of chemicals for making glass is ample for the company's needs for some months ahead and we have found deposits of sand in Trinidad suitable for making high quality glass, which deposits will supply our needs for many years to come. We shall shortly be receiving a good supply of the very finest quality malt and hops to ensure the production of the highest quality lager.

"With regard to personnel, the company has a good team of technicians which is largely drawn from United Kingdom sources, but I may add that it is the policy of the company that these technicians should be used to teach local personnel the technicalities of the trade in order that local labour, management and administrators may be appointed at the earliest possible opportunity.

"I am happy also to inform you that Mr. Humle, our brewer,

will shortly be with us so as to be present during the final stages of the erection of our brewery and the installation of its equipment. Mr. Humle is an experienced brewer and negotiated his contract with us while employed by the Carlsberg Brewery in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"I am also extremely gratified to be able to announce that Dr. Erik Helm, one of the world's foremost experts on brewing, has agreed to accept engagement by our company to come to Trinidad and act as our consultant during the preliminary stages of our brewing. Thereafter he will be proceeding to the Argentine, returning to work with us for another two months some months later. I think we have been very fortunate to obtain the services of a man of Dr. Helm's standing to ensure our stepping off on the right foot

"I should now like to turn to matters of a more general nature. The company recently asked Government for concessionary treatment in regard to income tax, in terms similar to the treatment granted to the new cement industry in Jamaica. Negotiations are still in progress, but as there is no lager brewery or glass plant in Trinidad, the board is hoping that the progressive and encouraging policy adopted by the Jamaica Government will be adopted here in Trinidad in order to further the establishment of new industries.

"I may mention that the burden of taxation in the early stages of a company is extremely great. Until one undertakes the task of budgeting the future of a newly-established company, it is difficult to realize what a very great difference it makes to available resources if that company has to pay away 40 per cent of its surplus, thus removing that 40 per cent from internal use by a company which has had no time to establish reserves.

"The crying need of this country is to develop its agriculture and its industrial production to the full—in other words to increase the real wealth of the country so that more and more will be available to be shared out among our growing population. At present the colony is far too dependent upon the oil industry to maintain even the present standard of life here, and who does not wish to see this standard improve? I do not in any way decry the importance of the need for the growth of political consciousness among our people, but I do stress that politics alone can do little to improve our lot. In other words, political development must advance hand in hand with economic development.

"It is sometimes fashionable to decry big business. I know of no definition which tells one just where small business ends and big business begins, but if our enterprise, which is costing around two-and-a-quarter million dollars is big business, then I hope that you will not feel that we have anything to be ashamed of if our business is successful—as we have every reason to hope it will be—so long as we see to it that those who work for us receive a fair share of the profit we make. Moreover I hope that we shall be able to initiate new projects during the next few years if Government allows us to plough back a reasonable portion of our earnings.

"I know that if I were a trade union leader, for obvious reasons I would like to know that the business for which the members of my union worked was doing well. If, however, we are to develop wealth for our community, our Government must encourage thrift among our people so that local money will be available for investment. If we have to look abroad for the majority of the shareholdings in new enterprises which could be developed here, much of the profit made will have to be remitted abroad.

"I am entirely against a high rate of company tax anywhere and it is ridiculous to suggest that company tax rates here should be the same as in the United Kingdom because, whilst high taxation is bound to put a brake on all enterprise, we must remember that there is a lot of capital in the United Kingdom available for investment, much of which exists as a result of savings made by companies and individuals over long periods of time and over periods when taxation was light. The shareholders in our company number 610, very many of them men and women of limited means, and over three-quarters of our issued capital is locally owned, but nevertheless there is very little capital available for investment here and I cannot see that there will ever be very much if our company tax remains at its present crippling level. Surely if Government really wishes to encourage the establishment of industry here owned by people in the colony, they must see the writing on the wall. I firmly believe that were company tax reduced, in the long run it would mean considerably greater revenue for Government, as greater development of industry would inevitably bring prosperity and prosperity would result in higher yields for the tax-gatherer."

Telephone and General Trust, Ltd.

In the course of his annual statement which accompanies the report for the year ended December 31st, the chairman, SIR ALEXANDER ROGER, says: "The year has been one of considerable activity and development in the telephone companies in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados.

"In Jamaica, net additions to plant amounted to no less than £268,128, and further expenditure of over £350,000 is planned for 1949 and 1950. The confidence of the Jamaica public and of the Trust in the Telephone Co. is illustrated by the successful issue during 1948 of £200,000 in debentures and £200,000 in ordinary shares, of which over £300,000 was subscribed locally, the balance being readily subscribed by the Trust. It is extremely interesting to report that the company has some 800 ordinary shareholders of whom 233 are holders of £10 and less.

"During the year 1,275 new stations were connected, making a total of 10,019 in operation at December 31st, 1948.

"A similar record of progress comes from the Trinidad Telephone Co., which operates the telephone systems of Trinidad and Tobago. Capital expenditure amounted to £136,800, and stations increased by 1,200 to 12,216 at December 31st, 1948. The Trinidad public were invited to become shareholders and an issue of B.W.I. \$500,000 (£104,166) 5 per cent redeemable cumulative preference shares at par was heavily over-subscribed thus indicating the confidence felt in the company. The Trust also subscribed for a further B.W.I. \$450,000 (£93,750) ordinary shares. Additional large-scale development and reconstruction is in progress and contemplated, which initially is being financed by the Trust until such time as the telephone company desires to issue further capital to provide for expansion.

"In Barbados the telephone company with 3,700 stations—an increase of 399 during 1948—provides service like all the companies in which we are interested by the most modern type of automatic equipment. It spent over £31,000 upon capital development during the 15 months to December 31st, 1948. The company's accounting period was altered from end-September to facilitate consolidation in the Trust's group accounts. Further capital expenditure of over £60,000 is planned during 1949 and 1950."

West Indian Imports

Jamaica. With reference to the announcement on page 119 of the May issue of the CIRCULAR, the following items should be added to the list of goods which still require to be imported under a specific licence: cement; foundry coke; caustic soda; glycerine; soda ash.

The Molasses Order, 1949 (S.I. 1949, No. 1001) releases industrial (ethyl) alcohol, butyl alcohol, acetic acid and acetic anhydride from control as from June 1st, 1949. The ending of control will be accompanied by reversion to private trade.

(Continued from page 153)

Farming Co-operative. "Twenty-five Trinidad farmers, owning between them some thousands of acres of land, have started the Trinidad Farmers' Co-operative Limited. Their ultimate aim is to make the island self-supporting in every foodstuff that can be locally grown, and then to look for export trade.

Trade Fair. "A 15-day trade fair is planned for October this year, to be held on a section of the Port-of-Spain Docksite. Sponsors are Walters Trinidad Brewing Co.

Laventille Swamp. "The possibility of the Laventille swamp, near Port-of-Spain, being reclaimed by private enterprise has been hinted by the Colonial Secretary in talks with the Port-of-Spain City Council. The estimated cost of the reclamation is \$14,000,000."

West Indian Passenger List

Booker Line

Home arrivals, from British Guiana, in s.s. Arakaka (Captain J. Carter), at Liverpool, May 6th:—

Mr. & Mrs. M. B. Austin Mr. & Mrs. I. Grant Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Milne
Mr. & Mrs. A. Clifton Mr. & Mrs. P. Henderson

Sailings to British Guiana, in s.s. Arakaka (Captain J. McIntyre), from Liverpool, on May 17th:—

Mrs. E. P. Anderson F/O. & Mrs. W. R. Luck Mrs. A. M. Potts
Mrs. M. Davies Mrs. G. E. Mearns Mr. F. O. Richards
Mrs. M. E. Farrer Mrs. C. A. Miller Rev. & Mrs. N. Shellock
Mr. J. P. Lall

Fyffes Line

Home arrivals, from Jamaica, in s.s. Eros (Captain R. C. Vigers), at London, May 4th:—

Mr. R. Albartis Miss A. P. Levy Miss E. Ridley
Major & Mrs. Hallinan Mr. T. L. Lyons Mrs. A. Roxburgh
Mr. G. H. Humphreys Mrs. A. Melville Mr. P. E. Shepherd
Mr. R. Johnston Miss H. D. Orgill Mrs. C. Taylor
Mr. L. G. Lee Mr. A. W. Parchment Miss B. F. Wilson

Home arrivals, from Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), at Avonmouth, May 10th:—

JAMAICA
Mrs. B. N. Berridge Lady Eleanor Essendon Capt. & Mrs. R. Grist
Mr. & Mrs. J. Caithness Dr. & Mrs. W. Farquharson Mrs. P. K. Hartly
Mr. J. A. Cathedral Mr. & Mrs. R. Gabourel Mrs. G. N. Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. S. B. Chambers Miss M. F. Gairshore Mr. & Mrs. B. V. Shann
Vice Admiral & Mrs. W. D'Oyly Mr. & Mrs. A. Gillies Miss L. D. Sutton
Mr. H. T. Grant Mr. & Mrs. F. Wood

TRINIDAD
Mr. & Mrs. Alfounder Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Evered Mr. & Mrs. K. Stoker
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Bevis Mrs. M. Hill Mr. & Mrs. T. Thayson
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Cubitt Mr. & Mrs. P. O. Hosten Mr. & Mrs. E. Thomson
Mr. A. Douds Mr. & Mrs. H. Milligan Mr. & Mrs. G. Woodall
Lt.-Col. & Mrs. H. Dow Mr. & Mrs. H. Parry

Home arrivals, from Jamaica, in s.s. Manistee (Captain C. R. Holder), at London, May 17th:—

Mr. L. F. Cambridge Lt. B. Houghton-Berry Mr. C. Osborne, M.P.
Mrs. R. Deuchars Mr. & Mrs. R. Mannion Rev. & Mrs. F. Parkins
Miss E. B. Dias Miss P. L. McCurdy Miss A. G. Thomas
Mr. T. O. Ellis

Home arrivals, from Bermuda and Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain A. G. Jones), at Avonmouth, May 24th:—

Mr. E. W. Abrahamis Mrs. K. N. Dempster Miss A. H. Man
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Aris Capt. & Mrs. D. Dillon Col. & Mrs. H. W. Man
Mrs. I. M. Atkinson Miss K. O. Down Mrs. Y. Morse
Miss K. C. Boswell Mrs. B. Farrington Mr. & Mrs. R. Murray
Mrs. F. Cochrane Dr. & Mrs. T. P. Fielden Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Paskins
Mrs. N. Collingwood Col. P. & Mrs. Goldney Rev. & Mrs. H. Silverman
Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Cooper Mrs. M. T. Hogge Mr. & Mrs. M. N. Staight
Mr. F. Cox Mr. W. Ingram Mr. H. B. Tucker
Mrs. K. Cox Miss B. James Rev. R. O. Walker
Miss J. E. Deakin Mr. & Mrs. A. Keeling Dr. & Mrs. A. S.
Mrs. D. R. de Cordova Mr. W. G. Keith Westmorland

Jamaica Banana Producers' Steamship Co.

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Jamaica Producer (Captain G. E. M. Jenkins), from London, April 28th:—

Mr. H. G. Darber Dr. & Mrs. J. Goodey Mrs. E. Rosado
Mrs. E. Barlow Mr. V. R. Gooding Mrs. I. Sangster
Mr. & Mrs. G. W. Brisley Mrs. G. C. Hill Mrs. K. M. Stobo
Mrs. F. L. Bruce Mrs. G. Isaacs Capt. G. F. Stone
Mrs. M. Christmas Mr. S. James Mrs. I. Swift
Mr. W. N. Dickenson Mr. & Mrs. Mosley Mr. W. Taylor
Mrs. G. Gazez Mr. M. Powell Mr. R. M. Vevers Carter

Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

Home arrivals, from the West Indies, in s.s. Cottica (Captain A. Lokman), at Plymouth, May 12th:—

Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Bullen Mr. & Mrs. P. Highgate Mrs. M. E. Tucker
Mr. C. N. Chater Mr. & Mrs. W. Kingston Mr. & Mrs. Weatherhead
Mr. D. H. Evans Miss M. K. Laurie Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Yssel
Mrs. E. W. Gordon Mrs. H. Murray Muiden
Mr. & Mrs. R. Houghton Mr. & Mrs. P. Stoby Count G. Zichy

Home arrivals, from the West Indies, in s.s. Stuyvesant (Captain B. A. Molenaar), at Plymouth, April 21st:—

Mr. & Mrs. N. V. Bowen Miss J. M. Parry Mr. L. F. Seukeram
Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Edwards Mr. J. D. Pouder Mr. H. C. Thornton
Mrs. A. Fraser Mr. W. Prachner Mr. & Mrs. C. Woodhouse
Mr. & Mrs. T. Hope Bell Mr. K. F. Sealey

Sailings to Trinidad, in s.s. Stuyvesant (Captain A. Molenaar), from Dover, May 5th:—

Miss A. Bruce Miss G. Edwards Mrs. M. C. Thorneycroft
Mrs. C. A. Bunting Col. & Mrs. R. Lloyd-Still Dr. & Mrs. Z. P. Walczak
Miss P. A. Bunting Mrs. A. M. Sutton

The Markets

June 1st, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below:—

Dividend for Latest Year	Consols	Latest Quotation		Price year ago	
		78½	80½xd	76	78
2½	War Loan	101½	102½	102½	103½
20	Angostura Bitters	82/6	87/6xd	75/-	85/-xd
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	38/9	43/9xd	40/-	45/-xd
—	Antigua Sugar Factory	13/6	14/-	19/6	20/6
*30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	30/-	32/-	47/3	48/9
8	Barelays Bank (D.C. & O) "A"	50/-	54/-	57/6	61/6
14	Booker Bros. McConnell	80/-	85/-	97/6	107/6
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	28/9	31/3	29/4½	31/10½
8½	British Guiana Cons. Gold 3/9	1/1½	1/7½	2/-	2/6
8	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	3/-	3/9	3/-	4/-
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	21/3	22/6xd	23/9	26/3
*7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	4/6	5/6	6/-	7/-
12½	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	7/3	8/3	11/9	12/9
10	Liminer & Trinidad Asphalt. Ord.	46/10½	49/4½	45/-	50/-
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	—/6	1/6	1/6	2/6
8½	Royal Bank of Canada \$10	145/-	165/-	150/-	170/-
*17½	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	70/-	75/-	85/-	86/-
*3	St. Maedleine Sugar	18/1½	19/4½	17/6	18/9
10	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	19/-	21/-	22/-	23/6
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	1/3	2/3	2/9	3/9
*14	Trinidad Leaseholds 5/-	22/-	24/-	31/6	33/-xd
*16½	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	22/9	23/9	34/-	35/6
6	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 6% Pref.	21/6	23/6	24/-	26/-
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	5/3	6/3	5/9	8/9
8½	United British Oilfields 6/8	21/6	23/6	24/6	26/-
5	West Indies Sugar	17/6	20/-	23/9	26/3
6	West Indies Sugar 6% Pref.	22/6	25/-	24/-	26/-

* Free of income tax.

Honey is now free from Government control so far as distribution is concerned, but the price control (72/6 per cwt. c.i.f.) remains and import licences are still necessary. The Ministry of Food ask that the present price ceiling shall be observed and supplies to manufacturing chemists maintained.

Pimento. Spot is still offered at 1/2½ per lb., and forward shipment is quoted at 119/- c.i.f. U.K. Very little business is reported.

Ginger. Jamaica prices are still above the ideas of London buyers. Offers have been received for small quantities at 177/6 c.i.f. U.K. for No. 3, 182/6 for No. 2, and 200/- for No. 1, but buyers are not prepared to pay these prices at the moment.

Nutmegs. 80's are offered at 2/2 per lb. c.i.f., sound unassorted at 1/8, and defectives at 1/3. Business is reported at these prices but the quantity is not believed to be large.

Mace. Whole pale remains at 5/- per lb. c.i.f., and a small business has been done at this price. The spot trade is still quiet with whole pale quoted at 5/8 and broken at 1/- to 4/- according to quality.

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of April production of crude oil and casing head gasolene amounted to 255,204 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the four weeks ended May 6th was 528,625 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for April was 244,650 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of April crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 499,851 barrels.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Vol. LXIV

JULY, 1949

No. 1219

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LONDON, W.C.2.

Telegrams:
CARIB, ESTRAND, LONDON

July, 1949.

The Colonial Month

THE co-operation extended from all quarters to the venture designated COLONIAL MONTH, for an account of which we refer readers to our inside pages, must be a source of gratification to the SECRETARY OF STATE and all his officers. The co-operation has not been so complete that it has extended to the Clerk of the Weather—an embarrassing friend at most times in this country—who, by providing tropical conditions, has enticed many people elsewhere.

Still, the interest aroused has been such that attendances have been good—it has been stated that the key exhibit arranged by the CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION has proved to be the most popular ever held in their exhibition hall—and at the time of writing there is still most of the month to go. There have been, also, many counter-attractions—the Test Match, Wimbledon, Henley—but these pull both ways by attracting people to town who would otherwise not be there.

THE KING gave the venture a splendid send-off by his broadcast speech at the inauguration, which he described as “the beginning of a month in which we hope to link together in a closer fellowship than ever before the peoples of the British colonies, protectorates and trust territories, and the people of Britain herself, and more particularly the citizens of London.”

There is no doubt that despite the considerable extension of information on the colonies which has in recent years been made available, despite the additional attention said to be given to the colonial Empire in the school curriculum, despite the greater ease with which information is now disseminated by airmail, wireless and the films, far too few of the people in Britain are colony conscious. They take it for granted, for example, that certain vague people in certain vague colonies will keep them supplied with sugar at a price “within the reach of all,” as the slogan has it, and at the same time purchase British goods at prices which will permit of a handsome rake-off to maintain the standard of living of the people in Britain at the highest possible level. If they give a thought to the standard of living of those unfortunate colonials, it probably passes with the comforting reflection that large sums of money are being expended on their behalf by Development Corporations and Colonial Development and Welfare.

The Colonial Month is a combined operation undertaken in co-operation with the Colonial Office and the Central Office of Information by a number of societies, organizations, business firms and shops in London which have some special interest in colonial affairs, to bring

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home to the public in this country the importance of the colonies, and to inculcate some realization of the progress made in all directions by colonial peoples. Day by day, for a month, the people in London are being given the opportunity to gain, at little effort to themselves, an insight into the enormous strides which have been made in the colonies in agriculture, education, social welfare and health, and in the arts. With such insight many will revise their present outlook with benefit, not only to colonial peoples, but to themselves.

All concerned with the conception and execution of the venture are to be commended.

Agriculture Takes First Knock

LORD BOYD ORR was the recipient, at the third annual conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, of a specially struck medal presented as a tribute from the farmers of the world, following his retirement as director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

In acknowledging the gift, his lordship said that the food producer, except in war, had never received a just reward for his labours. Consumers in Europe before the war had cheap food only because it came from producers with a standard of living far too low. “The first thing we have to do to put agriculture right,” he said, “is to get a price for our products giving the same standard of living to producers and consumers alike. And a guaranteed market is essential to prevent a violent downswEEP of prices.”

Poverty in agriculture always started a downward spiral to general poverty and the only way to avoid it was to maintain the purchasing power of food producers and keep both the plough and the wheels of industry going. Agriculture always took the first knock because in industry people could easily get together and make agreements. He was glad to see the growing strength of farmers' organizations, and they should always remember that they would never hold a price line in any country unless they held a price line in international markets. If the price broke in export markets it would break in every country.

A recent survey in the United States had shown that soya beans and grain had fallen 40 per cent and the average for all agricultural produce was 15 per cent. Things the farmer bought fell only 2 per cent, and farmers were already cancelling orders for industrial

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From a Londoner's Notebook

THE inauguration by the King of a "Colonial Month" in London is a brave attempt to induce the people of the mother country to inform themselves more fully about the welfare of the vast territories for which they are ultimately responsible, and is the more timely because, owing to the continued restrictions on newsprint, it is impossible to supply them with adequate colonial intelligence through the Press. A gathering representing the peoples of the whole dependent Empire assembled to greet the King, and a fine guard of honour of the Gold Coast Mounted Police, who have come over specially to support the Month, was immensely popular. It is hoped that the various exhibitions that have been arranged will stimulate, what is most urgently to be desired for the benefit of both sides, a movement for English people to entertain colonial visitors, especially students, in their own home, and so send them back to their colonies with an understanding of English life from the inside.

* * *

Two important reports from royal commissions, which had been awaited for a long time, were published at the end of June. The Royal Commission on the Population, which had been sitting for five years, was originally appointed to inquire into what seemed the disastrous prospect that the population would fall rapidly in the next generation, and that simultaneously the average age would be increasing so fast that we should soon have more pensioners than young people working to maintain them. The commissioners' researches show that the situation is not quite so bad as that, largely owing to a sudden and big increase in the birthrate since the war. The annual rate was about 700,000 before 1939; but in 1947 it went to over a million, though it has dropped again since. But the high rate is not likely to be maintained; it seems to be the result of an epidemic of early marriages, and of the birth of children to newly married couples who there is no reason to suppose will go on to have large families. The average number of children per family is still estimated at its old rate of 2.2, which is just not enough to replace the parents' generation—though 2.4 would suffice.

* * *

In these circumstances social conditions seem to require measures to make parenthood more attractive; or rather, to mitigate those handicaps on parents in economic competition with childless people which now cause so many families to be deliberately limited to one or two. The Commission have proposed a number of improvements, such as increased family allowances and, what is more important, reliefs from taxation for those with family responsibilities. It is now for the Treasury and the Government to consider whether these proposals can be fitted into the national economy.

* * *

The second report, from the Royal Commission on the Press, is scarcely such a solid contribution to knowledge, not because its authors are less able and conscientious, but because it was by no means agreed that there was

any subject for inquiry at all. The Commission was appointed rather more than a year ago at the instigation of a group of Labour Members of Parliament, supported by the National Union of Journalists, which is under Socialist leadership; these people made comprehensive allegations that the Press was a monopolistic combination tending rather to suppress than to promote freedom of opinion, that it was controlled by secret and sinister financial interests, that news and views were manipulated at the dictation of advertisers, and so forth.

* * *

The Report of the Commission demolishes all the wilder charges, lock, stock and barrel. It shows that all important shades of opinion are adequately represented in a Press that is highly competitive, equally on its guard against monopoly and corruption, and as jealous of its independence of the advertising interests as of Government interference. The charges brought by the Union are contemptuously dismissed as unsupported by evidence, and consisting less of a reasoned criticism of the Press generally than of an attack on those papers that oppose the Socialist teaching. The Commission concludes that Great Britain possesses the best Press in the world, and has only one substantial recommendation to make, a rather vague proposal for the setting up, by the newspapers themselves, of a Press Council to maintain the standards of the profession.

* * *

Not unnaturally, the report has been received by the popular papers with pæans of congratulation and self-praise, and little space has been found to inform their readers of the more adverse findings. In fact, the Commission makes decidedly severe strictures on what it calls the "triviality" of the contents of most of the cheap London papers—the provincial papers offend less—of their inadequacy to equip their readers for the serious exercise of a voter's responsibility, and of the marked political bias with which such news as they do give of public affairs is selected and presented. The Commission find that, while the existing papers cover a sufficient range of political opinion, they fail to provide for a corresponding range of intellectual capacity among their readers. In effect, while there are a few high-quality papers addressing themselves to serious and educated students of public affairs, practically all cater for the mass mind, which they estimate at its lowest level; and for those whose tastes and capacities lie in between there is scarcely any provision. It will be a pity if the complacency of the Press on its acquittal of the graver charges causes these significant findings to be overlooked or quickly forgotten.

* * *

At the time of writing, we are threatened with restriction of water supplies in consequence of prolonged drought, which is unavoidable, and with a "go-slow" strike on the railways. [This has been avoided at the last moment. Ed.]. The rising cost of living, which is the misfortune of us all, presses hardly on the

(Continued on page 163)

The Colonial Month

Displaying The Colonies to The People

THE King, accompanied by the Queen, inaugurated Colonial Month at a ceremony held in the Hoare Memorial Hall in Church House, Westminster, on June 21st.

Troopers of the Gold Coast Mounted Police lined the entrance to Church House, and colonial scouts, guiders and nurses formed a passageway through which the Royal party passed on their arrival. These included two British West Indian scouts (J. Ramsey of Antigua and G. Sanford of British Guiana), six guiders (Miss J. Armstrong, Miss G. Clarke, Miss Joyce St. John, and Miss E. Williams of Barbados; Miss J. Roche of Bermuda and Miss B. Hall of British Honduras) and six nurses (Miss E. Walters of Barbados, Miss E. Alexander of British Guiana, Miss G. Chung of Jamaica, Miss R. Dove of Trinidad, Miss P. Kelsick of the Leeward Islands, and Miss M. Munro of the Windward Islands).

The King and Queen were received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. A. Creech Jones, and the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Sir Thomas Lloyd, and those who were presented to Their Majesties in the Secretary of State's room before the ceremony were Princess Alice and the Earl of Athlone; the Prime Minister and Mrs. Attlee; Mrs. Creech Jones; Lord Listowel, Minister of State; the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Mr. D. R. Rees-Williams, and Mrs. Rees-Williams; Lady Lloyd; Sir Charles Jefferies and Sir Arthur Poynton, Deputy Under-Secretaries of State.

The large assembly present included five former Secretaries of State for the Colonies (Lord Hall, Lord Salisbury, Lord Swinton, Lord Harlech and Mr. Oliver Stanley), three former Parliamentary Under-Secretaries (the Duke of Devonshire, Sir Drummond Shiels and Mr. Ivor Thomas), three former Permanent Under-Secretaries (Lord Rugby, Sir Cosmo Parkinson and Sir George Gater), the Lord Mayor of London and the Dean of Westminster.

Among the colonials who were invited were Mr. H. A. McKinney and Mr. S. Farrington of the Bahamas; Mr. C. Belfield Clarke and Dr. C. B. Clarke of Barbados; Sir Frederick Seaford and Mr. D. P. Debidin of British Guiana; the Most Reverend E. A. Dunn, Mr. C. W. Greenidge and Mr. S. G. Mayer of British Honduras; Mr. L. R. B. Robinson and Mr. E. B. Rodgers of Jamaica; Mr. P. L. U. Cross, Mr. Edric Connor and Mr. McDonald Moses of Trinidad; and Mr. E. C. King and Mrs. Elma Napier of the Windward Islands. The representatives of the many organizations and firms taking part in Colonial Month included Lady Worsley of the Victoria League, Lord Milverton of the Empire Day Movement, Sir Harry Lindsey, Imperial Institute, Colonel Archer Cust, Royal Empire Society and Mr. Robert Gavin, West India Committee.

The speech made by the King was as follows:—

"The Queen and I are very glad to be present here this morning. To-day is the beginning of a month in which we hope to link together in a closer fellowship than ever before the peoples of the British Colonies, Protectorates and Trust Territories, and the people of Britain herself,

and more particularly the citizens of London.

"I am glad that this is being done. It fills us with a deep sense of thankfulness that we are free to meet and plan together for the making of a world that will be closer to our hearts' desire.

"Little more than four years ago the world was still absorbed in a devastating war which threatened our very existence. Under Providence we overcame our enemies. Had we failed in war, there would have been an end of the co-operative advance towards freedom under law which is the hall-mark of the British Commonwealth. Moreover, many of my peoples would now be subject to a very different type of rule, and no such gathering as this could have taken place in London this year.

"My first thought, therefore, is once again to thank and praise all the peoples who are represented here to-day for the loyalty with which they supported my arms and for the splendid contribution which they made to victory.

Opportunities in the Commonwealth

"They did well for the Commonwealth, and also for themselves, since the boundless opportunities which are open to them in partnership with us can only be fully realized in a freedom-loving world.

"These opportunities are manifold: to enlarge our wealth by increase from the soil and by wise use of all its varied possibilities: to raise the standard of life for all peoples by means of the expanding revenues which only economic development can produce: to spread health, education and new vigour amongst peoples who have hitherto had little of those advantages: and, above all, to promote higher ideals and to strengthen the trust and comradeship between races upon which the peace and welfare of mankind now depend as they have never depended before.

"If we are to make full use of all these possibilities, we must remember to whom they are due—to generations of men and women of many different races who have laboured devotedly to weld the framework of our Commonwealth. Some of them are famous, others have left no name; but to their faith and work we owe the example and promise which the Commonwealth represents at the present time.

"In remembering those who have made our Commonwealth what it is to-day, I wish to pay special tribute to the Colonial Service. I take pride in the achievement of this devoted band of men and women, many of whom have gone out from British homes to bring peace and security to the colonial peoples, to give those peoples a fine tradition of service and to help them in their social and material progress.

"I thank all members of the Colonial Service for their work and I bid them go forward with confidence and courage in their high endeavour.

"I know that the Parliament of the United Kingdom has voted very large sums in order to help colonial governments to carry out the plans for improvement which they have prepared. I trust that those sums,

added to those already provided by the colonial territories themselves, will help colonial peoples in partnership with the United Kingdom to reach their common goal in the development of their lands.

"Nor does my hope end there. Money can do nothing unless peace and order are assured; nor can it improve the life of peoples without their own co-operation.

"Progress depends upon a true sense of partnership between all sections of society, rulers and ruled, each giving of its best to the Commonwealth; and I look confidently to the traditional rulers and chiefs, and also to the political leaders and representative bodies, to promote co-operation in their various spheres and to set their faces against faction and the sowing of distrust.

"There are present here to-day many representatives of the colonial peoples to whom I can speak directly in this hall. I am glad to give them personally a message of goodwill from the Queen and myself, and from all the people of London.

"We in the United Kingdom regard it as a high privilege to welcome men and women from the colonies who come here for study, business or recreation. They are our fellow-citizens, and we want them to feel at home here and to profit by their stay amongst us.

"I appreciate very greatly the work of the societies and organizations which do so much for the welfare and enjoyment of the colonial visitor, and I am grateful too, to the many thousands of private individuals who show kindness and hospitality to our colonial guests.

"I want also to acknowledge what has been achieved by societies here for the spread of knowledge in Britain about territories overseas. I hope that this good work will continue and prosper.

"We are here, then, to inaugurate the Colonial Month in London. It gives me much pleasure to know that, during this month the people of London and her visitors from other parts of the United Kingdom will have every chance of learning more about their fellow-citizens in the colonial territories.

"It is a matter of much satisfaction to me that so many organizations of different kinds are generously co-operating in this venture.

"I look forward with special pleasure to visiting the exhibition 'Focus on Colonial Progress' which opens to-day, and I congratulate those who have worked to make it a vivid and convincing portrait of the colonies, their peoples and their problems. I wish every success to the enterprise."

West Indians meet The King

After the speech representatives of 32 colonial territories were presented to the King. The British West Indians included among these were the Hon. A. K. Solomon, Bahamas; Flying Officer E. W. Barrow, Barbados; the Hon. E. G. Gibbons, Bermuda; the Hon. Dr. J. B. Singh, British Guiana; Mr. A. F. Masson, British Honduras; Mr. Arthur Wint, Jamaica; and Mr. L. N. Constantine, Trinidad.

Many thousands gathered outside Church House to welcome the King and Queen, and the various exhibitions have been well patronized despite the fact that up to the time of drafting this account the weather has been so hot that visitors have insisted that the specially heated sample of African jungle in the main exhibit at the Central Office of Information Exhibition Hall

was cooler than Oxford Street.

This central feature, entitled "Focus on Colonial Progress," is stated to have proved to be the most popular exhibition yet staged in the Hall. It exhibits tableaux showing the many types of people who live in the colonial territories, a section describing how the British came to various parts of the Empire, and another illustrating the pattern of colonial government. In a display of art objects and pictures are to be seen paintings by D. Williams of British Guiana, a carving in wood ("Vision") by R. C. Moody of Jamaica, and two well-modelled heads by G. Tyrell of Jamaica which merited display to better advantage.

The main products of the colonies are well indicated, and the section dealing with problems of tropical agriculture holds the visitors for a long time. Among the plant diseases illustrated are swollen shoot of cocoa and Panama disease and leaf spot of bananas; there are very good exhibits to acquaint people with mosquitoes, locusts and tsetse fly; and a panorama gives quite a good idea of the ravages which can be caused by soil erosion. There is, of course, an exhibit to acquaint visitors with the groundnut and its uses, and a persistent traffic block at a film showing methods of agriculture in the colonies. Health and protective services have a good section too, while an exhibit by the Crown Agents of colonial postage stamps, framed in appropriate colonial woods, kills two birds with one stone.

Besides the central exhibit, there are many ancillary displays arranged by organizations and institutions, travel agencies, big stores, and commercial firms. Space forbids a description of these, but a selection from the official list of displays is given below. The West India Committee has participated with an exhibit staged in two rooms of the office premises to which attention is drawn by the flags of the West Indian colonies flown in front of the building, and a window display. The exhibit shows the products of the various colonies. There are West Indian art objects, carvings and paintings, to which a display of Sea Island cotton fabrics makes a most effective foil. Much interest has been shown in a collection of old West Indian books and manuscripts, and in particular the old minute book of the West India Committee which records appreciation of the services rendered by Sir Joseph Banks and Captain Bligh in connexion with the introduction of breadfruit into the West Indies.

Other exhibits are to be seen at the Imperial Institute, the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Public Record Office, the National Portrait Gallery, the Royal Geographical Society, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Royal United Service Association, the Royal Anthropological Institute, the International African Institute, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Church Missionary Society, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the Horniman Museum and Library, and the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Associations. These exhibits are each of special interest in connexion with the activities of the organization concerned. A full-scale working telegraph circuit of the kind used to link the colonies with the rest of the world is being demonstrated at the "Daily Express" offices in Fleet Street, and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and the Zoological Society's Gardens feature the flora, plant products, and fauna of the colonies.



THE COLONIAL MONTH—ARRIVAL OF THE KING AND QUEEN AT COLONIAL OFFICE



LORD LISTOWEL AT THE WEST INDIES EXHIBITION



COLONIAL MONTH—TWO OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION EXHIBITS

Colonial Supplies and Prices

A CONFERENCE of Colonial Supplies Officers took place at the Colonial Office from June 8th to 17th.

Discussions at the conference, in which officials of the Colonial Office and of other United Kingdom Departments concerned also took part, centred around two needs: first, the need for colonial territories to have access to the supplies required for their general economic stability and welfare, and for the execution of their development programmes, and secondly, the need to ensure not only that these supplies are obtained with as little expenditure of hard currency as possible but that they should make the maximum contribution towards the solution of the dollar problem.

Against the background of this common purpose, the conference reviewed the world supply of the goods which colonial territories require to import, such as steel, cement, machinery, motor vehicles, food-stuffs, textiles, and so on.

Meetings also took place between the colonial delegates and representatives of the Federation of British Industries, the chairman of the Cotton Board, and with the chairman and representatives of the British Motor Manufacturers, at which were discussed the availability and suitability to colonial needs and conditions of British goods of many types.

Amongst other questions discussed at the conference were the many technical problems which arise in the operation of import and exchange controls, and the position of colonial territories in relation to such matters as the European Recovery Programme and bi-lateral trade agreements with foreign countries.

Addressing the conference, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. A. Creech Jones, said that one of the most difficult questions which the conference had had to consider was the problem of relative prices of imports against the background of the need to protect the common gold and dollar reserves of the sterling area. There were in this problem two needs of very great importance to colonial territories—*one*, the need to watch the cost of living and the cost of production, and the other, the need to make our maximum contribution towards maintaining and increasing the strength of sterling, which was so vital to all of us.

The West Indian colonies and Bermuda were represented by the following:—

- BAHAMAS: Mr. A. K. Cole, O.B.E., Director Supplies.
 BARBADOS: Mr. F. A. Bishop, Assistant Controller of Supplies.
 BERMUDA: Mr. W. W. Davidson, Chairman Bermuda Supplies Committee, Mr. P. W. Feakins, Mr. Trees, Sec. Commission.
 BRITISH GUIANA: Mr. J. L. Fletcher, Senior Controller of Supplies.
 BRITISH HONDURAS: Mr. J. Thomas, Controller of Imports.
 JAMAICA: Mr. S. Bloomberg, Collector General Ch., Trade Control Board of Taxes.
 LEEWARD ISLES: Mr. E. H. Edwards, Assistant Colonial Secretary.
 DOMINICA: Mr. L. A. Pinard, Assistant Government Secretary.
 GRENADA, ST. LUCIA AND ST. VINCENT: Mr. E. C. Knight, Controller of Supplies, Grenada.
 TRINIDAD: Mr. L. P. Spence, Controller, Customs and Excise.

B.W.I. Sugar Deputation

The board of directors of the British West Indies Sugar Association (Inc.), at a meeting in Trinidad on June 7th and 8th, considered the position in regard to the Association's long-outstanding request to the United Kingdom Government for a 10-year purchase guarantee for British Caribbean export sugar, at negotiated prices.

Much concern was expressed at reports that a large section of opinion in the United Kingdom favoured a return to open-market conditions, entailing the purchase of British West Indian sugar at so-called world prices, which are in fact the prices paid for dumped surpluses.

This matter being one of vital importance to the future of the industry and of the British West Indies as a whole, it was decided to send a deputation to Britain to collaborate with the West India Committee in fighting the issue.

The Hon. H. E. Robinson, of Trinidad, the Hon. H. A. Cuke, of Barbados, Mr. G. M. Eccles, of British Guiana, and the Hon. R. L. M. Kirkwood, of Jamaica, comprise the deputation. Mr. Eccles arrived in England in June, and the other three delegates, after visiting Canada, reached England by air on July 2nd.

Commissioner of Montserrat

Mr. Charlesworth Ross Appointed

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Mr. Charlesworth Ross, Crown Attorney and Magistrate, Montserrat, to be Commissioner of Montserrat, in place of Mr. H. Burrowes, whose appointment as Administrator of St. Kitts was recently announced.

Mr. Ross was born in Antigua, in 1910, and was educated at Antigua Grammar School and at King's College, University of London. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1934. In the same year he was appointed Inspector of Schools in Antigua, and in 1937 was transferred to the Secretariat in Antigua. In 1940 he became a District Officer in Dominica, and three years later a District magistrate in the Leeward Islands. He was transferred to his present post in 1948.

The University College

Dr. John Parry, tutor and librarian at Clare College, Cambridge, has been appointed to the Chair of Modern History at the University College of the West Indies. His appointment will date from September 1st.

Dr. Parry, who is 35, gained a first class in both parts of the Historical Tripos at Cambridge University. He studied at Harvard University from 1936 to 1937 as a Henry Research Fellow. In 1938 he was elected a Fellow of Clare College and in 1939 he graduated Ph.D.

From 1940 to 1945, Dr. Parry served with the Royal Navy. After returning to Cambridge he was elected, in 1947, tutor and librarian at Clare College. He was senior proctor from 1947 to 1948.

He is the author of *The Spanish Theory of Empire, The Audiencia of New Galicia* and *Europe and a Wider World, 1415-1715*.

Home and Colonial Sugar

A Further Letter to "The Times"

IN the April issue of the CIRCULAR we reproduced a letter from Mr. J. M. Campbell, deputy-chairman of the West India Committee, published in *The Times* of March 25th, in which he drew attention to the differential treatment accorded to home grown beet and colonial cane sugar.

A further letter from Mr. Campbell, on the same subject, appeared in *The Times* of June 2nd, and was as follows:—

The economic dependence of the British West Indies upon long-term contracts being granted and fair prices paid for their exports of sugar was given prominence twice last week in the House of Commons. In Thursday's debate* on Government bulk buying even its most vehement opponents admitted that there was a strong case for exceptional treatment for colonial primary products, sugar being specifically mentioned, while Mr. Foot, supported on both sides of the House, stated forcibly the case of the British West Indian sugar producer. In Friday's discussion on the Colonial Development and Welfare Bill, West Indian sugar was again to the fore: indeed never before in the history of the British West Indies can their economic cause have been so championed in the House of Commons.

In spite, however, of the growing realization in Parliament of the true interests of the British West Indies, and of the best, if not the only, means of their achievement, there is as yet no concrete evidence that the Government's policy towards these colonies is being affected. There is no change in that attitude—stated in my letter to *The Times* of March 25th—which can lead to the just demands of the British beet sugar grower being met while those of the West Indian cane grower are rejected, although based on identical grounds. Here let it be remembered that all available evidence is that the British West Indian sugar industry is thoroughly efficient and could always compete in a completely free world market if such a market existed. British beet could not. Serious talk of an early delegation to this country of political representatives of all the British West Indian territories, and recent Press cuttings from local papers which I have received, show rising tempers at the continued failure of His Majesty's Government to give practical effect to their repeated protestations of interest in West Indian development and well-being.

To quote but one such cutting: "We cannot understand the principles of a Government which says it thinks in Commonwealth and social terms and yet considers that the wages and profits of British agriculture are more important to be safeguarded than the wages and profits of colonial agriculture." In the light of this almost unanimous agreement both throughout the British West Indies and in the Parliament of Westminster as to the fundamental needs of these British colonies and how to meet them, is it not reasonable to hope that the Government should without further

*See issue for June, pp. 135-8. Editor, *West India Committee Circular*.

delay, re-examine their effective policy and grant to British West Indian sugar producers the structure of security which they ask and without which there can be but despair for the future of 3,000,000 British people?

Bulk Purchase of Sugar

The following letter from Mr. R. L. M. Kirkwood, the Legislative Council, Jamaica, appeared in *The Times* in its issue of June 11th:—

The report of the House of Commons debate on Government bulk buying is now available here. Jamaicans note with relief a growing appreciation of the inter-connexions between long-term purchase agreements and Commonwealth relations, but two points merit added emphasis.

First, the terms of trade of this colony with the United Kingdom as compared with before the war are distinctly to our disadvantage. If the year 1938 is taken as 100, the indices of our exports and imports stand at 226 and 303 respectively. Secondly, taking the British West Indian staple product, sugar, a fall of 10 per cent in the present price, combined with shrinking outlets for by-products, would involve most of our factories in operating losses. In this event the only means of keeping the sugar industry going would be a reduction in wages; surely this would be an unthinkable expedient having regard to the prevailing low standards of living in these colonies and the rising cost of essential imports from the United Kingdom.

The following letter from Mr. J. B. Cuthill, managing director of Jamaica Sugar Estates, Ltd., addressed to the editor of the *Glasgow Herald*, appeared in that journal of May 31st:—

In your excellent leading article on the subject of bulk purchasing on May 27th you state "in the case of long term contracts between Britain and the Dominions there is a stabilizing value which is in the interest of both producer and consumer." The purpose of this letter is to point out that this stabilizing value is of prime importance to our colonies who are dependent on fair prices for their agricultural exports.

The public should be reminded of the plight of the sugar-producing colonies between the wars when they had to compete with dumped sugar unloaded on the British market by Cuba and other large producers after selling the bulk of their sugar to the United States at economic prices.

It is not generally realized that under the present bulk purchasing of sugar the price paid to the colonies is only about half the price of beet sugar grown in this country. If we abandoned bulk purchasing from the colonies there would be a return to the appalling conditions and starvation wages paid to the sugar workers which resulted in the riots in the West Indies in 1938.

If we wish to avoid a wild fire of Communism in these colonies we must forget about the cheap breakfast table and make up our minds to continue to pay fair prices for colonial produce. It has to be remembered also that during the dollar shortage the British market is the only one open to the colonial peoples who have no defence against the steadily rising cost of our exports.

West Indian Shipping Services

Report to Trinidad Chamber of Commerce

THE following report was prepared by a special committee, appointed by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce to consider the Commonwealth Shipping Committee's report on West Indian Shipping Services, for submission to the general meeting of the chamber held on May 26th, 1949.

With reference to the suggestion in regard to the formation of a representative association of shippers and shipowners in London, under *Paragraph 163—(6)* below, it has already been reported (*CIRCULAR*, May, 1949, page 118) that the Colonial Office had formally invited the West India Committee to take the necessary action to carry out the recommendation of the Commonwealth Shipping Committee.

The Merchants' and Shippers' Standing Committee of the West India Committee was inaugurated at a meeting held in the offices of the West India Committee on June 21st. It is contemplated that a working committee, the personnel of which will be known later, will be appointed to press forward the work of this organization.

Text of the Report

In accordance with our terms of reference we have considered the Commonwealth Shipping Committee's report on West Indian Shipping Services.

We noted that reference is made in the report to the recommendations of the fact-finding meeting on shipping of representatives of interested colonies, which was convened by the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies and held at Barbados in July, 1947. As we consider it desirable that a unified West Indian opinion in regard to the recommendations submitted in the report should be obtained, we suggest that it should be referred to a further meeting of the same representatives, or, alternatively, to the British Caribbean Shipping Committee which the fact-finding meeting recommended in paragraph 27 of their report should be set up.

Our observations on the "Conclusions and Recommendations" detailed in paragraph 163 of the Commonwealth Shipping Committee's report are as follows:—
Paragraph 163—(1).

In this paragraph it is stated:—

"It is our view that a passenger service should be provided between the United Kingdom and the Eastern Caribbean, with ships having accommodation for 50-75 persons and with a speed of not less than 16-17 knots. The service should, if possible, give fortnightly outward sailings, but not less frequently than monthly."

The service referred to above would provide for between 600 and 900 passengers each way per annum if the sailing were monthly, and between 1,300 and 1,950 if the sailings were fortnightly. These figures contrast with an average of 3,200 passengers each way per annum between the United Kingdom and the Eastern Caribbean Colonies for the years 1937 and 1938.

Such a service, if available now, would, in our opinion, be of considerable help, but it is obvious that the total accommodation suggested would be quite inadequate for the volume of passenger traffic moving from and to the Eastern Caribbean.

Before the war, passenger services by various lines, British and foreign, between the United Kingdom and the Eastern Caribbean group offered potential passenger accommodation far in excess of the requirements of these colonies, despite the fact that the foreign ships carried passengers between South American countries and Europe.

It is generally assumed that more people will travel in the future than was the case before the war, and a large majority of these will undoubtedly prefer to travel by the largest and fastest ships available. It is significant that a foreign line has already made plans to build for their West Indies service two ships having accommodation far surpassing those of the vessels recommended in the Commonwealth Shipping Committee's report.

In the memorandum which we prepared in March, 1946, we stated that it was appreciated that it would not be an economic proposition to operate solely between the United Kingdom, Barbados and Trinidad, vessels comparable to those of foreign lines, and suggested that the fast combined passenger and cargo fortnightly service which we recommended should be operated by a British line might with advantage be extended to: (i) Jamaica; (ii) Ports in Venezuela, Colombia and Panama; and (iii) European continental ports. We therefore do not understand why in paragraph 151 of the report, the Committee omitted any reference to the Continent and based their findings in relation to the question of trade between Venezuela, Colombia, and the United Kingdom only.

It is obvious that a passenger ship, having to keep to a schedule, cannot waste time in port, but that does not mean that she should not be able to carry a certain amount of fine freight of a type which is quickly loaded on and off, such as fruit, cocoa, coffee, and perhaps sugar, homeward, and small package cargo on the outward run. We cannot see why, with the facilities offering in Trinidad, 1,000 tons of freight could not be loaded in 24 hours, and a minimum of 500 tons unloaded in a similar time.

We are of the opinion that a British line providing a service such as we previously recommended would obtain a satisfactory volume of the freight offering between the United Kingdom and the British West Indies, as it is obvious that many shippers and importers would avail themselves of the opportunity to have goods shipped by a vessel arriving from 10 to 12 days after sailing, instead of the much longer time now taken by cargo ships.

The ships we have in mind for the service would be primarily passenger and mail ships, but during the season they could carry considerable quantities of fresh and canned citrus from both Trinidad and Jamaica,

while out of season they could get other kinds of freight which would go a long way to assisting in paying the expenses of running the service.

We repeat that we are of the opinion that the ships recommended by the Commonwealth Shipping Committee will prove inadequate for the requirements of the colonies, but in the event, however, of any action being contemplated to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 163—(1), we strongly urge:—

- (a) That the ships should have accommodation for about 100 passengers divided into two classes, i.e., cabin and tourist.
- (b) That the suggested speed of not less than 16-17 knots should be regarded as a minimum bearing in mind the usefulness of the ships and the period for which they will be in service.
- (c) That as it is reasonable for the travelling public to expect a fortnightly service, every effort should be made to meet this requirement.

As we do not know the results of any action taken to implement the recommendation of the Commonwealth Shipping Committee that as a first step the United Kingdom Government should seek proposals from shipowners, we suggest that the Trinidad Government should be asked to communicate with the Secretary of State for the Colonies enquiring as to what action has been taken along these lines, and with what results.

We would point out that the Commonwealth Shipping Committee did not make any recommendations for relieving the acute shortage of passenger accommodation between the United Kingdom and the Eastern Caribbean in the interim period. Surveys indicate that it is unlikely that during 1949 and 1950 the allocation of passages on vessels of regular lines on this route will exceed 1,000 each way per annum. We trust, therefore, that the Secretary of State for the colonies will continue to take all possible steps with the object of ensuring that relief vessels are provided to carry passengers during the peak travelling months.

Paragraph 163—(2).

As the recommendation in this paragraph relates to sea communications between British Honduras and the United Kingdom, we have no comment to offer in regard thereto.

Paragraph 163—(3).

We have not been able to obtain any estimate as to the demand for passenger accommodation from the colony to India, and understand that no authentic information is available as to the probable demand for passages from India to the Caribbean area, but that the Indian Commissioner in Trinidad has taken the matter up with his Government. No doubt when the interested shipowners obtain an indication of the potential passenger traffic, they will go into the question of providing a service to meet the anticipated requirements.

Paragraph 163—(4).

As regards inter-island sea communications, we are of the opinion that certain types of cargo, particularly ground provisions and fruit, will continue to be shipped by schooners. As, however, this mode of transport is obviously unsuitable for other types of freight, including goods required to be shipped in refrigerated space and for passenger traffic, it is apparent that schooners can never take care of all the requirements, and, there-

fore, that it is very important that adequate service by other vessels should be available.

So far as this colony is concerned, the services provided at present are sufficient to take care of the inward and outward traffic with the other islands, but we are confident that Trinidad, being an important transhipment centre, will be willing to co-operate with the other colonies in endeavouring to bring about any desired improvement in inter-island communications.

We suggest that with the object of obtaining an indication of the inter-island shipping requirements, Government should be asked to approach the Caribbean Commission or the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies for statistics showing separately the volume in shipping tons of Inter-West Indian trade in (1) local products, and (2) transhipment cargo, for the past few years.

Paragraph 163—(5).

We agree with the recommendation in this paragraph relative to the provision of cold-storage plants for fresh citrus fruit awaiting shipment, and understand that the matter is receiving the consideration of the Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd.

Paragraph 163—(6).

In this paragraph the Commonwealth Shipping Committee recommended that a representative association comprising shippers and shipowners should be formed to discuss outstanding differences and questions of mutual concern relating to West Indian trade.

We do not feel that it would be practicable to form such an Association in the West Indies, as the interested shipowners do not have their headquarters in these colonies, but are represented therein by agents who have no power to take decisions in regard to trans-Atlantic freight rates, etc., and who therefore require to refer such matters to their Principals.

In the circumstances we suggest that the proposed association should be formed in London, and that the West India Committee should be approached to represent the interests of West Indian importers and exporters.

So far as local importers and exporters are concerned, we are of the opinion that there are already sufficient channels through which representations in regard to local shipping matters could be directed to the West India Committee for submission to the proposed association, e.g., the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated), the Trinidad Commission Agents Association, Trinidad Provision Dealers Association (1935) Ltd., the Petroleum Association of Trinidad, the Sugar Manufacturers' Association of Trinidad (Inc.), Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, Cocoa Exporters' Association, and Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago, Ltd.

As regards shipping matters of interest to the West Indies generally, we consider that representations could appropriately be directed through the Incorporated Chambers of Commerce of the British Caribbean.

Members of the West India Committee are invited to further the work of the Committee by introducing suitable candidates for election.

The Birthday Honours

THE Birthday Honours contained the following names of West Indian interest:—

G.C.M.G.

SIR JOHN HUGGINS, K.C.M.G., M.C., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief, Jamaica.

K.C.M.G.

MR. ARTHUR HILTON POYNTON, C.M.G., Deputy Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

KNIGHT BACHELOR

MR. FREDERICK JACOB SEAFORD, C.B.E. For public services in British Guiana.

C.M.G.

MR. DONALD CHARLES MACGILLIVRAY, M.B.E., Colonial Administrative Service, Colonial Secretary, Jamaica.

C.B.E.

MR. HAROLD GEORGE CHRISTIE. For public services in the Bahamas.

MR. HENRY PARRY, General Manager, Port Services, Trinidad.

MR. GEORGE EDWARD FUGL RICHARDS, lately Puisne Judge, Leeward Islands.

O.B.E.

MR. GEORGE ARTHUR CYRIL FARNUM. For public services in British Guiana.

MR. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE GORDON. For public services in Jamaica.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL REGINALD ALEXANDER ERSKINE-LINDOP, Colonial Police Service, Deputy-Commissioner of Police, Trinidad.

MR. CECIL CARRINGTON SKELTE, Colonial Agricultural Service, Director of Agriculture, Windward Islands.

MR. PERCIVAL ELISHA TURNER, Colonial Agricultural Service, Sugar Agronomist, Development and Welfare Organization, West Indies.

M.B.E.

MRS. ETHEL ADDERLEY. For public services in the Bahamas.

MRS. MARCELLINE ARCHBALD. For public services in Trinidad.

MR. CECIL EARLE CRAWFORD, Headmaster, Senior School, Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands.

MR. DOON PUNDIT. For missionary services in Trinidad.

MR. SHAFTO MOODIE FRENCH. Excise Officer in charge of Rum Stores, Jamaica.

MR. HILTON RUPERT HAREWOOD. Publicity and Information Officer, British Guiana.

MR. ALFRED OWEN LONGSWORTH, Registrar-General British Honduras.

MILLIE, MRS. NEVERSON. For public services in Bermuda.

MISS JOSEPHINE CAROLINE SELMAN, Chief Health Visitor to the Municipality of Georgetown, British Guiana.

MISS MABEL GERTRUDE WHITE, Matron, Bermuda Nursing Home.

B.E.M.

MR. VINCENT FELIX DE CORDOVA, Senior Foreman, Government Railway, Jamaica.

IMPERIAL SERVICE ORDER

[COMPANIONS]

MR. FRANK AUSTIN BISHOP, Assistant Secretary, Colonial Secretary's Office, Barbados.

MR. LISLE AUBREY CHASE, Social Welfare Officer, Barbados.

MR. CHARLES BICHES NEWBOLD, Chief Technical Officer, Planning and Housing Commission, Trinidad.

COLONIAL POLICE MEDAL

CHARLES EDWARD BARROW, Inspector, Trinidad Police Force.

ERIC IGNATIUS HONORE, Sergeant-Major, Grenada Police Force.

LAWFORD KNAGGS, Senior Company Officer, Trinidad Volunteer Fire Brigade.

ERNEST MAEER, Superintendent, Trinidad Police Force.

JAMES NATHANIEL RICKETTS, Inspector, Jamaica Constabulary.

THEOPHILUS ROBERTS, Inspector, Trinidad Police Force.

OSWALD ERASMUS SAMPSON, Sergeant-Major, British Guiana Police Force.

JOSEPH CASPARD STAUBLE, Divisional Commander, Trinidad Volunteer Fire Brigade.

FLAVIUS ALEXANDER CEPHUS STEVENS, Constable, Leeward Islands Police Force.

SAMUEL OCTAVIUS WILLIAMS, Inspector, Jamaica Constabulary.

Empire Health Conference

The list of members of the second Commonwealth and Empire Health and Tuberculosis Conference, held at the Central Hall, Westminster, London from July 5th to 8th, included the names of the following from the British West Indies, British Guiana and Bermuda: Bahamas, Mr. H. F. Knowles; Bermuda, Dr. C. Baron Wainwright; British Guiana, Dr. L. G. Eddey; Jamaica, Dr. Joyce Tate and Dr. W. J. S. Wilson; Trinidad, Nurse Lucy Fields and Mr. J. Mangatal.

(Continued from page 158)

lowest paid workers on the nationalized railways; but the National Union of Railwaymen, rejecting the offer of the Railway Executive to temper the wind to these shorn lambs, demands under threat an increase of 10s. a week all round, for the higher paid men as well as the lower. The simple and necessary answer to this is that the railways, which are already running at a heavy loss, cannot afford it. There are some trade union leaders who have yet to learn that nationalization cannot suspend the laws of economics and arithmetic; that the workers in an industry, nationalized or not, can get from it no more than they collectively earn; and that to try to force the government—which means the tax-payer—to give them more is only to seize for themselves what has been earned by their fellow-workers in other industries.

Correspondence

West Indian Sugar Industry

SIR,

May I express appreciation, as a West Indian, of Mr. J. M. Campbell's plea in *The Times* of June 2nd for a long-term contract by H.M.'s Government to buy British colonial sugar?

Ever since the second half of the last century when the price of sugar collapsed, to recover only during the two world wars and to fall again in the interval between them, there has been poverty in the West Indies, where the majority are dependent on the cane-sugar industry. The late Lord Olivier, a former Governor of Jamaica and the chairman of a West Indian Sugar Commission, maintained that general Imperial policy had been designed to keep the price of sugar low for consumers in the United Kingdom at the expense of coloured labour in the colonies—the cost of sugar has long been lower in the United Kingdom than in any other European country—and that the real cost of cheap sugar here could be measured in terms of the sufferings of the colonial workers attached to the cane-sugar industry. His Commission recommended bulk purchasing at a remunerative price, which was not accepted either by the Labour Government to which it was made or by the succeeding Conservative Governments until the exigencies of war compelled them to adopt it in 1939.

Under bulk purchase there has been an annual increase, until this year, in the price of colonial sugar, with corresponding increases in the wages of the workers; but the Report of the Soulbury (1949) Commission on the Sugar Industry of Trinidad states (p. 121) that "the rise in the cost of imports has exceeded the rise in the price of sugar and the workers, in spite of better wages, are little—if at all—better off than before the war," and that "if the Government of the United Kingdom is to realize its desire to raise the standard of living in the British West Indies, it should, in the opinion of the sugar producers, guarantee to purchase British colonial sugar over a long period—say, ten years—at a remunerative level." The greatest need in the colonies is prices for their products stabilized at a remunerative level. Otherwise, in the words of the Governor of Kenya, "it is idle to talk of colonial welfare, until prices are paid for colonial products to make welfare possible."

Colonials have read that Ministers of the Crown have affirmed that British colonial policy is one of partnership, that the colonies are to be developed and that high hopes are held out that the sale of their products to "hard currency" countries will go far towards providing dollars now in short supply for the needs of Britain and her colonies. Their dollar resources are pooled with those of the mother country and they are compelled by currency controls to buy food and clothing from sterling countries which they could get more cheaply from dollar countries. They, therefore, wonder what kind of partnership it is which assures to the workers in the beet-sugar industry of this country, by means of bounties, a living wage, while H.M.'s Government hesitates to promise colonial sugar producers a price for their sugar which would keep the wolf from the door. H.M.'s

Governments have never failed to shoulder their responsibilities, even if tardily, and we believe that they will do so in this case as in others; but they should realize that hope deferred maketh the heart sick and that there is a limit to the patience of the workers in the colonial sugar industry.

Yours, etc.

Denison House,
Vauxhall Bridge Road,
London, S.W.1.

C. W. W. GREENIDGE.

June 13th, 1949.

Reduction of U.K. Sugar Duties

IN the House of Commons on June 22nd, clause 6 of the Finance Bill was discussed in Committee. The clause reduces the duty on imported refined sugar wherever it comes from, by 11s. 8d. per cwt., and that on unrefined sugar, molasses and glucose by the corresponding amounts. It also introduces corresponding reductions in the rates of duty on home-produced beet sugar, molasses and glucose. Preferential margins remain unchanged.

The new duties, and the reason given by Sir Stafford Cripps for their introduction, were reported in the May issue of the CIRCULAR, page 108. Sir Stafford stated that the proposed remissions were an adjustment to help prevent a prospective rise in food subsidies, and amounted, in reality, merely to a book-keeping change.

This claim was repeated in Committee by Mr. Douglas Jay, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, but the argument was refuted by speakers on the ground that a permanent device for collecting revenue was to be waived merely because at the moment that revenue (or some other) was being used to keep down the price of sugar. It was also contended that to tax the consumer of sugar on his consumption and then subsidize the price to him to try to relieve him of his troubles could hardly be called straightforward book-keeping. A statement by Mr. Jay that the idea of a diminution in the general cost of sugar became more academic with every year that went by was unacceptable to more than one speaker, and it was pointed out that there is at the present time ample evidence to show that sugar prices are falling along with other commodity prices.

Questioned as to the reason for an increase this year of £2 million in sugar subsidies, Mr. Jay stated that consumption of sugar had risen this year as compared with last year. He did not agree that because the duties were originally imposed as revenue duties there could be no case for reducing them. They could be raised again at any time.

(Continued from page 157)

goods. Farming was industry's big market, yet when the slump came farming took the knock first.

The United States was aiming to raise the income of farmers to the income level of people in other industries, but what about surpluses? The nations needed a world market to absorb them. "Food for the people and expanding world trade are the only road to peace, and peace itself means everybody living in a balanced economy."

Stabilization of Prices of Agricultural Products

Policy of International Federation of Agricultural Producers

THE likelihood of heavy surpluses of agricultural products was the foremost topic at the third annual conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers held at Guelph, Ontario, from May 31st to June 11th, and everywhere delegates had been urged to devise measures to prevent a repetition of the slump of the 1920's.

A sub-committee was entrusted with the formulation of a policy on price stabilization, and prepared a report on the basis of which the Guelph conference instructed its executive committee to request the council of the Food and Agriculture Organization, meeting at Paris this month :—

- (a) to give urgent consideration to the special action programme outlined in the report [below] ;
- (b) to consider recommending to governments the convening in the immediate future by the director-general of F.A.O. of international conferences to consider inter-governmental agreements on cotton, feed grains and concentrates, sugar, wool, wood pulp and rice ; and
- (c) to instruct its staff to prepare specific recommendations for consideration by the council and conference of F.A.O. with respect to any agricultural commodities, other than those referred to in (b) above, upon which inter-governmental agreements are deemed desirable.

The recommendations in the report, as given in a special issue of *The British Farmer*, the official journal of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, are as follows :—

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers, comprising nation-wide independent farm and agricultural co-operative farm organizations of 25 countries :—

- (a) Welcomed in 1946 the adoption by governments of the objectives of World Food Board proposals put to the Copenhagen conference of F.A.O. ;
- (b) Endorsed in 1947 the approval by governments of inter-governmental commodity agreements and the promotion of nutritional programmes by export sales at special prices ;
- (c) Supported in 1948 the appointment by the Council of F.A.O. of a sub-committee on commodity agreements ; and
- (d) Notes in 1949 (with the exception of wheat) the negligible progress made by governments in achieving the objectives in price stabilization and distribution adopted by them three years ago.

The report continued : in view of the continued high costs of agricultural products the drop in the prices of certain agricultural products is already the cause of serious concern. In a number of countries embarrassing surpluses of some farm products have already occurred. The existence, or fear of existence, of surpluses will disrupt balanced production programmes and undermine governmental price support measures. Prices of goods farmers buy and the cost of other items show

little sign of declining, and in some countries have increased. These trends are the danger signals of the recurrence of an economic depression. If not checked they will start the cycle of :—

- (a) declining prices of farm and other primary products ;
- (b) exploitation or abuse of soil, for farm and human resources ;
- (c) contraction of the demand by farmers for all goods and services ;
- (d) unemployment in urban communities, with an accompanying reduction in the consumption of farm commodities ;
- (e) reduced production of industrial goods to maintain their prices ;
- (f) an ensuing economic depression which will first fall most heavily on farmers, but would rapidly spread to all segments of the community ; and
- (g) unmanageable credit and fiscal problems.

Because I.F.A.P. recognizes that the improvements in standards of living require greater production, it deplors the possibility of farmers being forced to reduce production because of failure to provide a practical system to move farm products into consumption. I.F.A.P. is convinced that downward adjustments of production should be adopted only as a last resort. To minimize such adjustments I.F.A.P. recommends that its member organizations press their governments to prepare and implement programmes to stimulate high levels of employment and purchasing power which, reinforced by national agricultural price stabilization measures, are prerequisites of international price stability.

In the light of the above considerations it was agreed that a basic method to achieve expanding international trade in agricultural products at stable prices was by inter-governmental commodity agreements providing :—

- (a) for the inclusion in each agreement of a clause for co-ordination by an international agency of all commodity agreements, the agency to be financed from the fund referred to in (b) below, with powers limited with respect to each commodity to those prescribed in the agreement on that commodity ;
- (b) for the payment of one-half by those concerned in the exporting country, and one-half by those concerned in the importing country, of a per-unit levy or transaction fee, the amount and uses of such levy to be prescribed in each commodity agreement ; and on applicable commodities payment of the full levy to be made by the exporting country to a non-member importing country, and payment of the full levy by an importing country buying from a non-member exporting country ;
- (c) for minimum and maximum prices within a range which would ensure flexibility and the optimum freedom of trade ;
- (d) where practicable, for suitable international adaptation of the price stabilization programmes of

producers, such as exist in Australia and New Zealand, which accumulate financial reserves in periods of high prices to supplement the income of producers in periods of low prices; and

- (e) where practicable, for the maintenance of adequate stocks of storable commodities, to protect consumers in importing countries from high prices by maintaining continuity of exports in years of short crops.

Special Action Measures

In addition to the measures recommended above, I.F.A.P. proposes special action programmes to remove embarrassing surpluses of some agricultural products which already exist in certain countries. In other countries many people remain ill-fed and ill-clothed because they lack the means of production, and consequently the purchasing ability to meet these problems and other similar ones as they arrive. I.F.A.P. urges F.A.O. to recommend to governments the prompt establishment of machinery which provides:—

- (a) for the establishment by governments of an international agency through which countries may dispose of their agricultural surpluses;
- (b) for the movement of these surpluses to countries where great need is known to exist, and in a manner which will not undermine the stability of prices of agricultural products.
- (c) that the terms of distribution shall include the payment by the importing country of the maximum proportion it can afford of the price paid to the producers of the surplus;
- (d) that the difference between the initial price (agreed between the agency and the country of origin) and the lower special price paid by the importing country shall be borne equally by the agency and the country of origin; and
- (e) that the funds of the agency shall be subscribed by interested governments on a basis to be agreed by them.

In urging the early adoption of this plan I.F.A.P. believes it should be so organized and administered that it places part of the cost of surplus production on the producers of the product, part on the nation producing the surplus, and part on the nations which are willing to share a portion of the cost of improving the lot of people in great need by moving into consumption products accumulating storage charges and threatening the stability of agricultural economy. The plan does not provide prices to producers which would create chronic surpluses. Its adoption would not result in the uneconomic use of agricultural resources. The freedom of producers to adopt required adjustments in their agricultural production would not be impaired by the operation of such a plan.

RECENT visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have included the following: Mr. A. C. Barnes, Mr. A. G. P. Blair, Mr. H. A. Cuke, Mr. St. Yves de Verteuil, Lady Doronthy de Verteuil, Mr. G. M. Eccles, Mr. C. E. Hamshere, Mr. C. E. Hitchins, Lady Hutson, Hon. R. I. M. Kirkwood, Captain and Mrs. H. V. M. Metivier, Mr. Leslie R. Mordecai, Mr. A. W. L. Savage (Governor-designate of Barbados) and Mrs. Savage, Hon. Harold E. Robinson, Mr. G. E. Sharp,

The West India Committee

Election of Officers

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee held on June 16th, Mr. J. M. du Buisson was unanimously re-elected chairman, and Mr. J. M. Campbell deputy-chairman, for the year 1949-50.

The following were unanimously elected treasurers for the same period: the chairman, the deputy-chairman, Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott, Mr. A. Elder and Mr. H. Alan Walker.

New Members

The following eight candidates were admitted to membership:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
Mr. J. O. AIRD (Dominica)	{ Mr. W. F. Harrison The Royal Bank of Canada
Mr. HAROLD JOSEPH STAPLETON (London)	{ Mr. N. P. Sherlock Mr. A. E. V. Barton, C.B.E.
LADY HUTSON (Barbados)	{ Hon. Robert Challenor, M.L.C. Hon. G. Douglas Pile, O.B.E., M.L.C.
THE HEADMASTER, Harrison College (Barbados)	{ Mr. W. H. L. Medford, M.C., M.A. Sir Algernon Aspinall, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.
Mr. MAURICE JOHN HARDY (London)	{ Mr. J. M. du Buisson Mr. M. Moody-Stuart, M.C.
Mr. WILLIAM ARTHUR DU BUISSON (London)	{ Mr. J. M. du Buisson Mr. M. Moody-Stuart, M.C.
Mr. NORMAN BALFOUR McIVOR (London)	{ Mr. J. M. du Buisson Mr. M. Moody-Stuart, M.C.
THE TRINIDAD LAKE ASPHALT Co., LTD. (Trinidad)	{ Lt.-Col. K. Previte Mr. J. Gordon Miller
ROYAL MAIL LINES LTD. (London)	{ Mr. J. M. du Buisson Mr. J. M. Campbell
Mr. LESLIE CHARLES HARRIS, F.R.I.C.S. (Jamaica)	{ Hon. Sir Noel B. Livingston, P.C. Mr. Thomas Greenwood

Banana Breeding in Jamaica

In May last, Mr. R. I. Payne, deputy director of the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Division of the Ministry of Food, visited Jamaica, where he was shown samples of a new strain of banana which has been reported on as promising to supersede both the Gros Michel and the Lacatan.

Mr. A. E. Trotman, Director of Agriculture, Jamaica, has since informed the West India Committee that the variety shown to Mr. Payne has not yet been proved to be immune to Panama Disease nor has it yet been subjected to carrying and ripening trials. Extensive and exhaustive field trials as well as marketability trials are to be pressed forward with all expedition, but these must inevitably take a few years to complete.

Many promising varieties have in the past failed to pass these later tests, and while the banana breeders face the future with confidence, they do not yet claim to have produced a new variety of banana which is better than the Gros Michel or the Lacatan. The new banana is tangible evidence of good progress with the breeding programme, and was shown to Mr. Payne as such.

Sugar at I.L.O.

Call for International Action

THE setting up of an Industrial Committee of the I.L.O. to investigate internationally conditions in the sugar industry throughout the world, was called for by Mr. Sandoval, Cuban Government Delegate, speaking in the debate on the Director General's Report at the International Labour Conference at Geneva in June.

Mr. Sandoval, referring to the Industrial Committees which have been set up dealing with other industries, said:—

"I think it is a pity that these do not include one on sugar, a food product and a strategic one of the greatest importance, both in industry and in agriculture. This proposal was made by us at Philadelphia, at Geneva and at San Francisco. I realize the difficulties of setting up a new committee, but the matter does not bear delay. We must have an immediate solution in the form of an urgent investigation into conditions in the industry so that proposals may be submitted to a Sugar Conference—as was done for the textile industry—or simply the immediate establishment of an industrial committee.

"The table showing required percentage increases over pre-war food supplies on page 21 of the Report, gives a very low percentage for sugar, despite the great actual and potential importance of this commodity. Cuba traditionally and as a contribution to the two wars has produced and sold sugar cheaply without sufficient guarantee of future markets. In the last war, with increased social charges and with unified selling arrangements and State control extending even to conditions of work, the sugar industry of Cuba continued to contribute to the existence of a more prosperous and better fed world. It only desires now, as a Member of the International Labour Organization not to be a victim of unfair competition, precarious conditions of work, and ill-conceived protectionism."

The actual position is understood to be that a Plantations Committee is about to be set up to examine the basic problems common to workers on plantations as a whole and the methods of securing consideration, within the framework of the I.L.O., of the special problems of plantation workers employed in the different branches. This Committee is expected to meet for the first time in April or May, 1950. It is not expected to be specially concerned with sugar, indeed it is probable that the material submitted by the I.L.O. for examination will relate mainly to the tea, coffee and rubber industries. Nevertheless, the Committee is intended to be comprehensive in its scope both as regards crops and size of plantations and no doubt representatives of sugar growing countries will be invited to participate in its deliberations.

West African Cocoa

The Gold Coast Marketing Board have announced that the cocoa price to farmers will be 65/- per load (60 lb.), unchanged, for the mid-crop starting June 10th, 1949.

Sea Island Cotton Goods

Purchase Tax to Remain

THE text of a letter addressed to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Advisory Committee in England of the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association, in regard to the effect of purchase tax on the sales in this country of goods made from Sea Island cotton, was published on page 67 of the March issue of the CIRCULAR.

The following reply dated June 23rd, 1949 has been received by that committee:—

1. I am directed by Mr. Secretary Creech Jones to refer to your letter AC/43/49 of February 3rd, and to say that the Committee's representations for the reduction of the purchase tax on Sea Island cotton goods have been very carefully considered in consultation with the other Departments concerned. Mr. Creech Jones regrets, however, that it has not been found possible to meet your Committee's wishes.

2. Your Committee will be aware that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was unable to propose any changes at all in purchase tax in connexion with the present budget. Apart from this decision, and even if the case for a reduction of the purchase tax on Sea Island cotton goods alone were accepted, there would still be considerable difficulty over defining the goods on which tax relief could be given. The only definition of Sea Island cotton goods which could be used would be goods bearing the trade mark administered by your Committee. This, however, would not be in accordance with Section 2 of the Finance Act, 1945, which confines marks for purchase tax purposes to those regulated by the Board of Trade. The definition of goods for purchase tax purposes by reference to marks not under official control would be open to strong objection on the grounds that the safeguarding of the revenue interest would rest entirely with the owner of the trade mark. Any such arrangement would, indeed, be repugnant to the provisions by which the care and management of the tax is placed by Parliament on the Board of Customs and Excise.

3. The Secretary of State appreciates the importance to the economy of the British West Indies of the market for Sea Island cotton goods and while he greatly regrets that it is not possible to reduce the purchase tax on such goods, he trusts that the efforts which he understands your Committee is making in other directions to achieve their object may prove to be successful.

Closer Association Committee Meet

The third session of the Standing Closer Association Committee in the British West Indies opened in Barbados on June 22nd.

The session was in private and was presided over by the chairman of the Committee, Major-General Sir Hubert Rance.

The Standing Closer Association Committee was established last year as the result of a recommendation by the Conference on the Closer Association of the British West Indian Colonies, held at Montego Bay, Jamaica, in September, 1947.

Trinidad Asphalt in the Mall

THE Mall, the famous road running from Buckingham Palace to the Admiralty Arch, is now being re-conditioned and the new surface will be in coloured asphalt.

The major part of the Ministry of Works contract, which includes lifting and disposing of the existing wood block surface, has been entrusted to the Limmer and Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd., who are also manufacturing and supplying the materials for resurfacing from their depot at Trinidad Wharf, Fulham.

Preparatory work, consisting of resetting kerb, regrading of approximately 6,000 super yards of foot-way and installation of new cable ducts, is being carried out by the sub-contractors, J. Mowlem and Co., Ltd.

Following the removal of the wood blocks a 3 inch base coat is being laid consisting of gravel, sand and asphaltic bitumen. The pigmented wearing course of 1 inch thickness consists of red granite with limestone dust filler and lake asphalt as the cementing agent. A mixture of pre-coated red pigmented granite chippings is superimposed on the wearing surface.

The photograph alongside was taken recently while the work was in operation.



Reconditioning of The Mall

Banana Fibre

The Imperial Institute has recently published* the results of tests made with fibre from waste banana material, submitted by the Department of Agriculture in Jamaica, to determine its suitability or otherwise as a paper-making material.

Two samples were examined, one being the fibre obtained from a variety of Gros Michel and the other from *Musa balbisiana* var. *brachycarpa*, a variety resistant to Panama disease.

Although the laboratory examinations enabled both materials to be classified as of medium to long fibre which might be expected to yield pulps of considerable strength, they exhibited undesirable features on pulping which indicated that they would only have certain specialized uses where the long fibre might be advantageous.

The commercial value of the material proved to be only about £20 per ton, and as this is considerably less than the cost of production the use of the fibre for paper-making would not be economic.

*Bulletin of the Imperial Institute, vol. XLVI, 1948, pp. 218-223.

The Pictorial Pages

THE stirring speech made by the King at Church House, Westminster, on June 21st to mark the opening of Colonial Month, is reported in full elsewhere in this issue. The first of our pictorial pages shows the King and Queen entering the Colonial Office with Mr. Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies. A guard of honour was provided by the Governor's escort of the Gold Coast Mounted Police in their picturesque uniforms. As may be seen from the photograph, the large crowd included many people from the colonies.

The photograph reproduced in the top half of the second page shows the Earl of Listowel (centre), Minister of State for the Colonies, at the West Indies Colonial Month exhibition arranged by the West India Committee and held at their offices in Norfolk Street. He is seen in the room devoted to tourist literature, travel books of the 17th and 18th centuries, old prints, minute books, maps and sculpture, in conversation with Mr. J. M. du Buisson (left), chairman of the West India Committee, and Mr. Robert Gavin, secretary. Hundreds of visitors and parties of school children have seen the display, and the remarks in the Visitors' Book show that the exhibition has been appreciated by colonial and home visitors alike. Typical comments recorded are: "altogether delightful"; "should be done more often";

"will do a great deal of good"; and "makes me homesick." The two smaller photographs on the same page were taken at the Central Office of Information exhibition at Marble Arch, which has attracted many thousands of visitors and is referred to elsewhere. On the left is part of a display—Mutual Prosperity—which illustrates the fact that a two-way flow of goods and raw materials between Britain and the Colonies builds up prosperity on both sides. The photograph on the right shows two of the many life-like models—a market woman from Trinidad, and a West Indian lawyer at work at his desk.

New Empire, the journal of the Empire Day Movement. The current issue (April-June) contains a short but instructive article on the Cayman Islands by Miss Almer La Badie. An accompanying photograph, showing turtles being brought ashore, was supplied by the West India Committee.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"FINGER never say 'look here'; him say 'look dere.'"

* * *

MR. A. G. BOTTOMLEY, Secretary for Overseas Trade, stated in the House of Commons on May 31st, that the cost during 1948 of the Export Promotion Department of the Board of Trade was approximately £258,500.

* * *

As we go to press we learn with deep regret of the sudden death of Mr. F. A. Greenaway, a director of Frame and Co., Ltd., and a member of the Executive of the West India Committee. A memoir will appear in next issue.

* * *

"A TRADITION of Service to the Colonies and Dependencies" is the title of an attractive leaflet issued by the Crown Agents for the Colonies for distribution during "Colonial Month." The Crown Agents were originally known as "Agents General" and were established in 1833.

* * *

MESSRS. WILKINSON AND GAVILLER, West India merchants, have secured premises at Bond Street House, 14, Clifford Street, Bond Street, London, W.1. This firm, established in 1734, had its headquarters at 34, Great Tower Street, London, E.C., for many years until 1940 when they were destroyed by enemy action. Their telephone number is Regent 7495.

* * *

MR. H. H. HANNAM, of Canada, has been elected president of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers in succession to Sir James Turner, president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, who declined the nomination for a fourth year. Tributes were paid from all sides to Sir James's leadership during the formative stage of the Federation.

* * *

MRS. GRACE LILIAN OLIPHANT, who, we regret to learn, died at Bridport, on June 18th, was the widow of Dr. Frank B. Oliphant, who died at Bridport in December last. Dr. and Mrs. Oliphant are still remembered with affection in Antigua where they lived from 1903 to 1916, Mrs. Oliphant acting for many years as dispenser to her husband.

* * *

We also learn, with great regret, of the death on June 18th, of Mr. Charles Day, M.Sc., a director of the Murrlees Watson, Co., Ltd. Mr. Day joined the company as general manager in May 1902, and was appointed to the board as managing director in 1907. In 1929 he became chairman and managing director, a position which he held for five years, when he relinquished the managing directorship. In July 1946 he resigned the chairmanship, remaining on the board as vice-chairman and consultant. He was a member of council and past president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He was also past president and chairman of the North West Branch of the Manchester Association of Engineers, and author of a book on indicator diagrams and engine testing.

RUNNING for an international team against Surrey County on June 16th, A. S. Wint of Jamaica, the Olympic 400 metres champion, covered 300 yards in 29.9 seconds, which is the fastest ever recorded in this country. At the same meeting E. Macdonald Bailey of Trinidad equalled his own British record time of 9.6 seconds for the 100 yards.

* * *

SIR HILARY AND LADY BLOOD gave an informal at home at the Athenaeum Annexe on June 29th, to "introduce" Mr. A. W. L. Savage, Governor-designate of Barbados, and Mrs. Savage. Among those present were Sir Grattan and Lady Bushe, Sir Allan and Lady Collymore, Sir Frank Stockdale, Captain and Mrs. Duke, Sir Pelham Warner, and Sir Harry Luke.

* * *

MR. K. S. ARNOLD has been appointed assistant general manager of the Glasgow firm of Duncan Stewart and Co., Ltd., one of the Davy-United group of companies. Mr. Arnold, who also becomes a director of the company, was for 13 years in sugar in British Guiana, subsequently held the post of professor of engineering at the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore, India, and later that of deputy chief mechanical engineer to the Government of the United Provinces, India.

* * *

MRS. MARY CAMERON, secretary of the Jamaica Federation of Women, has arrived on this side for three months holiday, most of which will be spent in Scotland. She is due in Amsterdam on July 16th to represent her colony at the conference of the International Alliance of Women.

* * *

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to appoint Higgs & Hill, Ltd. as general contractors for the initial development and construction of the main buildings of the new University College and Teaching Hospital of the West Indies, now being set up at Kingston, Jamaica. The work, which is to be completed by the end of 1953, is expected to cost not less than £1,300,000.

A Gift to the College

The Council of the University College of the West Indies has been informed by the directors of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) that they propose to provide a sum of £5,000 towards the costs of construction of the Department of Education of the University College.

A Scholarly Disquisition

GENIUS has been defined as an infinite capacity for taking pains, and it is by this type of genius that Sir Alan Burns has compiled a frank analysis of the colour problem* which presents even the most unpleasant aspects of this tendentious phenomenon in a manner which should upset nobody.

There is a wealth of quotation and reference on all the points considered which gives evidence of an enormous amount of research, and this, undertaken by a man with an exceptional background of first-hand experience and motivated by an impartial goodwill, has resulted in an informative and balanced review which those interested may be recommended to study.

Study is the operative word, for compilations of this type are never easy to read. There is no doubt, however, that the publication will come to be regarded as a standard text-book on the subject, and the meticulous care with which terms of reference are recorded makes of it a valuable introduction to the literature.

It will be interesting, as time goes on, to note the references made to the book in the course of argument. Therein is matter for, and against, every point of view. Indeed, after studying the compilation in the light of a close acquaintance with the phenomenon extending over thirty years, one has to admit to having been interested, but uninfluenced.

The plain fact probably is that in the approach to the problem individual experience and contacts count for so much, and it is all to the good that this balanced review of the subject should be made available. Those on the threshold of such experiences and contacts have now got a source of information to which they can refer for guidance in the difficult task of maintaining an unprejudiced outlook.

Cocoa in West Africa

The annual report† of the West African Cacao Research Institute published recently makes reference to a number of virus diseases of cocoa in West Africa other than that which causes swollen shoot disease. Between these various viruses there are diverse relationships, in that trees infected with one may be protected against others, while certain viruses may exist together in the same tree and produce each its own individual symptoms, or co-existence of more than one virus in the same tree may result in a series of complicated symptoms.

The mealy bug *Pseudococcus njalensis* is stated to be the vector which most commonly transmits swollen shoot.

Investigations on the cocoa butter content of new strains of plant have shown that selected *Herrania* cocoa imported from Trinidad has yielded about 64 per cent of cocoa butter against an average of 52 per cent for the usual West African varieties.

**Colour Prejudice*, by Sir Alan Burns. George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London, 1948, 12/6d net.

† West African Cacao Research Institute, Tafo, Gold Coast, *Annual Report for 1947-48*, Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1, 1949. 5s. net.

The Making of Postage Stamps

MAY 6th, 1940 was the centenary of the adhesive postage stamp. On that date the 27th Philatelic Congress was in session, and a general desire was evinced that steps should be taken to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Fred J. Melville, the pioneer of Aero Philately, who is acclaimed as philately's greatest missionary.

At the next congress, which met in 1946, a committee was appointed to consider the matter and to make recommendations. This committee was strongly of opinion that the most fitting memorial would be to publish a new edition of Melville's *Postage Stamps in the Making*, revised and extended to bring it up to date.

Mr. John Easton, master printer, of Robert MacLehose and Co., Ltd., Glasgow, and himself a philatelist of high standing, who is well known in the West Indies, and who since 1943 had been collecting notes for an introductory volume to a general survey of the postage stamps of the British Empire, several chapters of which were to be devoted to methods of production, was entrusted with the task.

The material contained in the original publication, of which only the first part was printed in 1916, has been entirely revised and rewritten. The subjects which had been left over for the unpublished second part have been included, and particulars of the considerable developments since that time, in all the processes used for printing postage stamps, added.

One might imagine that such a book would make very dry reading, but Mr. Easton's enthusiasm and intimate knowledge of the subject have propelled the words from the tip of his pen in an informed and intelligible sequence very easy to read and understand. The book was opened for review as a duty. It was perused with a pleasure which intensified as the wonderful and complex story of the making of postage stamps was unfolded. The amount of information condensed into the 240 pages of the book is extraordinary. The numerous illustrations and diagrams are as interesting and informative as the text to which they are complementary.

The new edition of *Postage Stamps in the Making** is a splendid memorial for which not only philatelists will thank the congress and Mr. Easton. It is worthy of a place on the library shelf of every forensic laboratory.

Robinson Crusoe's Island

The attractions of Tobago as a tourist resort are set out in an effective folder issued by the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board, copies of which are now available at the offices of the West India Committee.

The folder, which has been produced at the *Guardian* press in Trinidad, emphasizes the indefinable charm of this unspoiled tropical island, with its exquisite scenery, perfect climate, unique bird sanctuary, and undersea reef gardens.

A separate folder for Tobago is a new and welcome departure.

**Postage Stamps in the Making* by John Easton, London. Faber and Faber, Ltd. Price 21s. net.

British Guiana Trade, 1948

Chamber of Commerce Report

THE report of the council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, presented at the fifty-eighth annual general meeting of the Chamber held on February 25th, 1949, shows an adverse balance of trade during 1948 in British Guiana amounting to \$11,173,224.

Imports, at \$47,715,673, exceeded in value those in 1947 by \$6,898,650, and exports, in totalling \$36,542,449, showed an increase, as compared with 1947, of \$2,100,288.

Particulars of exports in 1947 and 1948 are as follows:

	1948		1947	
	Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$
<i>Items showing an increase in 1948.</i>				
Hauxite ... ton	1,873,166	9,511,979	1,290,367	6,729,112
Balata ... lb.	815,639	717,036	600,551	480,619
Charcoal ... bag	71,972	135,334	55,099	113,355
Coffee ... lb.	25	5	---	---
Fish Glue ... lb.	10,014	741	5,237	719
Gums ... lb.	5,725	3,435	5,226	3,092
Hides ... No.	12,574	37,644	9,196	28,820
Lime Oil ... gall.	1,244	46,591	321	13,172
Leather ... lb.	8,687	4,444	4,456	2,123
Molascuit and				
Cattle Food ton	489	27,155	---	---
Plantains ... lb.	2,000,616	57,595	674,173	19,937
Rum—cured,				
Prf. gall.	42,382	122,601	39,165	102,222
Rum O. Prf. gall.	3,168,911	3,508,773	1,685,691	1,876,419
Diamonds ... carat	33,959	1,325,026	25,905	808,359
All other articles	---	600,121	---	530,871
<i>Items showing a decrease in 1948.</i>				
Copra ... ton	---	---	75	18,480
Lime Juice				
(c'nd) ... gall.	1,296	699	2,246	1,267
Matches				
gross of boxes	24,370	24,195	38,640	37,095
Molasses ... gall.	1,734,127	251,991	3,841,433	503,965
Coco-nut Oil gall.	---	---	1,059	1,313
Pigs... ... No.	---	---	1	25
Railway				
Sleepers ... No.	18,709	32,678	57,008	87,845
Rice ... ton	17,530	2,060,505	19,623	2,295,220
Rubber ... lb.	---	---	113,474	81,100
Shingles ... No.	327,150	4,444	681,250	8,875
Sugar ... ton	136,673	16,453,319	185,109	19,075,646
Timber cu. ft.	648,279	1,039,527	655,955	1,017,461
Gold ... oz.	16,025	529,983	16,770	557,850

Although the exports of sugar in 1948 were less than in 1947, actual production was higher by 5,500 tons and amounted to 172,991 tons including 2,647 tons made from farmers' canes. The 51,998 acres of estate canes which were reaped gave the very good yield for British Guiana of 3.25 tons of sugar per acre, against 2.86 tons per acre in 1947 and 1946. The withdrawal in 1948 of the special bonus payment from the Canadian Benefit Pool meant a loss to British Guiana producers of \$1.18 per ton on total exports, on the basis of the average of the preceding three years, the net cash price received for export sugar in 1948 thus becoming \$116.42 (£24 5s. 1d.) per ton after deduction of reserve funds.

For local sales, producers received the following prices:—

	S per 100 lb.	
	Up to April 21st.	From April 22nd.
Dark crystals ...	3.15	3.65
Yellow crystals ...	4.25	5.25
White sugar ...	5.60	6.60

The prolonged strike on Demerara East Coast curtailed production in that district. Fertilizers, though in better supply than in 1947, were still short. Slow deliveries of machinery and equipment delayed rehabilitation work. Weather was adverse in the first half of the year. The average production rate for the year in factories was 72.4 per cent.

Rum exports, at 3,211,293 proof gallons, showed an increase of 1,486,437 proof gallons over 1947. Local consumption in 1948 was 354,208 proof gallons against 321,853 proof gallons in 1947.

The total yield of rice for the crop year ended September 30th, 1948 was 57,380 tons against 60,179 tons in 1947. The equivalent of 7,950 tons of rice was used in the form of padi for stock feed. Despite a slight drop in local consumption, exports were reduced from 22,395 tons in 1947 to 15,861 tons in 1948. A bumper autumn crop in 1948, however, gives promise that with a reasonably good spring crop British Guiana should be able to supply the minimum West Indian requirements (23,298 tons) in 1949.

Coco-nut cultivations still suffered from the aftermath of the dry spells during the previous two years, and wilt continued to cause worry to cultivators. A second oil refinery started operations in the colony during the year, but the amount of copra produced (1,990 tons as against 2,515 tons in 1947) was not sufficient to keep both mills working to full capacity. The net average price paid to producers was \$7.24 per 100 lb.

The report notes the adverse effect on the colony's gold industry of the Bretton Woods agreement, whereby the colony is compelled to sell to the United States Mint at prices below those obtainable elsewhere.

Caribbean Research Committees

The Caribbean Research Council, at a meeting held at Port-of-Spain in May, recommended an increase in the number of technical research committees necessary to provide specialized scientific consideration of Caribbean research problems, from five, as at present, to nine.

These nine committees will deal with the following fields: agriculture, fish and wildlife; forestry; medicine, public health and nutrition; sociology; statistics; economics; education; engineering; and industrial development. It was recommended that the field covered by the engineering committee should include planning and housing, chemical technology, public works engineering, construction, mining, industrial and sanitary engineering, geology, and geodesy and surveying.

Raw Cotton Commission

The Board of Trade have appointed Alderman J. J. Cleary and Mr. William C. Jones as additional part-time members of the Raw Cotton Commission.

Alderman Cleary, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, is in business on his own account as a cotton selling agent. Mr. W. C. Jones is chairman of William C. Jones, Ltd., cotton and cotton waste merchants, Manchester.

Origins of Trinidad Cocoa

Complicated Genealogy

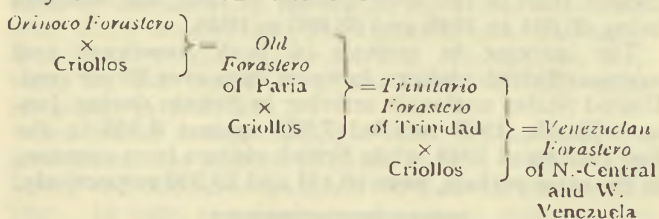
R. CIFERRI of the Botanical Institute of the University of Pavia discusses the history of criollo cocoa as concerned in the development of cultivated forastero hybrids, in a contribution to the issue of *Nature*, dated June 18th.

He concludes that, so early as the beginning of the eighteenth century, criollo was the only (or, at least, the most frequent) cocoa cultivated in Surinam, Venezuela and Colombia, and continues:—

"It is a matter of history that, in the year 1727, a 'blast' (the nature of which is in dispute) virtually destroyed the criollo cacao plantations of Trinidad; another and hardier kind of cocoa being introduced, it has been supposed, from eastern Venezuela. But it is also well established that, in Venezuela, until the year 1825, only the two criollos were cultivated, with the possible exception of the Paria Peninsula (on the north-east side of Venezuela, near Trinidad), where we found a very mixed cacao population, quite distinct either from the forastero of Trinidad and the derived Venezuelan forastero, in spite of the possible later re-introduction of both forasteros in the same region.

"That the hardier cacao introduced into Trinidad after 1727 came from the Atlantic side of South America, from Orinoco to the Guianas, seems now improbable, since the most easily accessible, extensively cultivated strains would be used. Sources of possible introduction of cacao in Trinidad are then: (1) the Paria Peninsula of Venezuela, the ancient cacao population of which may be derived from local criollos, hybridized with early introduced strains of the imperfectly known wild cacao of the Lower Orinoco (a sub-population of Amazonian forastero); or (2) another West Indian island, such as Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti).

"Accepting the first hypothesis, the genealogy of forasteros of Trinidad and Venezuela (excluding the Andean and Maracaibo basin populations of cacao) may be summarized as follows:—



(the last one with many sub-populations, until we have the 'almost pure' criollos of the north-west and west of Venezuela).

"Accepting the second alternative, the supposed genealogy of both forasteros is still more complicated, for it is related with the early introduction into Hispaniola of cacao seeds from the eastern and western sides of South America, of at least two forasteros (a kind of Nacional of Ecuador and an amelonado of the Guianas-Amazon region), superimposed on and/or hybridized with both criollos, and with the possible early introduction of cacao strains from Central America in a bewildering mixture."

Private Imports into U.K.

Following recent questions in the House of Commons which have drawn attention to circulars sent from overseas to addressees in the United Kingdom offering food for sale, the Ministry of Food and the Board of Trade have issued jointly the following statement:—

Members of the public are warned that it is, in general, an offence against Board of Trade regulations to import without a licence goods purchased abroad, whether from the sterling area or not, and that anyone importing rationed foods in this way would also be offending against the Food Rationing Orders. This means also that anyone who buys rationed foods from any country overseas, including the Republic of Ireland, in response to circulars or advertisements offering such foods for sale, makes himself liable to prosecution.

Import licences are not normally granted for private purchases, whether intended for the purchaser's own use or not, and goods purchased from abroad without a licence are liable to be confiscated by the Customs on arrival in this country.

D.D.T.-resistant Houseflies

The introduction of every new insecticide is followed, sooner or later, by reports of the development of resistant strains of the insect concerned, and D.D.T. has proved to be no exception.

By 1946 there were isolated complaints of failing effect, and in the summer of 1947 the failure of fly control was reported in many places.

Two Danish investigators commenced observations on the matter in 1948, and have given an account of their work in a recent issue of *Nature*. They obtained six resistant strains, and found that resistance persisted for seven to nine generations. Other contact insecticides with a D.D.T.-like structure were also ineffective against the resistant strains, but benzene hexachloride was used against them successfully, though in some cases with short-lived residual effect.

Similar phenomena have been noted in other places, where D.D.T. has been used against flies for some time, both in Europe and in the United States of America.

West Indian Sugar Production

The following statement of the estimated production of sugar for the quota year ending August 31st, 1949, summarizes the latest information received by the West India Committee:—

	tons		tons
Barbados	153,000	Windward Islands—	
Jamaica	233,601	St. Lucia	9,128
Leeward Islands—		St. Vincent	2,084
Antigua	16,000	British Guiana	184,229
St. Kitts	34,000	British Honduras	2,108
Trinidad	159,032		
		Total	793,182

The Barbados figure includes 20,000 tons the equivalent of which will be manufactured as fancy molasses.



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

ADMINISTRATOR'S Visit. Writing from St. John's on June 24th, our correspondent, Miss Helen Goodwin, says: "The Administrator left for England on June 24th, and expects to be away for about a month.

History Lectures. "We have been very lucky in having a visit from Mrs. R. V. Colman, of Oxford University, who has been lent to the extra-mural department of the University College of the West Indies. She gave some very interesting lectures not only on historical subjects but also on the teaching of history.

Rain delays Cricket. "The first match of the Leeward Islands Inter-Island Cricket Tournament, between Montserrat and Nevis, was delayed for one day by rain. A commentary on the match is being broadcast."

BARBADOS

Weather. Writing from Bridgetown on June 20th, our correspondent says: "Dry weather was again experienced throughout the island during the month of May. According to rainfall returns the average total rainfall for the island for the month was 1.88 inches as compared with 2.91 inches for May, 1948. The average total rainfall for the island for the five months January-May, 1949 is 6.9 inches as compared with an average of 12.94 inches for the corresponding period for the past one hundred years.

Sugar Crop. "The harvesting of the old crop was continued and the great majority of factories completed grinding operations by the end of the month. The latest estimate of the crop amounts to 153,000 tons of sugar. The young cane crop, both plant canes and ratoons, made little growth during the month and is beginning to have a yellowish and wilted appearance in the dry and coastal districts.

Payment of Legislators. "On June 14th the Legislative Council approved of a Bill for paying members of the House of Assembly with only one dissenting vote. Ordinary members of the House of Assembly will receive, with retrospective effect from January 1st, 1949, remuneration at the rate of \$1,200 per annum. The Speaker's remuneration has been set at \$1,900, the Deputy Speaker at \$1,450 and that of the member recognized as the Leader of the House \$1,150 per annum and that of the member holding the office of Chairman of Committees at \$1,450. Great surprise was expressed in local newspapers over the almost unanimous approval of the Bill by the Council. The opinions and arguments of the Hon. H. A. Cuke, O.B.E., M.L.C., did much to convince the members to vote for the Bill. The argument which seemed to carry the most weight was that the provision for payment of legislators formed part of the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party and therefore it would be

unconstitutional for the Upper House to reject or close their eyes to the wishes of the electorate.

Antibiotics Bill. "At the same meeting the Council passed the enabling Bill to regulate the manufacture, importation, storage, sale and supply of penicillin and other antibiotics and of sulphonamide drugs and other therapeutic substances. The object of the Bill is to make it legally impossible for members of the public to obtain penicillin and sulpha drugs and other drugs mentioned in the schedule of the Bill without a doctor's prescription owing to the fact that the misuse of penicillin and sulphonamide drugs is a threat to the future health of the community.

Labourers Leave for United States of America. "105 labourers left the colony on June 16th for the United States of America where they will be employed. They left by two air transports. It is understood that 25 will be engaged at the Green Valley Food Co. and the remaining 80 on the Grand River.

New Police Commissioner. "The Secretary of State for the Colonies has selected Mr. R. T. Michelin, Superintendent of Police, Nigeria, for appointment as Commissioner of Police, Barbados, in succession to Colonel O. St. A. Duke. Mr. Michelin was born in Jamaica in 1903 and was appointed to the Colonial Police Service in 1924 and after four years service in Jamaica he was appointed Inspector of Police, Leeward Islands. In 1930 he was transferred to Nigeria. Mr. Michelin is at present on leave in Jamaica and is expected to assume duty early in August.

King's Birthday Parade. "The ceremonial parade in honour of the King's Birthday was held at the Garrison Savannah at 8 a.m. on June 9th. The parade was smart, the spectators were many and the weather kind. The parade was attended by the Acting Governor, who arrived on horseback under mounted escort. The parade which followed the accustomed order was attended by heads of the Civil Service, by members of both branches of the Legislature and other officials.

Commerce. "Mr. R. W. Youngman, president of the Incorporated Chambers of Commerce of the British Caribbean, is to be asked to request the West India Committee to take appropriate action in the matter of the difference in prices between goods imported from the United Kingdom and those imported from dollar countries. These comparative prices were the subject of an address prepared by Mr. A. S. Bryden of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and the Council of the Chamber received a telegram from the Georgetown Chamber expressing agreement with the address.

"The Speaker of the House, Mr. K. N. R. Husbands, has been granted three months leave of absence in order to visit the United Kingdom as a guest of the British Council. Mr. Husbands will have the opportunity of seeing the House of Commons at work. He was felicitated by Mr. G. H. Adams (Leader of the House)

Mr. J. H. Wilkinson (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr. W. A. Crawford of the Congress Labour Union."

Shipping. Miss Joan Kysh, secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee, in a letter dated June 1st, says: "The s.s. *Gascogne* of the Compagnie Generale Trans-Atlantique called at Barbados on May 22nd taking passengers for the United Kingdom. The s.s. *Leme* of the Italian Line arrived on the 9th bringing repatriates from Panama and Curacao. On this vessel were 120 in transit passengers.

Sporting Events. "The tennis tournament between the Tranquility Club of Trinidad and the Savannah Club of Barbados commenced at the Savannah Club on the 13th and continued until the 21st. Large and enthusiastic crowds attended this tournament, which was won by the Savannah Club. The 8th and 9th Regattas of the 1949 season were sailed on the 14th and 28th. An open regatta under the auspices of the Royal Barbados Yacht Club was sailed on Empire Day. The 1949 water polo season opened at the Barbados Aquatic Club on the 19th. The Barbados Regiment held its sports meeting at the Garrison Savannah on the 14th.

New Booking Office. "A welcome addition to the tourist facilities of the island is the opening of a booking office by Mr. U. J. Parravicino. Mr. Parravicino is the correspondent for American Express Company. A special feature of this office is the arranging of sight-seeing tours of the island. The office is conveniently situated between the hotel belt and the clubs, within two miles of Bridgetown.

"Visitors to the Bureau during the month included Miss E. Connor, Sharp's Travel Service, Mr. Gordon Girvan, Mr. Cecil R. Allison, Mr. H. M. Melville, and Mr. J. C. Hetherington. These agents, who were all from Toronto, Canada, were paying short visits to the island to learn about its attractions and tourist accommodation.

Cost of Living. "The local cost of living dropped five points in April. The figure at the end of March was 235 and that at the end of April 230."

BRITISH GUIANA

Canadian Seamen's Strike. A correspondent writing from Georgetown on June 14th, says: "The crew of the *Sun Whit* have now been repatriated to Canada but the crew of the *Sun Avis* who had remained on board the ship in mid-stream and had refused to obey a court order to leave her, were on June 1st committed to prison, during the Chief Justice's pleasure, for contempt of court. The ship has now sailed with a crew mainly Guianese in composition. [See May issue of CIRCULAR].

"The Governor, Sir Charles Woolley, left the colony on June 10th for the United Kingdom via Canada on five months' leave.

Red Cross. "A fine building at Eve Leary has been declared open by the Governor for use as branch headquarters in British Guiana of the Red Cross organization.

Birthday Honours. "Much satisfaction has been expressed in the colony at the award of a knighthood to the Hon. F. J. Seaford, C.B.E. The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum, who has been prominent in village affairs

for many years, received the O.B.E. The M.B.E. was awarded to Miss J. C. Selman, Chief Health Visitor, who conducts the excellent ante-natal and infant welfare clinic in Georgetown, and also to Mr. H. R. Harewood the Government Publicity Officer.

Long-term Sugar Contract. "The local Press has recently contained articles and leaders on the vexed question of the extension of the purchase contract between local sugar producers and His Majesty's Government beyond 1952. Opinion is wholly in favour of the extension."

DOMINICA

New Laws. Writing from Roseau on May 31st, a correspondent says: "Our Legislature has passed four Ordinances, one for the protection of illiterate persons; a second treating of diplomatic privileges; a third regarding the adoption of infants; and a fourth, being the customary Ordinance granting to His Majesty a sum (\$1,304,969) for our 1949 expenditure.

Airmail. "The clamant need of Dominica is a direct airmail service. All airmail makes a short surface mail journey to the nearest airmail island, and then starts on the real airmail journey. The financial burden which would fall on Dominica is the real difficulty.

Forest Rangers. "There has just been instituted by the Government a new service of forest rangers. Their work, it is reported, is to prevent deforestation. No timber on Crown lands can be cut without their permission. These rangers wear the Australian 'digger' hat turned up at the side, sleep out in the woods and look thoroughly efficient. They will probably prevent praedial larceny and help social welfare.

The Lacatan. "It is accepted now that the Lacatan banana is the type that we must grow for the United Kingdom. Many Dominicans find in Jamaica the Mecca of their desires and wend their way thither to see the latest developments—agricultural and industrial.

Trade Facilities. "The ships of Canadian National Steamships Ltd. are now calling at Boston on their southern run; thus the United States of America increases its trade facilities with us. United States of America and Canadian dollars are now identical and Newfoundland is part of Canada."

JAMAICA

New Agricultural Bill. Our correspondent, Mr. H. P. Jacobs, writing from Kingston on June 11th, says: "A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Law is at present before the House of Representatives and has received first reading. This amendment is to change the requirements of the law with regard to the poll of growers. At present the law requires two-thirds of all the registered growers, representing two-thirds of the production, to vote in favour of a marketing plan before it can be placed before the Legislature. If the amendment is carried, a two-thirds majority of growers voting (representing two-thirds of the production) will be required, after which the plan will go before the Legislature, and if approved will have the force of law. The Citrus Growers Association has a marketing plan in hand, which has been amended as a result of the recommendations of the Committee of

Inquiry set up under the law by Government to report upon it. Executive Council has approved of the plan with these amendments, and the next step is to get the poll of growers. It is felt that as many as two-thirds of the growers would never be got to turn out to vote.

Budget Debate. "Hon. W. A. Bustamante, Minister of Communications, and leader of the Jamaica Labour Party, has already spoken for nearly eight-and-a-half hours on the Budget. This is believed to be the longest Budget speech on record, on what is, certainly, the biggest Budget in Jamaican history, calling for an expenditure of £10,304,997 and a revenue of £10,331,915. Other speakers have been comparatively brief, and so far very few members have spoken. It is stated that there was some sort of understanding between the Jamaica Labour Party and the People's National Party to shorten the discussion of the Budget.

"A conference of Shell Oil Co. executives is expected to start in Kingston on June 13th, when general managers from all over South and Central America are expected to meet.

Corruption Inquiry. "The Governor has appointed a Commission of Inquiry into allegations of corruption with regard to the St. Catherine Parochial Board. The chairman of the Commission is Mr. W. Savary, retired puisne judge. Other members are Mr. H. P. Rubie, and Mr. A. L. Gabay. The inquiry opened on June 10th at Spanish Town.

Unemployment Problem. "Mr. Luis F. Kennedy, well-known Kingston business man, of the firm of Grace, Kennedy and Co., at a meeting of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce on June 1st, stated that the present unemployment situation was 'fantastic,' with some 20,000 or 30,000 coming on the labour market every year. Mr. Kennedy pointed to the country's adverse trade balance as a handicap, and urged that essentials of life should be imported from the cheapest possible sources, while the country should 'ban the importation of all luxuries and most semi-luxury commodities.'

"Miss Iris Collins, only female member of the House of Representatives became, on June 2nd, Provisional Minister for Finance and General Purposes in the absence of Sir Harold Allan, who returned on June 7th. This is the first time that a woman has been a Minister, and is likely to prove the shortest provisional appointment to a Ministerial post.

"The Hon. W. A. Bustamante has announced that he will be standing for South Clarendon in the General Election. At present Mr. Bustamante represents Western Kingston. South Clarendon is largely a sugar area, and the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union is strong there.

Personal Notes. "Mr. T. P. Evelyn, of Messrs. Bryden and Evelyn, left for Toronto with Mrs. Evelyn on June 7th, and expects to return about the middle of July. Mr. Rudolph Elder, chairman of the Jamaica Imperial Association, has been indisposed for some time, but is now much improved in health. Mr. Rudolph Burke, president of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, recently paid a goodwill visit to Haiti to discuss the Haitian Exposition at Port au Prince in December."

TRINIDAD

Sugar Crop. Our correspondent, Mr. Keith McCowan, in a letter from Port-of-Spain, dated June 25th, says: "The 1949 crop season has closed with a record tonnage of 159,032. The previous record, set in 1936, was 154,569 tons.

"**Oil.** Trinidad oilfield workers were paid \$16,201,000 in wages during 1948, nearly a million and a half dollars more than in 1947. The oil industry is recorded by the Petroleum Department as having during 1948 contributed 75 per cent of the colony's total exports and in direct taxation over 26 per cent of the total revenue.

"**Research.** The Caribbean Research Council, an auxiliary body of the Caribbean Commission, met in Trinidad at the end of May, and the Commission itself met in mid-June. At the latter meeting Trinidad-born Dr. Eric Williams, Professor of Social and Political Science at Howard University, Washington, was confirmed in the post of Deputy Chairman of the Research Council, head of the Research Branch of the Commission's Central Secretariat.

"**Civil Service.** The Legislative Council has approved improved salaries for the Civil Service, calculated to add about \$575,000 to the colony's 1949 salary bill.

"**The Municipalities.** Sir Charles des Forges and Mr. John D. Imrie, Commissioners appointed by the Colonial Office to enquire into financial relations between the Government and the City and Borough Councils, are expected to arrive in the colony early in September.

"**Flying.** The Trinidad Light Aeroplane Club's first rally was held on June 19th, and aroused keen interest. The Director of Civil Aviation has expressed the view that Trinidadians are 'extremely air-minded.'"

U.K. Imports of Fresh Fruit

The Ministry of Food, in agreement with the Board of Trade, has announced the further extension of the period of validity of individual licences for the import of fresh fruit and vegetables into the United Kingdom, which had already been extended to June 30th, 1949 [CIRCULAR, January, 1949, page 20], until December 31st, 1949.

From July 1st, 1949, a new list of fresh fruit and vegetable items which may be imported under these licences will come into effect. Items in this list which may be imported from the British West Indies include aubergines, lemons, limes and tomatoes. Imports of tomatoes are only permissible to July 31st and from November 1st to December 31st.

The subscription for Membership of the West India Committee, which is payable on election, is £1 10s. per annum for individuals and £5 5s. for firms, etc. In the case of individuals elected on or after July 1st in any year, the initial subscription is 15s. and in that of firms £2 12s. 6d. Subscriptions are renewable on January 1st.

Company Reports and Meetings

Limmer and Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. Ltd.

In their report for the year ended December 31st, the directors state that the profit on trading including dividends and interest on investments amounts to £379,794 from which is deducted depreciation and provision for taxation, leaving £136,925. To this is added the balance brought forward making a total of £233,804. The interim dividend of 3 per cent, less tax, absorbed £31,211 and the directors now recommend a final dividend of 7 per cent, less tax, and the transfer to general reserve of £83,000, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £106,217. In the course of his statement, accompanying the report, the chairman, LORD COURTAULD-THOMPSON, says: "The use of Trinidad Lake asphalt—an Empire product—in the surfacing of roads is widespread. It has been in use for nearly 100 years and we are confident that, with the continued improvement in laboratory technique we have produced a road surface which is economical in cost, is long lasting under normal traffic conditions, and is free from skidding.

"During the war the company carried out large and important contracts for the Government in the construction and surfacing of runways at airports throughout the country and during the year under review has been entrusted with the contracts for the surfacing of the runways at Prestwick and Rentfrew airports.

"We have been actively engaged on housing work in many parts of the country, where pitch, a home produced material, combined with Trinidad Lake asphalt, has been extensively and successfully used on floor and other work."

Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.

The directors, in their report for the year 1948, state that the profit for the year, after providing for expenditure and depreciation, is £95,649, to which is added the balance brought forward of £24,918, £6,000 provided for royalty no longer required and £4,835 recovered from expenditure charged in previous years, making a total of £131,402. From this is deducted £38,800 as reserve for taxation on current profits, £25,000 transferred to general reserve, and £5,000 transferred to staff reserve. Out of the balance of £62,602, the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent and a bonus of five per cent, both less tax, absorbing £23,751, and leaving £38,851 to be carried forward.

In the course of his annual statement, which accompanies the report, the chairman, MR. R. G. LONGCROFT, says: "During the year production was derived from the Cruse and Wilson areas. Whilst there was a normal decrease at Cruse, this was more than made up by an increase at Wilson.

"The total footage drilled was 19,240 feet, as compared with 28,656 feet for the previous year. The rate of drilling does not always permit of uniformity—geological considerations and the availability of equipment affects the matter. Our share of the production amounted to 543,085 barrels, as compared with 529,234 barrels for 1947.

"As you are aware, these two areas have been operated on joint account by Trinidad Leaseholds Limited since the agreements made in 1934-35. Those shareholders who held shares at that time will remember that losses were being made, and our financial resources were almost exhausted. Under such circumstances the directors came to the conclusion that to make a success of the venture it would be advisable to seek the co-operation of one of the larger operating companies which had at its command an organization capable of dealing with exploration, drilling, production, refinery and marketing activities. We were fortunate in enlisting the aid of Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. The arrangement proved of advantage to both parties, and our accounts are witness to this fact.

"During the year we have more than maintained our production, but as I said last year, we cannot expect to continue to do so unless we are able to exploit some of our reserve areas. It is with satisfaction therefore that I am able to report that an arrangement has been made with the United British Oilfields of Trinidad Ltd., who have interests in the neighbourhood of one of our reserve areas, to sink an exploratory well on such area. The area, of some 1,000 acres, is in the Cocal District, and is included in our Crown Lease. In the event of commercial production being obtained the United British Oilfields of Trinidad Ltd. have an option to proceed with drilling operations on joint account upon the basis that they shall share in any

surplus after payment of all drilling and administration expenditure. A great deal of work is entailed in making roads and the transport of equipment, but a start has been made and a depth of 1,000 feet has been reached.

"The geological formation in Trinidad varies to such an extent that it is impossible to predict whether and at what depth commercial production may be encountered. We may, however, feel confident that all the necessary knowledge and experience will be employed to ensure that a real test of the area will be made.

"The year 1948 has been a very satisfactory year in the company's history, but it is in no way representative of its past. Just anyone should form the opinion that the oil industry in Trinidad is one where considerable profits are made with little risk, I would like to remind you of our company's experience. Incorporated in 1917, it has existed for some 32 years. During this period the funds of the company were only sufficient to pay 14 dividends. In 1936 the company was reconstructed, and the £1 shares were written down by one half. If the total amount paid in dividends was calculated on the original paid up capital, the average yield would be just under 2½ per cent per annum. A majority of our existing shareholders held their shares during the company's less successful years and are entitled to consideration when, as in the year under review, trading results have been more favourable. Having regard to these circumstances the directors feel justified in recommending a dividend of 10 per cent and a bonus of 5 per cent."

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

In their report for 1948, the directors state that the profit for the year, after providing £500,000 for exploration and general reserve, and £300,000 for plant replacement reserve, amounts to £198,264, to which is added the balance brought forward of £132,030, making a total of £330,294. A dividend on the preference shares of 8 per cent, less income tax, absorbed £15,400, and out of the balance of £314,894 the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 7d. per stock unit, tax free, absorbing £131,250 and leaving a balance of £183,644 to be carried forward.

The net production for 1948, state the directors, was 5,432,621 barrels compared with 5,102,139 barrels for 1947. Crude oil purchases totalled 3,123,488 barrels compared with 3,145,255 barrels in 1947. The throughput of the refinery was 8,583,552 barrels and sales of refined products amounted to a total of 9,089,306 barrels compared with 8,697,880 barrels for 1947.

Six drilling strings were in operation throughout the year; at the end of the year two of these were employed on exploration drilling and the remainder on development in the Point Fortin-Parrylands and Penal fields.

Although no major new reserves were disclosed, development drillings succeeded in more than maintaining the rate of production of recent years. In total, 47 wells were drilled during the year, of which 44 were successful.

A deep well designed to test the cretaceous formation was drilled in the Parrylands area, but conditions proved unfavourable and drilling was suspended at 10,626 feet. The well was plugged back and completed as a producer in the normal shallower horizons. A test well was drilled at Debe on lands to the north of the Penal field held jointly with Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd.; it encountered only water-bearing formations and was suspended at 5,016 feet.

Altogether, 200,728 feet were drilled in 1948 compared with 188,909 feet in 1947.

Exploration surveys, geological in the Southern Ortoire and geophysical in the Parrylands/Rousillac areas, were carried out during the year.

In the refinery good progress was made with the construction of the vacuum and blown asphalt plants referred to in last year's report and both units were close to completion by the end of 1948.

Plans to extend the electric power plant serving Point Fortin field and the refinery to approximately double its capacity were worked out and the bulk of the material placed on order, this being in accordance with the policy of installing wherever possible the more economical electrical prime movers in new installations and as replacements for obsolete steam and internal combustion engines. The present increase in generator capacity is to cover expected field and refinery developments.

Negotiations between the Oilfields Employers Association of Trinidad and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union culminated in the signing of a new wages agreement on March 15th, 1948, under which wages rates as at December 12th, 1947, were increased to the extent of three cents per hour. The cost of this

concession to the company over the year under review amounted to approximately £78,000. The agreement is effective until March, 1950.

Negotiations for an industry-wide revision in the method of assessing royalties in respect of post-1934 Crown Leases were concluded in November, 1948. The new agreement has effect for the three-year period commencing January 1st, 1946, and will now continue until December 31st, 1951.

During the year, exploration surveys, including a marine gravity survey, were carried out for Trinidad Northern Areas Ltd. in which the company holds a one-third share (the other shares being held equally by Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. and D'Arcy Exploration Company, Ltd.).

The marine concessions referred to in previous reports have not yet been granted.

In his statement accompanying the accounts the chairman, Mr. ROBERT WALEY COHEN says: "The value of oil sales for the year has increased from some £4,500,000 to over £6,000,000 while there has been some increase in expenditure. The higher level of world prices, to which I referred in my statement last year, continued throughout the greater part of 1948 and it is this rather than an increase in volume of oil handled which accounts for the increased proceeds of sales during that period. In November, 1948, a decline in fuel oil prices developed and this has been followed by further reductions which will naturally have an effect on the earnings for 1949.

"Your board have constantly brought to your attention the necessity to this company of establishing increased oil reserves. We have referred to this in previous years and we desire to emphasize again our view that it should be a main purpose of the company at its present stage to concentrate increasingly on exploration with a view to establishing a stronger reserve position. With this in view we have recommended that we should make available a considerable sum for this purpose in the coming years and accordingly we are proposing that from the profits of the year there should be put aside a sum of £500,000 as a serious contribution towards the costly work of exploration. Last year we put aside £200,000 for that purpose. Something approaching that sum has been expended on exploration during the past year, but the results have so far been negative and your board feel that our efforts must be reinforced and that will naturally involve an increase of expenditure on this the most important side of the company's business at the present time.

"You will have seen many references to the financial consequences that all companies must suffer owing to the fact that the cost of replacing existing equipment will be much higher than was the original cost of the equipment itself. The consequence of this is that our allowances for the amortization of existing costs will not adequately meet the eventual need for replacement and rehabilitation and accordingly we have provided a sum of £300,000 in the accounts as a Plant Replacement Reserve to meet this inevitable contingency.

"I referred in my statement last year to the fact that the Trinidad Government had not yet decided to recognize that expenditure incurred in searching for oil constitutes part of the normal expenses of an oil company. I regret to inform you that no action has yet been taken to remedy this obvious defect in estimating the profits earned.

"The additional allowances granted in the United Kingdom by the Finance Act of 1949 will increase the discrepancy between the practice in this country and in Trinidad and it is to be hoped that the Government of that colony will in the near future realize that action on their part is necessary to the continued well-being of the Trinidad oil industry.

"It has been necessary this year to make provision for United Kingdom taxation in addition to Trinidad taxation. This is mainly due to the reduction of the rate of Trinidad income tax from 9s. in the £ to 8s. in the £, which has had the effect of making the Trinidad tax lower than that incurred in the United Kingdom.

"During the course of the year a survey was made of the probable capital expenditure of your company and it was decided that the cash position was adequate to meet the programme. It was accordingly arranged with the holders of the 4 per cent Debentures to redeem the entire issue and this was done in November.

"In the field, our outstep drilling has met with a useful measure of success and production during 1948 was the highest so far recorded by your company in any year. Our main concern, as we have said, continues with the question of reserves. As you will have seen from the report, unsuccessful test wells

were drilled at Parrylands (10,626 feet) and at Debe (5,016 feet). At the end of the year two other deep tests were drilling, one in the Point Fortin area and the other in Ortoire at Tablelands. Neither of these tests has resulted in any improvement in the reserves position. The Point Fortin well, FW 209, having reached a depth of 9,980 feet has encountered only one oil sand which seems to be of minor importance and is at considerable depth. Owing to mechanical difficulties in the well it will not be possible to explore at greater depths. The Ortoire well, Tablelands No. 1, was drilled to 10,056 feet, and having failed to encounter commercial prospects, has been abandoned. The search, however, continues and we are pushing ahead with our exploration drilling programme as energetically as possible. A second test is now under way in Ortoire, at Balata, 12 miles east of Tablelands, and on completion of FW 209 at Point Fortin the rig will be moved for a deep test near the mouth of the Guapo river.

"Negotiations with the Government on the question of the royalty on oil produced from 'post 1934' Crown Leases for the period starting January 1st, 1946 were concluded in November, 1948. Under this agreement the Government will receive a royalty of 10 per cent of the value of the oil based upon the quoted field price for an equivalent grade of West Texas crude with a suitable freight differential from field to deepwater so as to relate the price to Trinidad field storage tanks. This agreement is to continue until December 31st, 1951, subject, however, to a possible change in the reference crude if the West Texas oil ceases to constitute a fair basis. Since the old basis of royalty payment had ceased to secure for the Government a royalty of 10 per cent of the value of the crude, the new basis will result in substantially increased royalty payments.

"Our industrial relations continued to be satisfactory during the year, and in spite of the political controversies over the new constitution, the oil companies have continued to enjoy good relations with the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, to whose sense of responsibility we should like to pay tribute. During the negotiations between the Oilfields Employers Association of Trinidad and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union which culminated in the wages agreement of March 15th, 1948, the British Empire Workers, Peasants and Rate Payers' Union led by Mr. Butler, continued to press for their recognition as the only body authorized to act for the oil workers. This demand has not been accepted and though the Butler Union called for a strike shortly before the agreement was signed there was no response from the workers."

Conditions in British Honduras

Citrus and Mahogany

The Canadian Government Trade Commissioner in Jamaica reports in the issue of *Foreign Trade* dated April 9th that provision has been made in British Honduras for the expenditure of £20,000 on new equipment for the production of grapefruit sections.

As markets for grapefruit juice from British Honduras are on the wane, efforts are being made to produce oranges. Some 5,000 trees are already budded, 10,000 more are ready to be budded, 70,000 are in nurseries and there are 1,000,000 seedlings. It is proposed to recondition the present juicing plant by 1950, and to instal machinery for the production of orange concentrate. Consideration is also being given to the establishment of a grapefruit oil plant and a pectin plant.

Since the reclosing of the Guatemalan border three large mahogany operators with headquarters in Cincinnati, Pensacola and New York have ceased operations, and a loss of \$3,000,000 in circulation has occurred since the logging industry was halted. The traditional entrepôt trade has practically ceased owing to the shortage of Mexican dollars, sales have declined because British goods are so highly priced, and conditions in the colony, according to the trade commissioner, are far from favourable.

Customs Tariff Modifications

British Honduras. The Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance, 1949 provides for a revised Customs and Excise tariff which became effective from April 27th, 1949.

The complete schedules, which cover 116 Customs items and three Excise items, are published in the issue of the *Board of Trade Journal* of June 11th, 1949.

Jamaica. Customs Tariff Resolution (No. 10), 1948, revokes the import duties on the following items in the First Schedule, as from October 6th, 1948:—

XI. Cattle and poultry foods: (1) Bran and middlings, (2) Other kinds, other than grain.
XXVIII. Grain, flour, pulse and preparations thereof: (1) (b) Oats, (e) Wheat.

Customs Tariff Resolutions, Nos. 13 and 14, 1948, effective from November 3rd, 1948, provide for the duty free entry into Jamaica of the following items: All materials, articles and appliances imported by or on behalf of the Provisional Governing Body of the University College of the West Indies, upon production of a certificate signed by the Principal of the University College to the effect that any such materials, articles or appliances are imported for use in the construction or equipment of such University College. Meta bisulphite of potassium imported for use in the manufacture of essential oils.

Customs Tariff Resolution (No. 15), 1948, provides for revised rates of import duty on the following items in the First Schedule, effective from November 27th, 1948:—

Item	Sub-Item	Articles	Preferential Tariff £ s. d.	General Tariff £ s. d.
I	(1) (a)	Alcohol, spirits and intoxicating liquor:— Ale, stout, porter, beer, cider, and perry, except as provided in sub-head (b)		
	(2) (a)	Brandy, whisky, gin and rum, imported in bottle and accepted by the Collector of Customs as not exceeding 80 per cent proof spirit, per liquid gallon ...	0 6 10½	0 9 2
	(2) (b)	Brandy, whisky, gin and rum, imported otherwise than in bottle or exceeding 80 per cent proof spirit, per proof gallon ...	4 10 0	6 0 0
	(3)	Bitters, liqueurs and cordials, including flavouring extracts: all kinds, contain- ing 40 per cent proof spirit or over, per liquid gallon ...	5 12 6	7 10 0
LXIII	(2)	Manufactured Cigarettes:—		
	(a)	Manufactured within the British Empire and containing not less than 50 per cent of tobacco grown within the British Empire, per lb. ...	1 10 4	—
	(b)	Manufactured within the British Empire and containing less than 50 per cent of tobacco grown within the British Empire, per lb. ...	1 11 4	—
	(3)	Cigarettes not otherwise specified, per lb. Other manufactured tobacco, per lb. ...	1 1 0	1 12 4 1 1 10

Bermuda. The Customs Tariff Act, 1948, provides for certain modifications to the Bermuda Customs Tariff with effect from January 1st, 1949.

The items affected are as follows: Class 2, Food, Drink and Tobacco: A.—Grain, flour and animal feeds, items 1 to 13; D.—Liquors, item 8. Class 3, Miscellaneous: items 2, 36, 51, 52, 54, 65, 71, 72 and 91.

The modifications are published in full in the *Board of Trade Journal*, February 19th, 1949.

St. Christopher-Nevis. The duty on milk imported into St. Christopher-Nevis has been abolished under S.R. & O. (St. Christopher and Nevis) No. 19 of 1948.

The word "free" should therefore be substituted for the rates of duty shown against item 63 of the schedule of import duties.

Antigua. The Antigua Customs Surcharge Ordinance, 1949 imposes a surcharge of 30 per cent of the duties payable on all dutiable articles imported into Antigua with the exception of the following, on which a surcharge of 10 per cent is payable, effective from March 10th, 1949: item 38, fish; item 41, grain, flour, pulse and preparations thereof; item 54, lard and lard substitutes; item 60, meats; item 66, oils; item 83, spirits; item 92, vegetables; item 96, wines.

The Customs Surcharge Ordinance (No. 2), 1941, which provided for the previous rates of surcharge, is repealed.

West Indies at Westminster

PARLIAMENT, which adjourned for Whitsun on June 3rd, reassembled on June 21st.

British Guiana Water Tower. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, what surveys had been made, or were contemplated, of water power in British Guiana; and what report had been made of the possibilities of hydro-electric development in the colony.

Mr. Creech Jones in a written answer of June 3rd, said that surveys of individual falls in the past had pointed to the need for flow gauging over a period of years before any decisions to develop hydro-electric power could be taken. Such gauging was at present in progress at three falls and was being extended to four more. The Governor was considering whether any further action could usefully be taken pending the results of those investigations.

Cattle in British Guiana. Mr. R. Robinson asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the present shortage of meat, he would give effect to the recommendations of the Evans Report for the development of the cattle industry in the Rupununi district of British Guiana.

Replying in a written answer of June 1st, Mr. Creech Jones said that immediate attention was being concentrated on those developments in the Rupununi which did not depend on the provision of an all-weather road to the coast, since such a road was not likely to be practicable for some years. An abattoir had already been built and trial shipments of meat by air to the coast had been made.

Shipping Committee. Mr. Cooper asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies which of the 18 Caribbean colonies were visited by the Commonwealth Shipping Committee in connexion with their report on West Indian shipping services.

Mr. Creech Jones, in a written reply dated June 2nd, said that the Commonwealth Shipping Committee sat in London, and it was not its practice to make visits abroad. The committee had, however, sent a comprehensive questionnaire to the Governments of British colonies in the Caribbean, and had been furnished with the report of a local conference on shipping requirements held at Barbados in July, 1947. Apart from the written material at its disposal, it had examined a number of witnesses who had had experience of, or had been interested in, West Indian trade and shipping.

MARRIAGE

PEACOCK—MC CABB.—On June 25th at St. James's, West Derby, Liverpool, by Canon Crewdson, Norman Dabell, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Peacock, of Allerton, to Agnes Heathcote, daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. S. L. McCabe, and niece of Alderman and Mrs. A. E. Shennan, of West Derby, Liverpool.

ENGAGEMENT

CLARKE—BLAGROVE.—The engagement is announced between Walter Stephenson Clarke, second son of the late Major J. S. Clarke and Mrs. Clarke of Pickwell, Bolney, Sussex, and Elizabeth Evelyn, elder daughter of Major and Mrs. John Blagrove of Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, and lately of Cardiff Hall, Jamaica.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions, transfers and new appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

BOUCAUD, J. E. (Assistant Crown Solicitor, Trinidad), Crown Solicitor, Trinidad.

BURROWES, H. (Commissioner, Montserrat, Leeward Islands), Administrator, St. Christopher-Nevis, Leeward Islands.

DEEBLE, H. (Deputy Registrar General, Trinidad), Registrar General, Trinidad.

DEWAR, R. (Assistant Marine Engineer, Palestine), Marine Engineer, East African Railways and Harbours.

FUNG, W. (Principal Officer, Class I, Trinidad), Assistant Secretary, Trinidad.

GOCKING, W. E. (Principal Officer, Class I, Trinidad), Librarian, Central Library, Trinidad.

GOMEZ, L. A. (Deputy Registrar and Marshal, Trinidad), Registrar and Marshal, Trinidad.

GOULDING, E. V. D. (Assistant Comptroller of Customs, British Guiana), Comptroller of Customs, British Guiana.

HALL, H. T. B. (Government Veterinary Officer, Fiji), Deputy Director of Agriculture (Veterinary Services), Jamaica.

HUGGINS, S. A. (Registrar General, Trinidad), Assistant Crown Solicitor, Trinidad.

HUTSON, L. R. (Veterinary Officer, Barbados), Chief Veterinary Officer, Leeward Islands.

LEOTAUD, R. M. (Second Assistant Crown Solicitor, Trinidad), Deputy Registrar and Marshall, Trinidad.

MCLEAN, E. M., M.D., L.M.C.C., L.M.S. (Medical Officer, Grade C, Trinidad), Medical Officer, Grade B, Trinidad.

MC SHINE, L. A. H., M.B. (Medical Officer, Grade B, Trinidad), Medical Officer, Grade A, Trinidad.

MENHAM, F. H. (Airport Manager, Jamaica), Director of Civil Aviation and Airport Manager, Malta.

MORALES, E. M. (Superintendent of Mails, Jamaica), Deputy Postmaster General, Jamaica.

THOMPSON, A. A. (Senior Clerk, Secretariat, Trinidad), Deputy Registrar General, Trinidad.

WENYSS, E. J. H. COLCHESTER (Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica), Superintendent of Police, British Solomon Islands, Protectorate.

WILLIAMS, C. H. B. (Deputy Director of Agriculture, British Guiana), Deputy Director of Agriculture, Trinidad.

WRIGHT, J. (Senior Agricultural Officer, Jamaica), Deputy Director of Agriculture, Jamaica.

New Appointments

GOODEY, J., M.R.C.S., Medical Officer, Specialist (Temporary), Jamaica.

HISTED, Miss P. M. J., Lecturer in Domestic Science (Temporary), Government Training College, Trinidad.

NORTHROP, A. E., Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica.

SMITH, Miss E. W., M.B., D.M.R.E., Radiologist, Barbados General Hospital.

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of May production of crude oil and casing head gasolene amounted to 252,884 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the four weeks ended May 30th was 413,773 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for May was 254,174 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of May crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 518,700 barrels.

Barbados. The following items should be deleted from the list of United Kingdom goods for which individual import licences are still required: canned beans; breakfast cereals. [See CIRCULAR, December, 1948, page 281].

West Indian Passenger List

Booker Line

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. Enid (Captain O. Njerve), at Liverpool, May 28th:—

Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Bell Mr. & Mrs. G. Moorhead Mrs. F. Slade
Miss P. G. Grant

Sailings to British Guiana, in s.s. Enid (Captain O. Njerve), from Liverpool, June 11th:—

Miss C. D. Graham Mrs. M. Nobrega Mr. J. Smith
Mrs. E. King Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Ryder Mr. E. T. Stephens
Miss M. Mayer

French Line

Sailings to Trinidad, in s.s. Maurienne (Captain R. Betainby), from Plymouth, May 26th:—

Mr. A. H. Baldwin Mr. E. E. Bellenie Rev. & Mrs. M. Narracott
Miss M. A. Hassett Mr. C. Goncalves Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Perks
Mr. A. E. Bellenie Mr. G. K. Hart Mrs. M. V. Tarczynski

Sailings to Trinidad, in s.s. Quercy (Captain C. Richard), from Plymouth, June 9th:—

Miss M. Coates Mr. N. Rogers Mr. K. Tharkray
Mr. K. Edwards Miss V. Sisson Mr. J. Wallace
Mr. J. Goldring Mr. G. Scotland Mr. A. Wilcox
Mr. F. Morley Mr. T. Teat

Sailings to Barbados and Trinidad, in s.s. Gascogne (Captain G. Prigent), from Southampton, June 18th:—

Miss B. Arne Miss M. Isaacs Mr. & Mrs. W. Ross
Miss M. Bourne Mrs. E. Rainford Miss T. Simmons
Miss R. Evans Mr. J. Rawsthorn Mrs. E. Turner

Fyffes Line

Home arrivals from Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Ariguani (Captain G. S. Gracie), at Avonmouth, May 21st:—

JAMAICA		
Cmdr. & Mrs. P. H. Beer	Mr. E. T. Gray	Mr. A. C. Plews
Miss W. R. Bourne	Mr. J. Hellier	Mr. A. E. Prince
Mr. J. Breakspere	Mr. R. L. Hunt	Mr. D. L. Redston
Mr. & Mrs. Buie	Mr. R. H. Lewis	Mrs. M. J. Robinson
Mrs. D. V. de Laey Cuffe	Mr. E. Luther	Mr. A. D. Scanlon
Mr. B. E. Donaldson	Mr. & Mrs. E. N. Mair	Mr. J. Smith
Mr. T. H. Godfrey	Mr. A. H. Morgan	Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Tamlock
Mr. E. A. Grant	Mr. T. B. Oliphant	Mr. H. A. Thompson

TRINIDAD		
Mr. M. C. Andrew	Miss R. Hamilton	Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Palmore
Mr. & Mrs. F. Ayre	Mrs. M. A. Howell	Mr. & Mrs. R. Pringle
Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Bell	Mr. & Mrs. C. V. Hunter	Mr. W. H. Richardsou
Mrs. H. Brown	Miss A. C. Kirtou	Mr. G. Robertson
Miss G. Brownbill	Mr. & Mrs. L. W. Lucas	Miss I. H. Swinton
Mr. W. V. Chen	Mr. E. H. Lynch	Mrs. B. S. Torrance
Mr. & Mrs. T. N. Drake	Mr. & Mrs. W. Oliver	Mrs. W. M. Waller
Mr. C. W. Fleming		

Home arrivals, from Jamaica, in s.s. Eros (Captain R. C. Vigurs), at London, May 28th:—

Lt.-Col. & Mrs. Armistell	Cmdr. W. Farrington,	Miss C. M. Shoubridge
Mr. & Mrs. Ashenbaum	R.N.	Mrs. L. Smith
Miss A. L. Ayre	Miss E. M. Levy	Mr. & Mrs. Tanie
Major H. Barker Halilo	Mrs. L. Lindo	Mrs. Thom
Miss J. Courie	Miss P. Morgan	Mrs. E. Wright
Mr. Davidson		

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), at Avonmouth, on June 21st:—

Rev. & Mrs. E. Bompas	Mrs. M. Don	Mr. M. K. Michelm
Miss M. L. Bridge	Mr. & Mrs. T. Draper	Mr. & Mrs. R. Pagett
Miss A. Bullock	Mr. J. B. Evelyn	Mr. & Mrs. R. Payne
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Clark	Mrs. E. H. Hamel	Mrs. L. R. Turner
Mrs. I. I. Clarke	Miss L. A. Harper	Mr. & Mrs. F. Weekes
Mrs. S. I. Cookson	Miss V. M. Jones	Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Willis
Miss S. J. Corbett	Mrs. L. K. MacGregor	Mr. T. E. Wood

Home arrivals from Trinidad, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), at Avonmouth, June 21st:—

Mrs. B. Calvert	Mr. R. Harkness	Mr. & Mrs. C. Lynn
Mr. & Mrs. J. Cartmill	Mr. & Mrs. H. Humphrys	Dr. & Mrs. H. Metwier
Mr. & Mrs. E. Cook	Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Jones	Mr. & Mrs. E. Potter
Mrs. E. Dowding	Mrs. H. Knights	Mrs. M. Priest
Mr. J. Hamilton	Mr. & Mrs. J. Knox	Mr. & Mrs. J. Rogers

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Manistee (Captain H. J. Robinson), arrived at Garston, June 30th:—

Mrs. U. B. Anderson	Miss M. Clarke	Miss G. L. Fraser
Supt. W. M. Beresford	Mrs. D. Edmonds	Miss M. A. Morrison
Miss H. A. Cameron	Miss F. Farinborough	Mr. J. M. Torrance

Jamaica Banana Producers' Steamship Co.

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Jamaica Producer (Captain G. E. Jenkins), from London, June 9th:—

Mr. & Mrs. R. Biggs	Mr. J. Lane	Mr. E. Pike
Mrs. M. Carragher	Rev. E. Langston	Mr. D. Pinks
Dr. W. Foote	Miss M. Lewis	Miss N. Smith
Dr. & Mrs. J. H. Gentles	Mrs. K. Lewis	Mrs. G. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. W. Goddard	Mr. S. Locke	Mrs. M. Valentine
Dr. & Mrs. H. C. Heady	Miss W. Nethercott	Mr. & Mrs. T. Wornell

The Markets

July 1st, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below:—

Dividend for Latest year		Latest Quotation	Price year ago
2½	Consols	74½	75
3½	War Loan	101	102½
20	Angostura Bitters	82/6	87/6
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	38/9	43/9
—	Antigua Sugar Factory	13/6	14/-
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	26/10½	29/4½
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	43/-	49/-
14	Booker Bros. McConnell	72/6	77/6
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	26/3	28/9
5	British Guiana Cons. Gold 3/9	1/-	1/6
8½	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	3/-	3/9
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	21/3	22/6xd
7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	4/-	5/-
12½	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	7/-	8/-
10	Limner & Trinidad Asphalt. Ord.	41/3	43/9
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	—/6	1/6
8½	Royal Bank of Canada 8/0	145/-	165/-
17½	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	70/-	75/-
10	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	17/9	18/9
3	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	14/1½	15/7½
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	—/9	1/9
14	Trinidad Leaseholds 5/-	18/9	20/9
16½	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	17/-	19/-
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 6% Pref.	20/5	22/8xd
8	United British Oilfields 8/8	5/3	6/3
8½	West Indies Sugar	21/-	23/-
6	West Indies Sugar 6% Pref.	16/3	18/9
—		22/6	25/-
—		—	24/-
—		—	26/-

* Free of income tax.

Honey. A few sales are reported at the controlled price of 72/6 per cwt. c.i.f.

Pimento. Spot is selling at 1/1½ per lb. Forward shipment is still quoted at 119/- c.i.f., U.K., with very little business passing.

Ginger. A fair business has been done and prices have increased during the month. Sellers of Jamaica now ask 190/- c.i.f. for No. 3, with buyers at 187/6. No. 2 is quoted at 195/- and No. 1 at 205/-. Jamaica reports that the stock of No. 3 grade is almost entirely cleared.

Nutmegs. A fair business has been done with more inquiry from the trade. Prices are unchanged at : 80's 2/2 per lb. c.i.f., sound unassorted 1/8 and defectives 1/3.

Mace. Whole pale continues to be quoted at 5/- per lb. c.i.f. with little interest being shown. On the spot whole pale is quoted at 5/8 and broken grades at 1/- to 4/- according to quality with only a small business passing.

Sugar. The Board of Trade Returns for May are as follows:—

Imports of Unrefined	tons	Month of		January-May	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
Mauritius	...	8,298	15,316	43,252	91,309
Austraba	...	—	24,565	14,899	157,741
Fiji	...	—	—	—	4,413
British West Indies	...	55,061	43,897	124,516	123,157
British Guiana	...	10,051	9,677	39,248	41,734
Other British Countries	...	—	—	—	—
Dutch East Indies	...	—	—	—	—
Cuba	...	84,584	8,644	215,735	65,771
Haiti	...	5,896	1,468	5,896	9,000
Dominican Republic	...	31,518	77,332	153,819	221,082
Mexico	...	24,016	7,748	49,229	16,111
Peru	...	—	—	—	12,593
Other Foreign Countries	...	—	—	—	9,954
Total		219,424	188,647	684,594	772,862
Consumption		Month of April	January-April		
Refined	...	11	57	11	
Unrefined	...	215,781	173,896	726,882	658,911
Total		215,792	173,907	726,919	658,921
Stocks (end of April)					
Home Grown Beet	...	80,700	142,800		
Imported Refined	...	—	—		
Imported Unrefined	...	305,150	313,050		
Total		385,850	455,850		

Rum. The Board of Trade Returns for May are as follows:—

Imports	proof gallons	Month of		January-May	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
Union of South Africa	...	—	278,887	493,815	519,967
Mauritius	...	144,197	198,125	1,515,842	911,858
British West Indies	...	402,815	181,600	1,159,384	1,443,469
British Guiana	...	399,322	120,516	802,805	1,024,454
Other British Countries	...	16,186	5,107	62,091	14,278
Foreign Countries	...	4,835	—	4,925	6,111
Total		967,355	784,243	4,038,842	3,920,157
Exports		24,839	10,381	89,838	201,591
Consumption		Month of April	January-April		
Stocks (end of April)	...	323,795	193,096	1,339,738	629,108
	...	5,617,000	10,236,000		

Cocoa. The Board of Trade Returns for May are as follows:—

Imports	cwt.	Month of		January-May	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
British West Africa	...	131,637	383,795	1,493,383	1,845,673
British West Indies	...	27,075	1,791	50,006	43,342
Other British Countries	...	—	41	2,930	2,908
Foreign Countries	...	10,000	—	10,051	41,350
Total		168,752	387,967	1,556,370	1,933,273
Exports					
Consumption		Month of April	January-April		
Stocks (end of April)	...	581,382	279,932	1,387,930	1,476,999
	...	—	144,000		

Visitors from Overseas

It would greatly facilitate the forwarding of correspondence if members of the West India Committee visiting this country would inform the Secretary of the date of the arrival and the address or addresses to which they would like THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and correspondence despatched.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Mr. W. R. Alefounder. | Mr. C. E. Hamshere, M.A. |
| Mr. W. L. Alston. | Mr. C. J. Hares. |
| His Honour Chief Justice O. L. Bancroft. | Mr. R. S. Haughton. |
| Mr. A. C. Barnes, C.M.G. | Mr. F. B. Henderson. |
| His Honour Mr. Justice E. P. S. Bell. | Mr. L. A. Henriques. |
| Mr. C. J. Bettencourt-Gomes, B.E.M. | Mr. C. E. Hitchins. |
| H.E. Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G. | Mr. W. S. Jones. |
| Mr. E. A. Boyce, B.Sc., M.I.C.E. | Comdr. R. Langton-Jones, D.S.O., R.N. |
| Mr. L. S. Birkett. | Mr. H. T. Lissone. |
| Mr. A. G. P. Blair. | Mr. Gerald Mair. |
| Mr. W. C. Buie. | Mr. Leslie R. Mordecai. |
| Mr. John Burslem. | Lt.-Colonel E. F. Moulton-Barrett, O.B.E., M.C. |
| His Hon. Chief Justice Sir Allan Collymore. | Captain H. V. M. McTivier, O.B.E., M.R.C.V.S. |
| Hon. George de Nobriga. | Mr. H. J. Padmore. |
| Mr. St. Y. de Verteuil. | Mr. M. H. Parker. |
| Lady Dorothy de Verteuil. | Mrs. E. J. A. Simpson. |
| Mr. J. St. F. Dare. | Mr. T. E. Noble Smith. |
| Mr. H. W. de Freitas. | Mr. N. V. Stafford Solomon, M.B.E. |
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| Mrs. Elsie Gamble. | Mr. H. L. Smith. |
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| Mr. H. L. Goddard. | Hon. Alan Storey, D.F.C. |
| Mr. W. Grason. | H.E. Sir Edward Twining, K.C.M.G., M.B.E. |
| His Honour G. C. Green, C.M.G., M.B.E. | Lt.-Colonel F. Wood, M.B.E. |
| | H.E. Sir Charles Woolley, K.C.M.G. |

Today, a pictorial review of events in Britain and elsewhere of interest to colonials everywhere, published for the Colonial Office by the Ministry of Information, No. 20. Feature articles in this issue deal with the work of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, the Barbados Housecraft Centre, fishermen of Malaya, and Scott of the Antarctic.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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CARIB, ESTRAND, LONDON

August, 1949.

Colonial Development

IT is with a heavy heart that we examine the report and accounts of the Colonial Development Corporation for its initial period to the end of 1948, for everything else must be overshadowed by the sudden death of its deputy chairman, SIR FRANK STOCKDALE. It is no slight on the chairman, LORD TREGARNE, to say that the report bears unmistakably the handiwork of SIR FRANK. The careful planning, the cautious approach, the reservations as to the future, the modest statement of things done, are all in line with his ideas and carry the hall-mark of his personality. The Colonial Empire which, in its vast ramifications, he knew better than any man, has lost a great servant and at a time when perhaps he was in a position to, and on the verge of, rendering it even greater services than in a lifetime of work for its welfare. For the first time he had, through the Corporation, funds at his disposal to carry out projects, always inherently feasible, which lack of capital in the colonies combined with the impracticability of carrying them out under the ægis of local governments, made merely planners' dreams.

Comparison with the approach and achievements of its companion body the Overseas Food Corporation, which derives its authority from the same statutory instrument, the Overseas Resources Development Act, 1948, is almost inevitable if perhaps a trifle unfair. The Overseas Food Corporation and its main project the East African ground-nuts scheme, were born of what was decided, at the highest political level, to be the immediate necessity of creating a supply of oils and fats to meet a world-wide shortage of those commodities. All other considerations were, in fact, brushed aside as being of secondary importance. That the ground-nuts scheme has largely failed in its original purpose, possibly partly because of factors beyond human control, is now generally admitted. As a result, the expediency of its operating in colonial territories as a body separate from the Colonial Development Corporation, and reporting to the Minister of Food instead of to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, is being increasingly challenged. It may well be that the validity of this challenge will eventually be admitted by the Government as criticism of the vast expenditure on the scheme grows. It has already become a heavy political liability to Government planners. It would be comparatively easy to cover up the mistakes of the past by transferring the accumulated liabilities of the scheme to the account of the Colonial Development Corporation; it would probably be even logical to do so. It would certainly

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help to withdraw the scheme from the severest fire of political criticism since all parties recognize that in the interests of their inhabitants the colonies must be developed and that millions of pounds must be laid out in a diversity of projects few of which will yield a reasonable return or indeed any return at all for years to come. Placed on this footing and judged by this criterion the ground-nuts scheme and other projects ancillary to it in East and Central Africa may eventually justify themselves even in the eyes of critics largely bent on political advantage.

Be that as it may, the Colonial Development Corporation, arriving in the field some months later than its sister Corporation, seems to have learned well from the latter's initial mistakes. It has not plunged recklessly *in medias res* without reckoning the cost and consequences. If criticism is to be offered it is that a sense of urgency seems to be lacking. At the same time it must be admitted that the difficulties are immense and opportunities for costly mistakes legion. Therefore, the method which the Corporation has chosen is probably sound. It seeks to move with all possible speed towards the widest devolution of authority from the London headquarters to the Regional Subsidiary Corporations of which there are so far five, operating in the West Indies, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa and the Far East, and from them in turn to the general managers of the individual undertakings. Meanwhile, however, principles are being laid down and methods of operation defined. At the same time, apart from specialist services, there have been established a series of divisions each under a manager, dealing respectively with equipment and major supplies (a first essential), agriculture (divided into crops and forestry), animal products, fisheries, engineering and works, factories, marketing and hotels. Presumably these managers and their staffs are at present engaged largely on examination of the many projects already submitted to the Corporation, for report to the Controller of Plans and through him to the Board for final acceptance or rejection. Accepted schemes, it is assumed, become the general responsibility of the Regional Corporation for the area in which they are situated. The latter will then supply the local know-how but must lean heavily on the general technical and commercial skills of the divisional specialists since, as the Report says, "The Corporation is not able to staff its Regional subsidiaries with executives chosen from among the heads of great businesses yet good management of the Regional units calls for a degree of commercial skill commensurate with that required in great businesses." The only doubt which springs to the

(Continued on page 188)

From a Londoner's Notebook

ONE of the most irresponsible of the series of "unofficial" strikes by which we have been troubled since the war occupied the greater part of the month of July. It originated in no British grievance, but in a dispute between two Canadian trade unions, one of which, the Canadian Seamen's Union, under Communist leadership, was apparently trying to secure a monopoly of employment on Canadian ships. Members of this union, having sailed two ships, the *Beaverbrae* and the *Argomont*, across the Atlantic, were called out on strike when they arrived in London docks. Thereupon Communist orators prevailed on the majority of the dockers to refuse to unload what they called the "black" ships.

* * *

There has recently been established a scheme intended to make dock labour regular, instead of casual as it used to be, and to provide dockers with a steady wage instead of what they could pick up from job to job. It is essential to this scheme that dockers cannot pick and choose the ships they will unload but must work under the directions of the Dock Labour Board. When the Board insisted that the two "black" ships should be unloaded in their turn, the recalcitrant dockers refused to work on any ships, and came out under the leadership of what they called a "lock-out committee" appointed for the occasion.

* * *

This odd dispute caused a grave upheaval, and threatened seriously to interrupt the whole food supply of London. It went to such lengths that the Government were forced to proclaim a state of emergency, and bring in troops to unload the ships. In the midst of it all the chairman of the Dock Labour Board, Lord Ammon, declared that the action of the men was threatening the continuance of the dock labour scheme itself. He was quoting almost verbatim a remark that had been made not long before by the Minister of Labour himself. But the Government, in a midnight announcement, hastily disclaimed him; and, since Lord Ammon held the court post of Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, which carried with it that of chief Labour Whip in the House of Lords, proceeded to dismiss him from those positions. Lord Ammon did not take this lying down, and a polite slanging match between him and the Prime Minister enlivened the closing stages of the strike. This fracas within the Labour Party ranks did nothing to advance the prestige of the Government, nor did they cut a particularly dignified figure when the men went back to work at the end of the month, not through any strong action under the proclamation of emergency, but because events in Canada had made it convenient for the C.S.U. to call off the strike.

* * *

This unpleasant quarrel could scarcely have come at a worse time. It coincided with one of the most oppressive and prolonged heat waves of recent times, which seems to have heated tempers as well as brows; and, more

important, with a severe crisis arising from the startlingly rapid depletion of our dollar reserves. Since these reserves are the foundation of the finances of the whole sterling area, the Commonwealth Finance Ministers have been meeting in London to concert measures for meeting the emergency. There is comparatively little they can do, but the conference is important as marking a new kind of imperial co-operation. The immediate prospect for England is of still more restrictions upon imports.

* * *

Parliament rose on July 30th after some extremely strenuous sittings, including one that lasted from 2.30 one afternoon to noon the next day, and ending with the first Saturday sitting since the day before the declaration of war in 1939. The last week was marked by mutual defiance between the two Houses. The Lords, refraining from a downright rejection of the Bill to nationalize the steel industry, contented themselves with an amendment postponing its date of operation, so that it could not be brought into force until after next year's general election had given the voters a chance to pronounce an opinion upon it. The Government majority in the Commons struck out this amendment; and at the same time the Parliament Bill, twice rejected by the Lords, was introduced for the third time. This begins a process by which the Bill can be forced into law, notwithstanding the opposition of the Lords, by December 11th this year. Its effect, which is retrospective, is to enable other Bills to be enacted over the heads of the Lords in one year instead of two; and the Government intend to use this procedure at once in order to secure the passage of the Steel Bill by next May. Only then, unless unforeseen events force their hand, are they likely to consent to a general election.

* * *

A pleasant episode far removed from these acerbities enlivened the beginning of most people's holiday month. A boatload of young Danes, in Viking costumes and sailing a ship apparently modelled on the famous "Gokstad" specimen, crossed the North Sea and landed at Broadstairs. Their idea was to celebrate the 1500th anniversary of the landing of Hengist and Horsa, traditionally the first of the English, at the neighbouring village of Ebbsfleet (which owing to the recession of the sea now lies some miles inland). Pedestrian history sees no connexion between Hengist and Horsa, who were Jutes, and the Danes or Vikings who only appear in English history three-and-a-half centuries later; but the adventurous young Danes have been the most welcome of visitors, and were received with rapturous applause all along their route when they sailed their picturesque craft up the Thames on August Bank Holiday and went to luncheon with the acting Lord Mayor at Guildhall. Their ship the *Hugin*—named after one of the ravens that sat on the shoulders of Odin—has already been sold in England and is to be put on show at many seaside resorts.

Long-term Sugar Talks

THREE delegations from the West Indies are now in London in connexion with negotiations for a long-term agreement with the British Government on British West Indies sugar. The main delegation is that of the British West Indies Sugar Association led by its chairman, Mr. H. E. Robinson, of Trinidad, and comprising also Mr. H. A. Cuke (Barbados), Mr. G. M. Eccles (British Guiana) and Mr. R. L. M. Kirkwood (Jamaica).

The Jamaica Government has also sent an official delegation consisting of Mr. T. H. Mayers (Attorney-General) and three other members of the Executive Council—Mr. W. A. Bustamante, Mr. R. B. Barker and Mr. O. K. Henriques. In addition, two leaders of the unions in the sugar industry in British Guiana, Mr. A. M. Eden, Jr., and Mr. A. A. Thorne, have come to the United Kingdom on their own account, to support the general case of the industry for a ten-year agreement at fair prices to be negotiated periodically.

The delegations have had a series of meetings independently with officials of the Colonial Office, and with members of an inter-departmental Working Party which is studying all aspects of the sugar question and including representatives of the Ministry of Food, Treasury, Colonial Office, and the Commonwealth Relations Office. They have also seen Ministers concerned.

[Since the above was written, nearly all the delegates have returned to their respective colonies. An official communiqué on the talks appears on page 202.]

The Delegates Entertained

WHILE the delegations from the British West Indies have been in London a series of social functions has taken place at which delegates were able to make informal contact with officials of the Ministries, Colonial Office and other government departments, members of Parliament, and leading members of the sugar industries in Britain, the Dominions and the colonies.

The delegation from the British West Indies Sugar Association, who were the first to arrive, were entertained by Mr. J. M. Campbell, deputy chairman of the West India Committee, at a cocktail party in the Savoy Hotel, on July 6th. At this function they made friendly acquaintance with, among others, the members of the inter-departmental working party. On July 11th the delegates, and the treasurers of the West India Committee, were entertained to dinner by Mr. J. M. du Buisson, chairman of the Committee.

At the Savoy Hotel on July 28th, the chairman and executive of the West India Committee gave a cocktail party to the delegates from Jamaica, from British Guiana and from the British West Indies Sugar Association, at which a large and representative gathering was present. The photographs reproduced on one of the pictorial pages were taken at this function.

Government hospitality in the form of luncheon was extended to all the delegates, and Lord Lyle of Westbourne gave a cocktail party at the Dorchester Hotel on August 3rd.

On August 4th the British West Indies Sugar Association delegates gave a cocktail party at the Dorchester Hotel.

The Case for Colonial Sugar

View of B.W.I. Delegates

THE following letter, signed by the four delegates of the British West Indies Sugar Association at present in London, and written from 40, Norfolk Street, appeared in *The Times* of August 1st:—

However desirable in theory may be the restoration of a multilateral trading system, in practice Britain is prevented, either by tariffs and currency barriers or the uncompetitive price of her exports, from trading with a considerable section of the world. That this state of affairs is likely to be altered in the foreseeable future is, as some of your correspondents have indicated, highly improbable.

Presumably Britain's trading plans must take the form of arrangements for the purchase of Britain's import requirements from countries which are prepared to accept payment in terms of relatively high cost sterling exports. Foremost among the areas in this category stands the colonial Empire. Take one aspect of England's dollar import problem—sugar. We, members of a deputation from the British West Indian sugar industry, are here to point out that a considerable dollar-saving expansion in sugar production can be achieved in the British West Indies and British Guiana provided that there is an assured outlet for our product on reasonable terms. We are emphasizing that the investment of a further large sum of capital in plant and machinery would make it possible for the British West Indies to produce in the region of 400,000 tons of additional sterling sugar, but that such major investment will not take place in the absence of a long-term marketing policy for colonial sugar.

In view of the dependence of the British West Indian colonies upon the sugar crop, the granting or otherwise of a guaranteed market at an equitable price for colonial sugar is now regarded in the British Caribbean as the acid test of Britain's future intention towards the colonial peoples. We wonder if the British public is aware of the bitterness engendered in the colonies when it is seen that colonial policy is dealt with in this country on party lines, and that the fate of tens of millions of colonial subjects of the Crown can turn upon the outcome of a General Election in which they exercise no votes.

Dollar Imports

"Stand-Still" Order

In the House of Commons on July 6th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, announced arrangements for a "stand-still" on new dollar expenditure except in instances of urgent national interest.

Later, at a Press conference, a Colonial Office spokesman said that colonial governments had been asked, pending the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting, temporarily to suspend the issue of licences for imports from the dollar area except in cases where that would have grave effects.

It was emphasized that this was a temporary measure whilst the situation was being reviewed. It corresponded to the "stand-still" order in the United Kingdom announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The West India Committee

At a recent meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, the following nine candidates were elected to membership:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MR. CYRIL CHARLES DALE (London)	{ Mr. J. Gordon Miller Mr. Alexander Elder
MAJOR HERBERT P. HOLT, M.C. (Bahamas)	{ Mr. Donald Peacock Mr. George W. Duncan
MR. ROBERT CHARLES DUFF URQUHART (Trinidad)	{ Mr. Alexander Elder Gillespie Bros. & Co., Ltd.
MR. JAMES LAUDER NICOL, O.B.E., M.A. (Barbados)	{ Mr. H. A. Cuke Mr. Alexander Elder
MR. THOMAS PETER NAYLOR (Country)	{ Mr. I. H. Naylor Mr. J. M. Campbell
MR. SYDNEY ALGERNON HOWARD (Trinidad)	{ Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott Mr. Percy C. Mordan
MR. H. PARRY, C.B.E. (Country)	{ Mr. Sydney W. Pitt Mr. D. McBride, O.B.E.
MR. HARVEY HADDEN (Nevis)	{ Wiggins Teape & Alex. Pirie (Export) Ltd.
E. A. ISSA & BROS. LTD. (Jamaica)	{ Mr. John Milbourn Mr. J. Gordon Miller Mr. Alexander Elder

The Obituary List

The chairman referred, with great regret, to the death of Mr. F. A. Greenaway (London); Captain W. B. Harris (St. Lucia); Mr. C. A. S. Howard (British Guiana), and Mr. H. Shingleton Smith (St. Lucia), a life member.

Resignation of Mr. Gavin

The West India Committee announces with regret the resignation of Mr. Robert Gavin, secretary, who has been appointed to an important international post abroad. Mr. Gavin took up his present post in October, 1944, after having been secretary of the British West Indies Sugar Association.

(Continued from page 185)

mind is whether, while admitting the validity of that statement and accepting the necessity for technical and commercial advice from headquarters, the personnel of the regional subsidiaries is strong enough for the heavy responsibilities they will still have to carry.

Many other points arise which cannot be dealt with in a short space. One last word, however. Throughout the Report one feels that the Board, while acknowledging the extent of the co-operation given to them by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, fear, and indeed expect, interference with their activities from outside (including political) sources. It would be fatal if this should dominate their programme and policy. If it did so it would make co-operation with private enterprise difficult, if not impossible. If public companies are to embark on joint adventures with the Corporation and are expected to share the risks, they must be treated as full partners in those adventures. They certainly cannot be expected to risk shareholders' money in projects, decisions on which are liable to be taken without reference to them, without necessary regard for the commercial risks involved, but rather in pursuance of some political aim. This is fundamental and until it is finally decided in the right way co-operation with private industry in a field where in any case the risks are high, cannot be full and fruitful,

The Colonial Month

THE interest aroused by the various exhibits displayed in connexion with the Colonial Month has been such that several of them were extended beyond the official end of the month (July 20th).

The main exhibit at the Central Office of Information Exhibition Hall was thrown open until further notice.

The exhibition of traditional art of the British colonies, in the rooms of the Royal Anthropological Institute, remained open till August 4th, and the display of British West Indian produce, Sea Island cotton, and historical manuscripts and books, on view in the rooms of the West India Committee, will remain open to the public until August 26th.

A gift hamper containing products representative of all the British Caribbean colonies was assembled by the West India Committee to be presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the 250,000th visitor to the main exhibit. The contents of the hamper were as follows: Barbados, one tin of fancy molasses; British Guiana, one packet Demerara sugar; British Honduras, two mahogany napkin rings; Jamaica, one tin guava jelly and one packet mixed citrus peel; Trinidad, one tin grapefruit juice and one packet Black Magic chocolates; Grenada, one embroidered shopping bag and six nutmegs; St. Vincent, one packet arrowroot; St. Lucia, two coco-nuts; Dominica, one bottle lime juice cordial; Leeward Islands, one lady's Sea Island cotton scarf.

In acknowledgment of these gifts the thanks of the West India Committee are due to Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques; Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd.; Czamikow, Ltd.; Roosen Silks, Ltd.; L. Rose & Co., Ltd.; Rowntree & Co., Ltd.; the West Indian Produce Association Ltd.; the Caribbean Preserving Co., Ltd.; the Citrus Company of Jamaica, Ltd.; the Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association of Trinidad; the Coco-nut Growers' Association of Trinidad; the Grenada Manufacturing Company, Ltd.; and the Grenada Nutmeg Association.

The 250,000th visitor proved to be Miss Doris Hayes, of 5, Clare Road, Kingswood, Bristol.

The Pictorial Pages

THE landing of the Vikings—or were they Jutes?—on the coast of Kent 1,500 years ago, was re-enacted at Broadstairs on July 28th when the *Hugin* arrived from Esbjerg. She had been sailed and rowed to Britain by some 50 bearded Danes wearing Viking costume.

Many thousands of holiday makers gave a welcome to the ship and the official reception committee included Prince George of Denmark and Lord Hacking. A further reference to the *Hugin*—seen in the first of the pictorial pages in this issue—is made on page 186.

Reference is made on page 187 to the cocktail party given on July 28th to the sugar delegations. The two photographs on the second of the pictorial pages show: (top—from left to right) Mr. O. K. Henriques, Mr. Alexander Bustamante, Mr. J. M. du Buisson, Mr. T. H. Mayers and Mr. R. B. Barker; (lower) Mr. J. M. Campbell, Mr. Harold Robinson and Sir William Rook.



VIKING SHIP ARRIVES AT BROADSTAIRS



WEST INDIAN SUGAR DELEGATIONS ENTERTAINED

See page 108



Debate on Colonial Affairs

The Case for West Indian Sugar

THE interest aroused by the Colonial Month was referred to by Mr. A. Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies, when he opened a debate on colonial affairs in the House of Commons on July 20th. No fewer than 211,000 visitors had already been admitted to the exhibition, while the demand for literature had completely exhausted some of the stocks. Mr. Creech Jones voiced his thanks to the societies, public bodies and commercial undertakings who had participated.

The broad purpose in regard to colonial policy was to bring stability, good order and mutual prosperity to the world; to do this with the co-operation of the colonial peoples by building up in the colonial territories responsibility and the conditions of good living. A problem was recruitment for the Colonial Service. There were at the moment no fewer than 1,395 vacancies in the administrative and technical services. Mr. Creech Jones outlined what is being done in the endeavour to solve this problem, and while referring to the university facilities which are being provided, announced that Princess Alice has consented to act as the first Chancellor of the West Indies Universities, and will visit the university at the beginning of next year.

Government policy in regard to the welfare of students who come to this country "would incline away from the establishment of hostels for colonial peoples where they are segregated from people of other races."

In regard to projects in the colonial territories under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, "the indications are that we shall have allocated all the money which was provided by Parliament under the 1945 Act within a comparatively limited time ahead. That will probably mean that urgent projects which the colonies want may not be possible because there are no funds available, and that may create a situation in which the Government will need to consider whether a new Bill should be asked for.

It was "our desire that the maximum freedom should be enjoyed by the [Colonial Development] Corporation in order that its work should be done no less efficiently and certainly with as great freedom as is enjoyed by big private concerns."

Long-term Contracts

There had been an expansion in the number of long-term contracts which it has been possible to enter into on behalf of the producers. "These include coffee, oilseeds, bananas, sugar and copra, so that producers can look well ahead and feel that they have an assured market with a prospect of reasonable prices."

In regard to political development, Mr. Creech Jones said: "What I do want to say is that I do not think we can proceed fast with political development until we expand the social services and the conditions of good living, and until we build up in the territories a sound economic basis to sustain the social services which we are trying to create. That means that an enormous amount of work is being done in the field of social service,

in improving housing and bettering community living, in improving educational facilities and in trying to make for better conditions—so that more and more, as responsibility grows, it can be exercised with knowledge and understanding from the point of view of social service."

Mr. Lennox-Boyd, who opened for the opposition, voiced their opinion by saying "the one thing we are entirely agreed upon is that we are anxious to do all we possibly can for the prosperity and welfare of the Colonial Empire." The Blue Book* recently issued provided a basis on which all parties could work. He congratulated the government on this report, and the Secretary of State on the success of Colonial Month. He welcomed the fact that from the beginning of next year the British Council would take the responsibility for co-ordinating welfare work for colonial students in this country.

West Indian Sugar

He finally dealt with the purchase of colonial products by government ministries, and spoke of the danger that their "hard bargaining" might undo some of the good work done by the Colonial Office. In this connexion he made the following reference to the visit to this country of the delegations from the British West Indies Sugar Association, and Jamaica:—

"As for West Indian sugar, to which reference has already been made, we wish for a closer union, and one day for federation in the West Indies. But there are certain essential prerequisites to be fulfilled first, and there seems to be no immediate sign of their having been fulfilled. We wish every success to the people coming here, whether they are expert traders or more politically-minded people, from the West Indies to urge the case of the West Indies sugar trade. We remember very well that before the war one-half of our imports of sugar came from British Empire sources. Since then, largely through the work of the World Food Board and its successor, we have been having a much higher proportion from foreign countries, and last year the Empire sent us only 20 per cent, while Cuba sent us 60 per cent. The most recently published figures for this year, which are not in the Blue Book, show that the figure has jumped from 20 per cent to 38 per cent from the British Colonial Empire.

"The United States has a ban, under their Sugar Act, on sugar imports into the United States unless they come from Porto Rico, Hawaii or the Philippines. I hope that we shall find some good reason why we should not have a quota ourselves unless, as I hope, the Government eventually decide to have this system ourselves. This sugar is bought on long-term contracts, and the view of our party is that we dislike State trading, not on any ideological ground but because almost invariably it works out to be more expensive.

"However, we do support long-term contracts and guaranteed markets, and remunerative prices to be paid,

* *The Colonial Territories (1948-49)*, see page 193.

as much to the West Indian sugar producer as to our own home agriculturist here. After all, it was a Minister of the party to which I belong that first introduced guaranteed prices to the home agriculturist, and we have always taken the line that the home agriculturists and the Dominion and Colonial farmer must be given equally good consideration."

When Mr. Rees-Williams asked Mr. Lennox-Boyd to develop this argument, he said: "It is the responsibility of the Government to put forward proposals. We have it quite clearly in our own minds how it could be done so that there would be no inconsistency whatever between the State guaranteed prices and the handling of produce by private traders, just as in the case of home agriculture. No doubt there will be many other opportunities in a debate properly linked with that subject when I could develop the whole theme. We reject altogether the view that long-term contracts, or even bulk contracts, demand State trading. We do not regard that as an essential corollary at all."

Mr. Anthony Greenwood made a point which has been apparent in most of the debates when he said: "I think it is one of the weaknesses of our Colonial Debates that all of us tend to be interested in different aspects of the problem, with the result that there is no general principle running through our discussions." He dealt with the problem of tuberculosis in Africa, and was followed by Sir John Graham Kerr, whose theme in particular was fishery research in Malaya. Mr. Peart was concerned that more effort should be directed to problems of soil erosion; Mr. Donner complained that the Blue Book contained no formulation of educational or social aims and objectives, and inquired if Voodoo and some of the darker cults are to be suppressed in the West Indies but tolerated in Africa.

Jamaica Ex-Service Men

General Sir George Jeffreys put forward the grievances of ex-Service men in Jamaica, and urged publication of the report of the committee appointed in 1946, under the chairmanship of Major Curphey, to inquire into those grievances. While he spoke primarily on behalf of the 1914-18 men, he added a plea for attention to the position of those back from the second world war. He quoted the interest of Mr. Bustamante in this matter.

Mr. Michael Foot felt that Mr. Bustamante, from his powerful position inside the Jamaican government, might move that government in the matter. He then dealt at length with the question of the future of West Indian sugar, emphasizing the importance of the subject in the following words: "I do not believe that any of our projects of colonial development, or any of the work of the Colonial Development Corporation as it applies to the West Indies, can be of comparable importance to the question of what we are to do to ensure an expanding sugar production in those islands. Every Royal Commission has confirmed that almost all the islands are entirely, or almost entirely, dependent upon sugar production. Therefore, it is vital to the whole idea of advance in education and health, and in every other direction, in the West Indies in particular, that there should be a healthy sugar industry.

"The question is much more urgent, as the hon. Member for Mid-Bedford [Mr. Lennox-Boyd] suggested, because of the delegation which is now in this country

negotiating on this subject with the government. I am sure that the Colonial Office will do everything in their power to assist the delegation to state their views to other government departments. But I do not think that this concerns only the Colonial Office. This is a Cabinet matter. I am sure that the decision about what we are to do about the sugar industry in the West Indies is one which should be brought before the Cabinet, because the whole future of the West Indies depends on the decisions we now make."

Sugar Price Structure

"What they are asking for," he said later, "are what they consider as fair prices for an industry which has been held by several inquiries to be the most efficient agriculturally in the West Indies. Every Royal Commission has said that. They are asking for a structure of prices which will offset political action taken elsewhere to maintain uneconomic sugar production."

Imperial Preference would not protect the sugar industry in the West Indies. Imperial Preference linked the price which the British West Indian producer has to accept with the price which Cuba receives for her surplus. We had agreed to take all the sugar which the West Indies can produce up to 1952. What West Indian producers were asking was that there should be an extension of that contract to a period of ten years, with some method of negotiating prices annually and periodically, and with some possibility of expanding their industry to supply larger quantities to us.

The people of the West Indies had a very powerful case in this respect, because of the statement on long-term contracts for the purchase of colonial products made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on September 17th, 1948 [see THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, October, 1948, page 213.—Ed.]. "What the government must decide—and I am sure that the Colonial Office is in favour of this—is whether they are to carry out the principle underlying that declaration of September 17th or whether they are not. What are the objections which might be raised to pressing forward with this policy of long-term contracts, in particular for the sugar industry? Is it the case that the Government's advisers—either the advisers to the Ministry of Food or to the Treasury—are considering a return to free market conditions in sugar and allegiance to the idea of a world price after 1952 when the present contract comes to an end?"

The world price for sugar was a fiction, and every Royal Commission which had been set up on this subject had agreed that it was a fiction. "I say it is a callous thing that we should ever hint or think of talking in terms of a world price when the whole future of the West Indies is at stake, and when every West Indian believes passionately, and that belief is confirmed by every Royal Commission, that no such thing as a world price of sugar exists. It is an immoral thing that we should think of lecturing the people of the West Indies about world price conditions when we are maintaining a far less economic industry for producing sugar in this country, and maintaining it in defiance of the advice given by the Royal Commission which was set up to consider the advisability of maintaining a beet sugar industry in this country in 1935."

Sir John Barlow stressed the importance of placing

the colonies on a satisfactory economic footing. He asked for information on the policy of the Colonial Development Corporation in regard to the encouragement of private enterprise in the colonies, and on the amount of dollar exchange which is being placed at the disposal of the corporation. He hoped that dollars were not being expended unnecessarily, and urged attention to the matter of leakage of dollars in certain colonies.

Dr. Haden Guest referred to the need for doctors in the colonies, and the shortage of qualified medical men in general. He suggested that in existing conditions it would be advantageous to treat the colonial medical service as a whole as a branch of the National Health Service of this country.

Mr. Beverley Baxter believed that an agreement between America, Canada and the Empire generally to a system of guaranteed prices of commodities would solve many problems. "I myself think," he said, "that there is only one solution to the approaching world economic disaster, and that is for the Americans and the Canadians—and I hope the Canadians will come altogether into the sterling bloc—to find some way to come into the sterling economy with free interchangeable currency, as this country in the 19th century went into America after the Civil War and built up the American economy." He would like to think that we would give more thought to the problem of welcoming colonial visitors.

Mr. Oliver Stanley thought that the debate, together with the colonial report, had given a fair picture of the economic machinery for the future. It would fall into three parts: the Colonial Development and Welfare Act machinery, the machinery of the government Corporations, and thirdly private enterprise. He would like more precise information from the Secretary of State on what was meant by his statement that Parliament would soon have to consider an amendment of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

Mr. Stanley then dealt with the question of bulk buying in the colonies. "Ever since my time in the Colonial Office I have always realized that there might be, in certain cases, a need for this bulk buying. I agree with the hon. Member for Devonport (Mr. Foot). Although I am in favour of Imperial Preference in the narrow term of the pure fiscal machinery, I do not believe that preferences can give to the colonies the priorities they need in all cases. The particular case of sugar, which he quoted, is one in which preferences by themselves are probably the least effective. I am, therefore, in favour of this system in certain cases for the very good reason that I am against it outside the colonial empire. I am against it outside the Empire because I think it usually gives a hard deal to the consumer. Inside the Empire, it may well be that people in this country will voluntarily assume a deal bad for themselves in order to help, by that, the people in the colonies for whom they are responsible.

Bulk Buying

"But when talking about bulk buying do not let us ignore the great dangers and difficulties which have to be faced in that policy. They have not had to be faced yet. The references which hon. Members opposite make to the success of bulk buying in the colonies up

to now ignore the fact that during a world boom a system of this kind is, of course, successful. But, as a matter of fact, bulk purchase in the colonies, in a large number of cases, has consisted of buying produce not above world prices but under world prices. The cocoa, the oil seeds of West Africa, the cotton of Uganda, have been built up because the bulk purchasers from this country bought colonial produce not above but below world prices. We sold at the world prices, and we were quite right in doing so, not to feather our own nest but in order to avoid the dangers of inflation in the colonies."

He concluded with a warning that the difficulties lying in front of the colonial peoples were not in all cases fully realized.

Under-Secretary's Reply

In closing the debate the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Rees-Williams) endorsed the tributes which had been paid by the various speakers to the work of the Colonial Office and the colonial staffs at home and overseas. In reply to Mr. Stanley's query on the possible amendment of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act he stated that already practically the whole of the fund had been allocated. Thus, in a year or two's time, if this machinery of colonial development and welfare were to continue, there would arise the question of a further fund from which fresh allocations could be made.

He supported Mr. Michael Foot in his repudiation of suggestions that West Indian sugar producers were asking for the subsidization of inefficiency and wastefulness. At present the West Indies had a three years' contract for sugar, and the deputation now in this country was negotiating for a further period extending, they hoped, to ten years. The British government were paying more than the Cuban price plus Imperial Preference for West Indian sugar. Therefore, to suggest that the way out of the difficulty would be to restore Imperial Preference was just nonsense. "That means nothing. At present the West Indians actually get more than preference plus the Cuban price."

They would like to do everything they could for ex-Service men of both wars, but the question raised by General Sir George Jeffreys was one primarily for the Jamaican government. They had a very large measure of self-government in Jamaica, and it was primarily their responsibility. Asked by Sir George if the government would impress upon that of Jamaica their duty to deal seriously with the matter, he replied: "We will indicate to them the very strong case which the hon. and gallant Gentleman has made. I cannot promise what they will do."

Lord Harewood

The engagement of the Earl of Harewood to Miss Marion Stein, the pianist, was announced on July 20th. The marriage is to take place in the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, on September 29th, and the King and Queen, who plan to stay at Balmoral until October, are expected to come to London to attend the ceremony.

Lord Harewood's father was a vice-president of the West India Committee and his grandfather, president from 1915 to 1929.

OBITUARY

MR. F. A. GREENAWAY

As announced, with deep regret, in last issue, Mr. Francis Alfred Greenaway, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, died on July 4th. His death occurred suddenly at his home at Beckenham, Kent, a few hours after leaving his office.

Born in London in January 1879, he started his career at an early age with the firm of Frame and Co., Ltd., cocoa merchants, and received his business training from Mr. Gregor Macgregor Frame, the founder of the firm and a man of outstanding personality and of the highest integrity.

Mr. Greenaway worked for over 40 years with Mr. Frame, eventually becoming a director, and, on the latter's death, chairman of the company.

Mr. Greenaway was one of the original members of the Cocoa Association of London, Ltd., and always took a leading part in its activities. In 1935 he became a director of the Association, was elected treasurer in 1939-40, and in the following year became vice-chairman. In 1941-42 he was elected chairman, and that year was a particularly difficult one as complete Government control of cocoa took the place of free enterprise. Mr. Greenaway played an outstanding part for the trade in this change, which involved careful negotiations between the two parties. He was ultimately elected chairman of the association which was formed to deal with these matters.

His work for the Cocoa Association took up much of his time, and he never spared himself in the general interest of its members. His patience, calm resolution and untiring efforts on behalf of so many sections of the Cocoa Association will always be remembered with gratitude. He was also a Member of the Cocoa Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Food.

Mr. Greenaway, a man of great tact and courtesy, was held in the highest respect by a wide circle of business friends, many of whom turned to him frequently for advice on matters concerning cocoa production and distribution.

His expert knowledge was always at the disposal of the West India Committee and since his election to the Executive in 1936 he was consulted whenever a problem concerning cocoa arose.

Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Greenaway and Mr. Ian Greenaway in their great loss.

A memorial service for Mr. Greenaway was held at St. Margaret Pattens, Eastcheap, on July 27th when, in addition to members of the family, many personal and business friends attended to pay their last respects.

We also regret to announce the death of Mr. Joseph Alexander Luckhoo, K.C., of British Guiana. A reference to his death is made on page 199.

The subscription for Membership of the West India Committee, which is payable on election, is £1 10s. per annum for individuals and £5 5s. for firms, etc. In the case of individuals elected on or after July 1st in any year, the initial subscription is 15s. and in that of firms £2 12s. 6d. Subscriptions are renewable on January 1st.

The West Indian Club

Dinner to Sir Frederick Seaford

THERE was a pleasant reunion at the Savoy Hotel in London on July 19th when the members of the West Indian Club gave a dinner to Sir Frederick J. Seaford, C.B.E., to mark the knighthood conferred upon him by the King in the birthday honours.

Mr. A. L. Jupp, chairman of the club, presided, and in conveying to him the good wishes of the members paid tribute to the good work done in British Guiana by Sir Frederick as by his father before him. His wide knowledge, experience, and administrative ability had always been placed at the disposal of Demerara and the value of his services was recognized far outside the colony.

Sir Charles Woolley, Governor of British Guiana, spoke of the pleasure it gave him to know that those in England so appreciated the services rendered to the colony by Sir Frederick. He had been closely associated with Sir Frederick for a little over two years, and testified to the unselfish public service which Sir Frederick had rendered in British Guiana. If the colony, as the result of projected developments, should acquire a "new look," he hoped that those who saw it would remember what Sir Frederick had had to do with it.

Sir Frederick expressed the satisfaction it gave him to know that his efforts on behalf of the colony had been recognized and appreciated. He thanked Sir Charles Woolley, the heads of government departments, and members of the Civil Service for the assistance and support they had given him in his work for British Guiana. He had great faith in the colony and would always retain his interest in its welfare.

Letters and telegrams conveying messages of congratulation were received from Sir Algernon Aspinall, president of the club; Mr. J. Gordon Miller, vice-president and deputy chairman; Sir Thomas Lloyd, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; His Honour George C. Green, Administrator, Grenada; Hon. P. Renison, Colonial Secretary, Trinidad; Hon. D. C. MacGillivray, Colonial Secretary, Jamaica; Mr. W. S. Jones; Mr. N. Esslemont, and Mr. F. B. Henderson.

Those present included:—

Mr. F. Aldous, Mr. A. C. Barnes, Mr. A. E. V. Barton, Mr. L. S. Birkett, Mr. C. J. Bettencourt-Gomes, Mr. D. Broadhead, Mr. L. C. Burnell, Mr. C. A. Burton, Mr. J. M. Campbell, Mr. L. K. Carter, Mr. W. F. Clatworthy, Dr. A. Coyer, Hon. H. A. Cuke, Mr. E. A. Davson, Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Davson, Mr. F. I. de Caires, Mr. H. W. de Freitas, Mr. P. Ditton, Mr. G. M. Eccles, Mr. Alex. Elder, Mr. E. Cassleton Elliott, Mr. N. Cassleton Elliott, Mr. R. G. W. Farnell, Mr. D. C. Foster, Mr. J. W. Freeman, Mr. L. J. Friend, Mr. J. Gallagher, Mr. T. Gallagher, Mr. M. V. Girard, Mr. H. L. Goddard, Mr. B. A. Gonsalves, Mr. E. Leslie Grant, Mr. H. R. Guy, Mr. W. F. Hammond, Dr. L. Handley-Ashken, Mr. Justice K. D. K. Hill, Mr. H. C. Humphreys, Mr. C. V. Hunter, Mr. W. C. Ingleton, Mr. S. D. Jupp, Mr. A. Learmond, Mr. S. Little, Mr. D. S. McCurley, Mr. G. E. Mackley, Mr. A. F. Mallory, Mr. H. W. Mann, Mr. F. W. Mayhew, Mr. H. C. Medlam, Mr. S. R. Mence, Mr. S. H. Mercer, Mr. C. W. Murray, Mr. N. S. Murray, Mr. F. Palmer, Mr. M. B. Parker, Mr. C. A. Pickering, Mr. David Powell, Mr. H. A. Rapson, Mr. G. R. Reid, Mr. P. A. Reynolds, Hon. H. E. Robinson, Mr. N. J. Rowlatt, Mr. E. P. Simmons, Mr. G. F. Seel, Mr. N. P. Sherlock, Mr. D. Smith, Mr. R. D. Smith, Mr. W. A. B. Smith, Brigadier A. E. Stokes-Roberts, Mr. R. E. Stubington, Mr. B. Swain, Mr. W. E. Swain, Mr. H. Alan Walker, Mr. J. K. Walker, Mr. H. Waterman, Mr. W. F. Watson, Mr. Job L. Wild, Mr. H. E. Williams, Mr. R. Kerr Wilson, Mr. C. E. Woodhouse, Mr. A. I. Zaitzeff and Mr. G. J. Dent, Hon. Secretary.

Progress in the Colonies

Annual Report of Secretary of State

PROGRESS towards responsible government is only realistic if it is accompanied by parallel economic advances."

With these words the Secretary of State for the Colonies justifies the fact that the stress in his latest report* on the colonies is more on economic than on social and political progress, and after dwelling on the economic interdependence of the United Kingdom and the colonies, goes on: "The primary criterion must continue to be the interests of the colonies themselves, but in practice the interests of the United Kingdom and the colonies are complementary. On the one hand the colonies depend to a large degree for their economic development on the ability of the United Kingdom to provide the basic means of development—finance, capital, consumer goods and skilled personnel. On the other hand, the colonies provide substantial quantities of basic raw materials and foods needed by the United Kingdom. In 1948 the colonies contributed 9.7 per cent by value of the total imports into the United Kingdom, as compared with 5.3 per cent in 1938. Moreover, the colonies, with their large dollar earnings, contributed substantially to lessening the deficit of the sterling area with the Western Hemisphere.

"This contribution which the colonial Empire is making to the solution of the balance of payments problem of the sterling area imposes an obligation on the United Kingdom and all departments of His Majesty's Government to assist the colonies to the maximum degree to obtain the imports they need, both for development and current consumption. Thus the relationship is essentially one of mutual advantage."

The Report records steady social, constitutional and economic progress in all regions, despite shortages of equipment and personnel, and despite "disappointing setbacks" such as the outbreak of Communist banditry in Malaya, the failure of constitutional discussions in Cyprus, and the continuance of "swollen shoot" disease of cocoa trees in the Gold Coast.

Developments noted in the Report include the following:—

Amended constitutions came into force in Northern Rhodesia, Barbados, Seychelles and the Falkland Islands, and proposals for revision were published in Trinidad, Sierra Leone and North Borneo.

Excellent progress was made in carrying out the policy of establishing a chain of universities and university colleges in colonial territories. In addition to the long-established universities of Malta and Hong Kong, the new university colleges in Nigeria, the West Indies and the Gold Coast came into formal existence towards the end of 1948, while announcement was made of a grant of £1,000,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds towards the cost of setting up a University of Malaya.

The number of colonial students in Great Britain and Eire in April, 1949, was over 3,400, of whom 1,400 were scholarship holders.

Cyprus was cleared of the malarial mosquito and a similar campaign launched in Mauritius, while 95 per cent of the population of British Guiana is now protected from malaria.

Reports by missions of inquiry included that of the Commission appointed to investigate the possibilities of settlement in British Guiana and British Honduras; a report on labour and trade union organization in Malaya; on university education in Malaya; on the sugar industry in Trinidad; on potentialities for cocoa cultivation in Malaya, Sarawak and North Borneo; on cocoa disease in the Gold Coast; and on disturbances in the Gold Coast.

Production figures for individual products are given in a section dealing with the productivity of natural resources. "The export of sugar amounted to 1,064,000 long tons and was above the pre-war level in all the sugar-producing colonies except British Guiana and Trinidad. This total should rise to 1,200,000 in 1949, including 370,000 tons from Mauritius as compared to its average exports of 247,000 for the five years 1933-37. The effort to increase the production of cotton in the colonial Empire has met with considerable success, production during the past year being over one and a half times what it was in the year before. The production of rubber in Malaya reached the record total of 698,000 tons in 1948. The index of colonial exports based on exports of oil, oilseeds, sugar, cocoa, cotton, sisal, hides and skins, hardwoods, bauxite, manganese, copper, cobalt, lead, tin and rubber, rose to 155 in the first half of 1948 (1946=100, 1947=134), and was 151 for 1948 as a whole. The figure for 1936 was 119."

Supplies of consumer goods to the colonies improved during the year, notably in iron and steel, and cotton cloth and piece goods, but despite this improvement the rate of economic development in the colonies continued to be held back by shortages of some essential imports and by delays in obtaining delivery of some types of equipment.

"There has been some progress towards relieving the shortage of passenger shipping facilities to the Far East and the West Indies. Following the report on West Indian shipping services by the Commonwealth Shipping Committee, Elders & Fyffes announced that they would put their new vessel *Golfito* into service in the summer of 1949 on the United Kingdom, Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica run."

During 1948 over 1,150 appointments were made by the organization of the Director of Recruitment (Colonial Service), bringing the total since June, 1945, to over 4,500. Because of the many development schemes in progress or projected, however, a heavy demand for qualified professional and technical staff continued and nearly 1,200 posts remained unfilled at the end of 1948.

The policy was pursued of speeding up the recruitment and training for senior posts of men and women

* *The Colonial Territories* (1948-49). Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of His Majesty, June, 1949. Cmd. 7715. H.M.S.O., 1949. Price, 6d. net.

born in the colonies, and 102 scholarships were awarded under the £1,000,000 Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme devised for this purpose. Details of the awards to each colony are not given.

Appendices to the report give a list of papers of colonial interest published during 1948-49; a list of the colonial ten-year development plans approved; a classification of the schemes embodied in those plans; figures of public revenue and expenditure of each colony for the years 1938, 1939, and 1945 to 1948; area and population of each colony; and Organization for European Economic Co-operation export forecasts of British colonial produce in 1952-53 as compared with exports in earlier years.

West Indies and the Davis Cup

THE British West Indies Lawn Tennis Association has offered a championship trophy for competition between the British colonies in the Caribbean area, with the object of raising the standard of lawn tennis with a view to entering a British West Indian Davis Cup team for the international matches.

Matches took place in Trinidad in April, 1948, at which the result was a tie between Jamaica and Trinidad, and in Jamaica in April of this year, when Jamaica won the series.

The trophy, an illustration of which is reproduced on this page, takes the form of a handsome silver vase of globular form bearing in relief a map of the West Indies and surmounted by a model of a tennis player in action. It is 22½ inches high, weighs 80 ounces, and is mounted on an ebony plinth with silver panels. The trophy was designed by Mr. H. E. C. Poole, and made by G. Bryan and Co., Ltd., of Birmingham.

International Travel Statistics, 1947. First report of the Study Commission of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations on International Travel Statistics. Published by the British Travel Association, London, S.W.1, on behalf of the International Union, April, 1949. Price 5s.

This is an attempt to measure international travel, and is compiled from statistics received from 46 countries. A special section on the Caribbean gives particulars of visitors to the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

B.G. Animals and Birds

Notable Gift to London Zoo

MR. H. GREGORY SMITH, Commissioner of the Interior, British Guiana, reached Liverpool aboard the s.s. *Enid* on July 23rd, with an interesting collection of mammals, birds and reptiles of the colony, which has been presented to the London Zoo.

Associated with Mr. Gregory Smith in this magnificent gift are Mrs. J. E. Risdon, who presented a crab-eating fox, two terrapins and a tortoise; Mr. M. Stockdale, donor of a squirrel monkey; Mr. H. W. Lynch King, donor of a tayra; and Mr. Y. Mills, donor of a two-toed sloth.

By courtesy of Dr. Sheffield Neave, secretary, and Mr. C. S. Webb, curator, of the Zoological Society, we are able to place on record a complete list of the items comprising the collection. The two rarest specimens are the Guiana Bush Dog and the Red Chatterer. The latter, a bird somewhat resembling the Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola rupicola*), has never been represented at the Zoo before.

MAMMALS: 7 squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciurea*); 1 weeper capuchin monkey (*Cebus apella*); 4 red-handed tamarin monkeys (*Mystax midas*); 1 two-toed sloth (*Cholepus didactylus*); 2 crab-eating foxes (*Cerdocyon thous*); 1 bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*); 2 tayras (*Tayra barbara*); 2 spotted pacas (*Cuniculus paca*); 1 hairy tree porcupine (*Coendou villosus*); 3 agoutis (*sp. inc.*); 2 capybaras (*Hydrochoerus hydrochoerus*).

BIRDS: 1 yellow-backed hangnest (*Icterus croconotus*); 2 Swainson's grackles (*Holquiscalus lugubris*); 2 red-billed toucans (*Ramphastos monilis*); 2 grey-winged trumpeters (*Psophia crepitans*); 1 Venezuelan wood rail (*Aramides axillaris*); 1 red chatterer (*Phoenicocercus carnifex*); 1

pigeon (*sp. inc.*).

REPTILES: 7 iguanas (*Iguana iguana*); 1 scorpion mud terrapin (*Kinosternon scorpioides*); 1 rough terrapin (*Geomyda punctularia*); 1 Brazilian tortoise (*Testudo denticulata*).

Two senior postal executives from the United Kingdom, Lieut.-Col. L. W. Nicholson, and Mr. L. B. Bayliss, have arrived in Trinidad to conduct an inquiry into the Postal Department.



Notes of West Indian Interest

"COWARD man keep whole bones."

* * *

MR. G. O. M. O'REILLY, K.C., has been appointed a director of Angostura Bitters (Dr. J. G. B. Siegert and Sons), Ltd.

* * *

MR. W. E. CURTIS, of the Crown Agents, will visit the British West Indies in the autumn to discuss supply problems and connected services with the Governments of those territories.

* * *

MR. AND MRS. A. S. BYLES of Brown's Town, St. Ann, Jamaica, received a message of congratulation from the King and Queen on the occasion of their diamond wedding, which they celebrated on July 26th. Mr. Byles is a land surveyor and a Justice of the Peace.

* * *

In the House of Commons, on July 20th, the Secretary of State for the Colonies announced that Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, the first Chancellor of the University College of the West Indies, will visit the College at the beginning of next year.

* * *

MR. JOHN E. TYRER EGG, a student at Exeter College, Oxford, obtained a first class in the recent University history finals. He is the son of the late Mr. R. Tyrer Egg, of British Guiana and the Gold Coast, and of Mrs. Egg, of Ealing, London, W.

* * *

DR. WILLIAM BEEBE, Director of the Department of Tropical Research of the New York Zoological Society, arrived in Trinidad on July 8th for a visit of about a fortnight with the object of planning a biological station to be set up north of the town of Arima.

* * *

As we go to press we learn with deep regret of the death of Sir Frank Stockdale, deputy chairman of the Colonial Development Corporation and chairman of the governing body of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. Sir Frank died in his sleep on the night of August 2nd-3rd at his London flat.

* * *

A MEMOIR of Mr. F. A. Greenaway, whose death was announced in last CIRCULAR, appears on page 192. Frame and Co., Ltd., of which he was chairman, announce that the business of the company will continue under the following directors: Miss M. Macgregor Frame, Mr. E. E. Bestall, Mr. G. E. Rapley and Mr. Ian F. S. Greenaway, M.C.

* * *

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death, on July 18th, of Mr. G. C. Hampton, chairman and managing director of James Nourse, Ltd., of 122, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C. Mr. Hampton, who was in his 71st year, had been associated with the business for over 50 years and had been a director since the incorporation of the company in 1903.

THE Booker Line *Amakura* left Liverpool on June 30th on her maiden voyage to British Guiana. The accommodation in this vessel consists entirely of single cabins and she has all the latest navigation apparatus, radar, radio telephone, and echo sounding device. A photograph of the *Amakura*, taken just before she was launched at Middlesbrough, was published in the CIRCULAR for April.

* * *

At an Investiture held on July 12th, Sir Frederick Seaford, of British Guiana, received the accolade from the King, and Mr. G. C. Green, Administrator of Grenada, was invested with the insignia of the C.M.G. awarded to him in the New Year Honours of 1948. Mr. and Mrs. Green attended the garden party held at Buckingham Palace on July 7th, and had the honour of being presented to Their Majesties.

* * *

SEVERAL extensions have recently been made available by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. to the external radiotelephone services. The Jamaica-Miami and Trinidad-Miami services have been extended to Korea, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia. The Trinidad-Miami and Barbados-Miami services have been extended to Portugal, and the Barbados-Miami service to the Bahamas and (via Curaçao) to Aruba.

* * *

MR. W. A. MACNIE, who has been appointed manager of the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association, acted as competent authority and controller of supplies and prices in that colony from 1939 to 1945, when he moved to the Leeward Islands as Colonial Secretary. Mr. Macnie has spent 24 years in British Guiana, to which colony he was posted in 1921 as sub-inspector of police, becoming later district inspector, district commissioner, competent authority and assistant Colonial Secretary.

The West Indian Review

It will be generally agreed that Miss Esther Chapman has made a success of the amalgamation of the quarterly *West Indian Review* and the weekly publication *Jamaica*.

Many will regret the passing of the *Review* as a quarterly. There is a special appeal about a favourite journal which can be digested at leisure before the next issue appears. If, however, Miss Chapman succeeds in maintaining the high standard reached in the first few numbers, the general verdict must be that she has given her readers more for their money than ever.

In a contribution to a recent issue Mr. Charles H. Archibald discusses the part played by journalism in the life of a community, and the need for journals other than newspapers to give prominence to local opinion as distinct from news. He regards the growth in the number of weekly and monthly publications in the British Caribbean as a healthy development. *The West Indian Review* is a most acceptable expression of that development.

The Development Corporation

Operations in 1948

THE first official report* on the activities of the Colonial Development Corporation covers the period from the end of July, 1947, when the Secretary of State requested Lord Trefgarne, as chairman-designate, to prepare the first plans for the establishment of the organization, to the end of December, 1948. Accompanying the report is the statement of accounts of expenditure to December 31st, 1948.

The corporation was created by section I of the Overseas Resources Development Act, which received the Royal Assent on February 11th, 1948, and the first official meeting of the Board took place on March 2nd, 1948, when approval was given to a plan of organization in the framework of which the affairs of the corporation are conducted. This plan is explained in detail in the report, and embraces a headquarters, and regional corporations. The former is organized on the functional principle; the latter on a geographical basis, to facilitate the local investigation of the early projects and operations of the corporation. Five regional corporations, covering twenty-five territories, have so far been established, and are as follows: Colonial Development Corporation (West Indies) Ltd., chairman, Lord Trefgarne, with headquarters at Kingston, Jamaica; Colonial Development Corporation (West Africa), Ltd., chairman not yet appointed, headquarters at Lagos, Nigeria; Colonial Development Corporation (Central Africa), Ltd., chairman, Sir Miles Thomas, headquarters at Blantyre, Nyasaland; Colonial Development Corporation (East Africa), Ltd., chairman, Sir Frank Stockdale, headquarters at Nairobi, Kenya; and Colonial Development Corporation (Far East), Ltd., chairman, Mr. H. Nutcombe Hume, with headquarters at Singapore.

The background of the corporation's activities is the aim of improving the standard of living of the colonial peoples by increasing their productivity and wealth. This aim is closely linked, both in the short and in the long term, with the objective of reducing the dollar deficit. "The average West Indian," says the report, "spends some 40 per cent of his income on imported goods, the bulk of which come from the dollar area. . . . Clearly, one method of reducing these deficits might be to increase the production of food in the area as a whole and if possible also the production of the simpler manufactured commodities. If this is achieved by developing new resources using labour which is, at present, under-employed, and capital equipment which is at present inadequate, real increase in productivity will result."

In the selection of projects the Board of the corporation has found it necessary to be on guard both qualitatively and quantitatively, and not the lightest of its inaugural tasks has been that of establishing certain external relationships, including the primary relationship of the corporation with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, his department and the Treasury, and those with colonial governments and departments,

with private enterprise operating in the colonies, and with Parliament, the Press and the public. The full co-operation of the managements of private concerns generally, both in the colonies and in the United Kingdom, is acknowledged, and a close and friendly relationship has been maintained with the Overseas Food Corporation, but "the Board have sometimes felt, during the course of this first year, that if they are required to move always and only on the rails of exact planning, obtaining the full concurrence of various government departments and outside interests which may have views to assert, it may be difficult to move at all; and they have, therefore, welcomed every measure of freedom and independent initiative, within the general requirements of economic policy, which the Secretary of State and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have felt able, in their interpretation of the terms of the Act, to concede."

In general, the corporation has received not only a cordial welcome from the Governors and people of the colonies, but "most helpful and competent aid in the common task."

The number of projects which have been accepted for active consideration is 57, of which 15 relate to the British West Indies: to British Honduras, 1; to British Guiana, 4; to Jamaica, 4; to Barbados, 2; to the Bahamas, 1; to Dominica, 2; and to Trinidad, 1.

The number of undertakings actually in operation is 9, of which 4 are located in the British West Indies.

In British Guiana a loan secured by a convertible debenture was made to British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields, Ltd., which has been used to purchase, transport and instal a dredge which will operate on the Potaro river. Drilling has been carried out on the Potaro and Konowaruk rivers, and substantial areas of payable ground have been proved. A dredge now operating on the Mahdia river will be moved to the Konowaruk when the Mahdia area is worked out.

A second undertaking in British Guiana is the acquirement of the Manaka Timber Concession, comprising 93,000 acres of forest on the lower west bank of the Essequibo river. This concession will now form an integral part of the corporation's general plans for forestry development within the colony, and particularly for the opening up of the rich timber-bearing areas which lie beyond. Arrangements have been made with Steel Brothers & Co., Ltd., to act as managing agents for the corporation, and it is intended that operations shall reach a substantial scale at the earliest possible date.

The Underwood Report of April, 1948, recommended that the salt industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands, to be operated efficiently, should be brought under unified control and completely reorganized and re-equipped, at a capital cost estimated at £350,000. It was agreed with the Governor and owners that the ownership of all the salinas should be vested by ordinance in a company to be set up by the corporation which would issue debentures to compensate the former owners. Operations will include the increase in production by rehabilitation of the salinas, provision of additional loading equipment, the building of a pilot refining plant, and further expansion as and when

* Colonial Development Corporation: *Report and Accounts for 1948*. Cmd. 188, 1949. H.M.S.O. 1s. net.

C. D. & W. Acts

Grants under the Acts to West Indian Colonies

THE return of schemes* made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts in the period from April 1st, 1948, to March 31st, 1949, gives the total amount of grants to British Caribbean colonies during the year as £2,085,474, of which £1,927,451 was approved under the heading Development and Welfare, and £158,023 was approved as grants for research. Loans included in the sum approved for Development and Welfare amounted to £5,500, of which £4,700 went to British Guiana for improvement of drainage and irrigation, and £800 to Antigua for improvement of water supplies.

The total amount now approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, 1940, and 1945, as part of Britain's contribution to colonial progress, is £63,171,574. Of this total £15,567,221 has been approved for the British West Indies; grants amounting to £12,850,790 and loans amounting to £1,862,167 under development and welfare, and £854,264 for research.

Of the grants approved during the period under review, £345,176 were allotted to the University College of the West Indies, £116,900 to the Colonial Microbiological Research Institute, and £18,000 for cytogenetical research on sugar cane in the West Indies.

The Corentyne drainage and irrigation scheme in British Guiana was allotted sums totalling £408,700. The geological survey organization in the colony received £135,000. The sum of £17,000 was granted towards the school building programme.

Grants to British Honduras included £134,120 for road construction, £50,000 for forest regeneration, £44,500 for the establishment of a Technical High School in Belize, and £25,000 for the establishment of dispensaries in rural areas. Items totalling £21,950 were approved for the purchase of a 15,000 acre estate at Baking Pot, and the establishment thereon of farms and a boys' training school, the whole to make provision for practical training in agriculture for ex-servicemen and others, and field studies on the better cultivation and production of the principal food crops and trials with selected types of cocoa.

Various water supply schemes in Jamaica were provided for by grants amounting in all to £141,325. £97,690 were allotted for hospital construction, £41,508 towards a public health training centre, £41,450 to meet estimated expenditure during the first five years of a seven-year geological survey, and £20,749 towards the erection of a pilot plant for the processing and canning of agricultural products in Kingston. Among the smaller grants is included a sum of £4,650 for the erection of an unattended light at Great Sand Cay, Turks Islands.

The only considerable item relating specifically to the Leeward Islands is a sum of £38,255 for the establish-

ment of a federal engineer/architect unit to supervise the execution of schemes under the ten-year development plan. Apart from the loan of £800 for improvement of water supplies referred to above, the remaining items were supplementary grants towards existing schemes.

Grants to the Windward Islands during the year totalled £328,055, distributed over 30 items. Various allocations for agricultural projects added up to £120,265, the principal items being £36,875 for the development and maintenance of agricultural stations in Dominica, £32,500 towards the cost of staff, and £30,927 for the development of agriculture in the Vieux Fort area of St. Lucia. Dominica was also granted £34,000 for the establishment of a forestry service, and a further £25,510 for the improvement of the cocoa industry in the island. £7,750 were allotted to Grenada for various improvements to the cocoa industry, including trials with a new propagating technique.

Commitments in St. Lucia arising from the Castries fire have necessitated increased engineering staff in the Public Works Department, and grants amounting to £22,252 have been made to help with this. Other substantial grants to the island are £21,717 for school buildings and £16,925 for the establishment of health centres. £7,000 were allotted for the removal of military buildings, which constituted a hazard to aircraft, from Vigie airfield. St. Vincent received an interim grant of £12,500 for the preparation of an alighting area for Sealand amphibian aircraft, to provide a weekly air service with other islands in the South Caribbean; also £10,000 for the erection of a new nurses' home, and £3,350 to provide for the continuation of the training of pupil teachers and primary school teachers.

Barbados and Trinidad received only minor grants during the year. Those made to Barbados, which totalled £4,278, included £2,750 for the appointment of a ceramist to investigate the possibilities of the development of the pottery, brick and tile-making industry. Trinidad received two small supplementary grants towards research, one of £178 for research into vacuum-oil food drying processes, and £65 towards an ecological survey of secondary forest growth in the island.

Ten-year development plans approved during the period were those for British Guiana, St. Lucia, Grenada and North Borneo. The British Guiana plan provides for a total expenditure of £6,650,000, of which £2,500,000 will be met from the territory's Colonial Development and Welfare allocation. Total expenditure on the St. Lucia plan is given as £900,000, of which Colonial Development and Welfare funds will provide £405,000. The Grenada plan provides for an over-all expenditure of £1,741,060. Of this sum £391,060 will come from Colonial Development and Welfare allocations.

(Continued from preceding page)

experience shows it to be feasible. The necessary technical staff have been recruited.

A well-known firm of United Kingdom contractors has been engaged to rebuild the town of Castries, capital of St. Lucia, under the corporation's supervision.

The statement of accounts shows that at December 31st, 1948, the corporation had acquired assets totalling £621,269, and that net administrative expenditure had amounted to £77,059.

* Return of Schemes made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the concurrence of the Treasury, in the period from April 1st, 1948, to March 31st, 1949. No. 211, H.M.S.O., 1949. Price 1s. net.

West Indies at Westminster

BOTH Houses of Parliament adjourned on July 30th for the summer recess. They will reassemble on October 18th.

Compensation for Police Action. Mr. H. Hynd asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on July 27th what compensation would be paid to the families of workers who had been killed by the police in the riot of June, 1948 at the Enmore plantation, in view of the Report of the Enmore Commission, which stated that firing had gone beyond the requirements of the situation and that many workers had been shot in the back.

Mr. Rees-Williams answered that actions had been filed in the Supreme Court of British Guiana claiming damages against five police constables, and the matter was therefore *sub judice*.

Barbados Development. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies which projects of the ten-year development plan for Barbados had been started; and how much money had been expended on them.

Mr. Rees-Williams, in a written answer of July 27th, said that the ten-year development plan for Barbados had not yet been approved by the Legislature. A number of projects which had been included in the draft plan had been and were being financed from local revenues, but he was not in a position to say what precise proportion of expenditure would count against the plan when approved.

British Honduras. Mr. A. Edward Davies asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on July 27th what the position was in the Anglo-Guatemalan dispute over British Honduras; and what the prospect was of an early agreement.

The Minister of State, Mr. Hector McNeil, who replied, said that he feared that there seemed little prospect of any early agreement in this matter. H.M. Government remained willing to allow the dispute to be settled by the International Court of Justice, whom they had specially empowered to settle any and all claims concerning British Honduras over three years ago. This was the obvious way in which a dispute of that kind should be settled.

Americans in Guiana. Mr. Platts-Mills asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies why American experts had been engaged to advise on rice production in British Guiana; and what were their conditions of service.

In a written reply of July 27th, Mr. Rees-Williams said that two American experts had been engaged through the Economic Co-operation Administration because of their specialized knowledge of mechanized rice cultivation. The dollar cost of their salaries during their two to three months' mission would be met from E.C.A. funds. They were also entitled to a subsistence allowance of £2 a day while in British Guiana, which was payable from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

British Guiana Hospital. Sir Wavell Wakefield asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies when it was proposed to start work on the building of the new hospital in Georgetown, for which layout plans had been prepared.

Mr. Rees-Williams replied that British Guiana's ten-year development plan did not provide for a new hospital, but for substantial additions and improvements to the present hospital. These were being carried out and a new X-ray building had already been completed and equipped.

Sir Wavell then asked when the plan would be completed and Mr. Rees-Williams replied that the X-ray department was provided for in the ten-year plan. He did not know exactly when it would be completed during the progress of that plan. There were also two cottage hospitals to be completed during the progress of the plan. It would be some time before 1956.

Federation. Mr. T. Reid asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on July 27th if he could report any progress in the policy of establishing a customs union, or federation of the British West Indies.

Mr. Rees-Williams, replying, said that the Customs Union Commission had been at work since January and the Standing Closer Association Committee had held three meetings. It was understood that these bodies hoped to report in October.

Mr. Reid asked whether there was any chance of an official decision being reached on the matter when the Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, Lord Listowel, went to the West Indies in November.

Mr. Rees-Williams replied that he had no doubt it would be one of the things discussed at the meeting.

Jamaica Water Supplies. Mr. Vane asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was aware of the inadequate water supplies in Jamaica, which in times of drought all but failed; and what steps he was taking to effect an immediate improvement.

In a written answer of July 7th, Mr. Creech Jones said that the Government of Jamaica were fully aware of the need for improving water supplies. Their development plan provided almost £2 million for water supplies, irrigation and river training works. Since 1942, expenditure from colonial development and welfare funds of above £833,000 had been approved. Almost £250,000 from colonial development and welfare and colonial funds had been approved for expenditure on tanks for dry areas, and further programmes were expected.

Grenada Nutmeg Association. Sir Waldron Smithers asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on July 14th (1) if he was aware that the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association had had on or about June 12th, stocks of 50,000 bags of 200 lb. each of nutmegs on hand, which they had been unable to sell; and if he would take the necessary steps to bring to an end the totalitarian and monopolistic policy of the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association and allow a voluntary association to deal with nutmeg production and distribution;

(2) if he was aware that the delay in coming to a decision as to whether there should be a voluntary or compulsory nutmeg association in Grenada was causing great dissatisfaction and that estate labourers can only get two days' work a week; and if he would take immediate steps for a voluntary nutmeg association to operate and be free to sell their produce in the open market, particulars of which have been sent him;

(3) if he was aware that the Nutmeg Association of Grenada was running on borrowed money and had already spent over £200,000 in two years saved by the growers; and to what extent the British taxpayer was involved and was liable.

Replying, Mr. Rees-Williams said that he did not agree with Sir Waldron's description of the Association, and he feared that he had been misinformed as to the facts. The Association did not run on borrowed money, but had a credit balance, while its stocks were only a fraction of the figure he had mentioned. There was no evidence that its formation had caused under-employment. Its future was being considered by the local Legislature. The United Kingdom tax-payer had no liability for its affairs.

News Service. Mr. Geoffrey Cooper asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on July 13th if he had investigated the position in a number of the Caribbean colonies where no English newspapers were on the news-stands and the sole means of obtaining news was from the radio and American Press; and what did he intend to do in order to keep the British colonies better informed of news and developments in this country.

Mr. Rees-Williams, who replied in the affirmative, explained that newspaper sales were restricted by the high cost of despatch by air and the infrequency of the British air service to that area. A scheme to increase the sale of the principal economic and political weekly periodicals by air on a subscription basis was, however, being developed by the trade.

As to the second part of the question, one of the main tasks of the Information Department in the Colonial Office was to assist colonial territories to receive a service of news and information about this country.

Mr. Cooper then asked whether Mr. Rees-Williams did not agree that in view of the Government's concern with colonial development, it was of the utmost importance that adequate news services should be developed for the Caribbean area. Could he not have the whole matter reviewed, to see if it could not be taken up as being one of local urgency.

Mr. Rees-Williams said that he agreed about the desirability but it was a matter for the trade.

Mr. Dnberg then asked whether Mr. Rees-Williams would take note that the first part of the question on the order paper was not accurate, since Jamaica at least was served by the redoubtable *Kingston Daily Gleaner*, which was a genuine local newspaper, and by one or two smaller ones as well; but, in view of the fact that the radio services in these islands were increasingly going commercial, would he also bear in mind the necessity of supplying a much better service of objective and official information.

Mr. Rees-Williams indicated assent.



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

COOLIDGE Airfield. Writing from St. John's on July 22nd, our correspondent, Miss Helen Goodwin says: "The British Government yesterday took over Coolidge Airfield to operate it as a civil aerodrome. A short ceremony marked the event, at which the Governor and the Acting Administrator were present. Also present were members of the Antigua Executive Council and Group Captain Burton who is now airport manager.

"**The Hon. W. A. Macnie**, Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, has retired from the Government Service and will shortly leave Antigua to become manager of the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association.

"**The Cricket Shield** was this year won by Antigua, the final match being played between Nevis and Antigua. The real excitement of the tournament was the St. Kitts-Antigua match. The two teams were tied in the first innings, and throughout the entire match it was 'anybody's game.' Antigua finally won by seven runs. The sporting effort of a St. Kitts' batsman to score a six which was caught on the boundary line, was a dramatic finale to a most exciting game, and the crowd swarmed across the pitch. In under half an hour the steel bands were on parade to celebrate the event."

Sugar. A correspondent, in a letter from St. John's, of July 14th, says: "The 1950 sugar crop looks very promising but prospects are considerably marred by the tardy reaping of the present crop which continues to drag on and is not likely to be completed before the middle of August. In the 19 weeks' working to date the Central Factory has lost 597 hours or 4½ weeks due to failure of cane supplies.

Legislative Council. "Since my last letter the controversial Bill to prolong the life of the present Council had its third reading. It was passed in the absence of the first, third, fourth and fifth elected members who applied for permission to leave the chamber. These gentlemen expressed the opinion that insufficient constitutional reform had been promised.

Obituary. "The colony has lost two well-known residents by the death on the 3rd of Mrs. 'Wallie' McDonald, and on the 11th of Mr. A. E. Mercer, director of Mercer & Co., Ltd., Harpers' Ltd., and the Antigua Cotton Factory, Ltd., who was also treasurer of the Antigua Chamber of Commerce.

Cricket Tournament. "The Leeward Islands Cricket Tournament ended on July 4th. In the first round Montserrat defeated Nevis, and Antigua defeated St. Kitts by a narrow margin of nine runs in a most exciting finish. In the finals, Antigua easily defeated Montserrat.

Administrator. "His Honour R. St. J. O. Wayne, Administrator of Antigua, is at present in London, and it is understood that his visit is connected with the

details regarding the future of Coolidge Field as a commercial airport.

Governor's Tour. "On July 10th the Governor left for a tour of the Leeward Islands on H.M.S. 'Bigbury Bay'."

BARBADOS

Legislation. Writing from Bridgetown on July 23rd, our correspondent says: "A Bill was recently passed in the House of Assembly to authorize the Commissioner of Income Tax to exclude machinery and plant purchased by means of rehabilitation grants from the operation of the depreciation provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1921-26 of this colony. The amendment made to the Income Tax Act by the present Bill is based on similar provision enacted in the United Kingdom in 1945 to cover cases where machinery and plant are purchased from funds obtained from outside sources. The attitude of the Upper Chamber to the present Bill is awaited. The House of Assembly at a recent meeting also passed without division a Bill to encourage the establishment of new industries and to make provision for the granting of certain relief from package tax and customs duty to persons establishing factories (in the Bill referred to as 'pioneer factories') in connexion with such industries.

Ecclesiastical. "The Sharon Moravian Church recently held Thanksgiving Services to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the church, which was built by slaves in 1799.

Visitors. "Sponsored by the 115-year-old *Daily Gleaner* of Jamaica, a four-man team comprising Mr. Rudolph Burke, Mr. Cecil Morrison, Mr. T. E. Sealy and Mr. V. S. Reid recently visited the colony for the purpose of learning how Barbadians live. They were deeply impressed by the resourcefulness of Barbadians generally and were pleasantly surprised with the unemployment rate as compared with their home country, Jamaica.

Commerce. "The temporary suspension by Government of licences of imports from the dollar area is causing great concern in business circles here. City merchants have expressed the opinion that the duration of such suspension would be entirely dependent on the decision reached at the conference in the United Kingdom of the financial experts of Great Britain, U.S.A. and Canada. One thing seems to be certain that if the dollar countries and the United Kingdom can come to favourable terms on the dollar question it will mean that the West Indies will continue to make purchases—particularly of food stuffs—from the dollar area at a cheaper price than the sterling area. This would in all probability stabilize to a certain extent the present cost of living in the colonies which would otherwise rise if such favourable terms were not agreed upon."

BRITISH GUIANA

Mr. Justice Luckhoo. A correspondent writing from Georgetown on July 10th, says: "The Bench has been much in the news in the last month. First

there has been the arrival from Barbados and the Swearing-in of Mr. Justice Ward, second puisne judge. Then, on June 30th, came the death of a great son of Guiana, Mr. Justice Luckhoo, the first puisne judge. Mr. Luckhoo had practised at the Bar for 39 years before appointment as a judge. He was, perhaps, the finest criminal advocate in the West Indies. The first East Indian to sit in the Legislative Council, a leader in progressive educational circles, his funeral was, by popular assent, the largest attended in the history of the colony. The universal tributes and the space allotted to his career and demise in the Press were eloquent testimonies of the esteem in which his career and life were held by all classes of the populace.

Labour Troubles. "The amicable settlement of trades union demands in the last month or so has thrown into sharp relief a number of strikes which have occurred recently. The postal services in Georgetown 'walked off' the job on June 20th and did not return until the 24th, seriously inconveniencing commerce. On June 14th, the subordinate employees of the colony's Tuberculosis Sanatorium staged a 'sit-down' strike, but resumed work the following day. Neither strike was worthwhile from the men's point of view.

Red Cross Week took place from June 26th to July 3rd. The object of the many recent functions was the establishment of a Children's Convalescent Home, a canteen for out-patients at the Public Hospital, Georgetown, a Hospital Library and First Aid Posts.

Anthrax. "An outbreak of anthrax has occurred amongst cattle in a small area of the Corentyne Coast. The area has been placed in quarantine and so far the disease has been isolated.

Beef Supply. "A normal wet-season shortage of beef supplies has this year been aggravated and for many days on end no beef has been available for sale in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, the two principal centres of population. Cattle rearers are reported to be holding out for higher prices, but the issue is confused by attempts to make political hay while the sun (doesn't) shine.

Cane Grove is the sugar estate which was sold by its owners to government a year or so ago for the nominal sum of \$100 in order to protect the interests of the resident population from the exploitation which would have taken place if the property had been sold to speculators. It is only now, however, that the people have begun to realize how essential to their prosperity the sugar estate was. Government are, for economic reasons, not providing any of the drainage and other amenities which the estate did for the support of its labouring force and the housing area has recently been described as a quagmire, the economic condition of the people being fast reduced to penury."

BRITISH HONDURAS

Technical School. Captain M. S. Metzgen, in a letter from Belize, dated June 29th, says: "Satisfactory progress has been made in the erection of the new Technical High School on a site near the Belize Haulover Road. This institution is being established as a result of the recommendations of the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies. Students will be prepared for the engineering and the

building trades as well as education up to matriculation or university standard. Part-time study will include science and domestic subjects.

West Indian University. "Two sons of Mr. F. M. Boland, Chief Justice, British Honduras, have been accepted for admission to the West Indian University in Jamaica. One will study natural science and the other medicine.

Teachers. "Under the auspices of the Department of Education a two weeks vacation course was recently held at an Indian village located in the north of the colony. Those who attended were mostly teachers at Indian village schools in various parts of the colony. Problems relating to the education of Indians in conformity with the present curriculum of the Government elementary schools were thoroughly discussed. Spanish is not part of this curriculum. The students are taught English at school but at their homes Spanish or Maya is spoken—their domestic languages.

Governor. "The Governor is leaving no stone unturned to obtain personal knowledge of conditions prevailing in various parts of the colony. Recently, the Northern and Southern Districts were inspected as well as some of the inhabited cays. Everywhere His Excellency was greeted with enthusiastic demonstrations of loyalty and high esteem. These visits have had a tremendously good moral effect, not only on administrative and junior officials but on the general populace.

Drought. "The drought this year has been the severest felt in British Honduras for many years. The absence of rain has caused pastures and plantations to be extremely dry and in consequence both plants and animals have suffered considerably. During the last few days, however, copious showers of rain have fallen and already plantations and stock farms are showing signs of natural verdure. It is regrettable that as a result of the long dry weather fire had become rampant the colony over, causing serious losses to Government and settlers. Much re-forestation has been burnt. In deserving cases, the Government has extended agricultural credits.

Water. "At last the pipe-borne water supply has reached the outskirts of the city. One reservoir has already been filled. The central Government has now turned over to the municipal authorities the duties of distribution of that water to the populace.

Canning Factory. "A canning factory was recently established at Belize for various local fruits particularly grapefruit, orange, guavas, mangoes, pineapples and tomatoes. All these products are popular; and a trial shipment to British Guiana has been pronounced satisfactory. The Hon. Branston S. Clarke is the manager.

Cayo Road. "The Belize-Cayo Road, via Hector Creek, is being built by the Public Works Department and should shortly be open to traffic. It will shorten the distance to the town of El Cayo by ten miles. The bridge across the river at El Cayo is also nearing completion. When the road and the bridge are completed an all-weather road will have been established from Belize to the western border adjoining the Republic of Guatemala. This road will play an important part in the economic development of a part of the colony

as well as affording Guatemala an opportunity of entering into negotiation with Great Britain for permission to use it in connexion with transit trade from the Department of Peten (Guatemala) to the Atlantic sea-board."

DOMINICA

Legislative Council. Writing from Roseau on June 30th, a correspondent signing himself "Wintergreen," says: "The Council is again in session and has under consideration a Bill to validate certain pension payments made by Roseau Town Council, and another authorizing a shortened form of birth certificate which would omit details of parentage. The fee for the new type of certificate would be 6d.

"Exports from our island seem to have received a severe check but the new steamer service to the United Kingdom—mainly for bananas—should give it a decided fillip. The line, it is understood, will fill-up, after leaving here, in Guadeloupe. This looks like closer British-French co-operation. Guadeloupe and Martinique are now integral parts of France—no longer colonies.

Flour Price. "Following the recent spectacular fall in the world price of wheat, our Government on the 13th lowered the price of flour to the baker per half-bag from £2 11s. 6d. to £2 0s. 11d. The Official Gazette is to hand and the penny bread now contains 2½ ounces as against the former 2 ounces.

Development. "Approved additional financial assistance for Dominica to the tune of \$2,160,000, published in our Official Gazette, has created an excellent impression. The money is to be spent largely on road-making. Plans are also completed for another \$960,000 and this envisages a new hydro-electric station and a new cold storage and ice-making plant, all for Roseau; and there are two other projects coming along. The spending of all this money will require considerable care."

GRENADA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *July 14th.*

An emergency general session of the Grenada Chamber of Commerce met yesterday to consider with the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. G. H. Adams, and the Competent Authority, instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the important question of dollar policy. The meeting was fully representative of all sections of trade. Two telegrams from the Secretary of State to the local government containing instructions based on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement in the House of Commons were read and fully discussed. All merchants were fully appreciative of the necessity for curtailment and in accord with the need for a standstill period. The following resolution was unanimously passed and cabled to the Secretary of State through the local Government: "That this Chamber views with sympathy and with concern the worsening of the dollar situation and pledges its support to the policy of His Majesty's Government. This Chamber, however, hopes that His Majesty's Government will make every effort to reduce the cost of goods manufactured in the United Kingdom and purchased by these colonies."

Incorporated in that telegram were the findings of the committee appointed to collaborate with the

Colonial Treasurer and the Competent Authority, who met immediately after the general session and included Hon. Captain E. Earle Hughes (Hardware), Mr. R. O. Williams (Provisions), Mr. Glyn Evans, Mr. B. W. Byer and Mr. R. J. Ross. These findings were: (1) Unexpired licences for non-essentials should not be renewed; (2) the issue of further dollar licences except for essentials should be suspended pending the outcome of the conference of Commonwealth Finance Ministers in London; (3) the Secretary of State should be requested to assist Grenada to obtain supplies from sterling sources, especially commodities such as flour, milk, etc., with due regard to the time factor in such a switch over to alternative sources; (4) drastic reduction should be made in the issue of licences for goods from dollar sources in comparison with 1948 issues.

JAMAICA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *August 2nd.*

Chief Justice Sir Hector Hearne, one-man commission inquiring into the origin of the disturbances on the day of the by-election for the seat on the Corporation Council in the rural area in St. Andrew, concluded his sittings on July 29th, after having heard the evidence of Mr. N. W. Manley on the 28th. A Coroner's jury will probe the murder of an elderly small farmer named Benjamin Taylor.

The pimento surplus from 1946-47 is to be paid to growers shortly.

Sharp reductions in imports, ascribed to dollar austerity, are expected to reduce import duty revenue for 1949-50 to well below the budget figures, while the heavy excise on rum and beer is believed to be reducing consumption and also affecting revenue adversely. There have been many complaints already that a depression has started, the banks having tightened up considerably after a credit expansion in 1948, which brought loans and advances to merchants and retailers totalling nearly £5,250,000. An extraordinary sluggishness in the retail trade has indicated a falling purchasing power. Uncertainty about the future of the sugar industry has convinced banks that the situation is dangerous and new austerity devaluation rumours and the tendency of manufactured commodities abroad to fall in price are checking building activities and stock accumulation so that wharves, congested three months ago, are now emptying.

The Government proposes to introduce the compulsory insurance of registered coco-nut growers, the price of copra being raised 70s. to cover premium.

In a further cable, dated August 3rd, our correspondent says:—

Citrus growers are voting now on the marketing plan [see last CIRCULAR]. Many thousands favour the plan, while very few admit they will vote against it.

The important feature in more sluggish business here is the heavy stocking of certain commodities, on the removal of controls, by merchants who are uncertain when the next supply will be available. The feeling amongst producers is that the risk of a business collapse is much exaggerated and that if a long-term sugar contract enables the industry to rebuild the island's purchasing power, lost through the cessation of large-scale employment of Jamaican workers on American

(Continued on page 204)

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions, transfers and new appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

BROWNLOW, H. S. (Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Jamaica), Chief Engineer, Housing Department, Jamaica.

CHAN, L. F., M.B., D.T.M. (Medical Officer, Grade B, Trinidad), Medical Officer, Grade A, Trinidad.

FACEY, L. E. (Superintendent of Press, Jamaica), Government Printer, Jamaica.

HIPPOLYTE, J. M. (Principal Clerk, Bankruptcy Department, Jamaica), Trustee in Bankruptcy, Jamaica.

JACOBS, W. E. (Magistrate, Dominica), Magistrate, St. Christopher—Nevis.

MICHELIN, R. T. (Superintendent of Police, Nigeria), Commissioner of Police, Barbados.

NICOL, J. L. (formerly Inspector of Schools, Federation of Malaya), Education Adviser to the Chairman of the Development and Welfare Organization, West Indies.

PATERSON, W. A. Mc.D. (Science Master, Queens' Royal College, Trinidad), Lecturer in General Science (Chemistry), Yaba Institute, Nigeria.

ROSS, C. (Magistrate and Crown Attorney, Montserrat, Leeward Islands), Commissioner, Montserrat, Leeward Islands.

New Appointments

ARRINDELL, C. E., Modern Languages Master, Queen's Royal College, Trinidad.

BEATT, J. P., Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica.

BREEN, D. P., District Engineer, Public Works Department, British Guiana.

JONES, A. D., Training Master, Bahamas.

KULESZA, W. S., M.B., Medical Officer, St. Vincent.

MATTOCK, A. H., District Engineer, Public Works Department, British Guiana.

MOORE, D., Assistant Conservator of Forests, Trinidad.

MORRIS, H. V. H., Veterinary Officer, Windward Islands.

WOLYNCEWICZ, W., M.B., District Medical Officer, Grenada.

Company Reports and Meetings

Booker Brothers, McConnell and Co., Ltd.

As the result of an extraordinary general meeting held on July 12th, the capital of the company has been increased to £1,800,000 and each of the £1 ordinary shares has been subdivided into two shares of 10s. each (fully paid and unnumbered).

The old £1 ordinary share certificates held by shareholders should be retained state the directors as such certificates are deemed to represent their equivalent in the new denomination of 10s. ordinary shares.

The directors have informed shareholders that the issue of £115,000 of ordinary shares has now been made in completion of the acquisition of the entire share capital of United Rum Shippers Ltd.

Tate and Lyle, Ltd.

Lord Lyle, president of the company, sent the following letter to all stockholders on July 14th: "At our annual general meeting [see the CIRCULAR for May], I said that I would take an early opportunity of calling you together for consultation, if the threat of nationalization materialized. I regret that the threat has now become a reality, as it is apparent that the Whitsun conference of the Labour Party has endorsed the policy of the nationalizers.

"The first duty of my board to the members of this company is to prevent nationalization by fighting with every legitimate weapon at its disposal. At an extraordinary general meeting, which I propose to call for September, I am confident that you will give your fullest support to the fight in which the board is now engaged.

"Apart, however, from your board's wish to fight nationalization with all the energy and ingenuity at its command, it is its duty to protect the financial interests of stockholders. Your board has made a successful application to the Capital Issues Committee for the issue of shares in a new company to acquire certain assets which at present appear in your company's balance sheet as investments. This segregation of assets into a holding company will be followed, subject to your approval and to the consent of the Court, by an application to reduce the capital

of the parent company and a distribution of certain of the shares in the new company to existing stockholders. The effect of this reconstruction of the capital of Tate and Lyle is designed to put into the hands of members stock which represents the value of that part of the company's undertaking, the direct ownership of which is not essential to the successful operation of our main business of sugar refining. You will appreciate that in a scheme of this sort the position of the debenture stockholders and preference stockholders has to be very carefully considered and safeguarded.

"These proposals, which will in due course require formal resolutions, will be put before you at the general meeting to be held in September.

"It is my considered opinion that to create a State monopoly in sugar would be a national calamity. It is, therefore, of paramount importance to show to all that the members of this company are unanimous in their conviction that nationalization is bound to be a disaster, both to the workers in the industry and to consumers. This may well be the most important meeting in the history of your company and I hope, therefore, that you will make a special effort to attend in person and support the board in its policy."

West Indian Sugar Talks

THE Colonial Office issued the following communique as the CIRCULAR was closing for press:

A series of discussions regarding the future sugar policy of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has taken place in London in the last few weeks, first with representatives of the British West Indies Sugar Association and subsequently with representatives of the Jamaica Government. There have been full exchanges of view which were most useful to both sides.

His Majesty's Government assured the delegations that they recognize that the prosperity of the sugar industry is vital to the maintenance of an adequate standard of living in sugar-producing colonies such as the British West Indies. It is their intention to make long-term arrangements which will give to the efficient producer of sugar in these areas and elsewhere in the Commonwealth firm assurances of markets for agreed tonnages of sugar, at reasonably remunerative prices to be negotiated with the producers. It is the declared policy of His Majesty's Government to maintain and improve the economy of the colonial territories and where, as in the British West Indies, sugar production is the main and indispensable basis of a healthy economy, this will be given special consideration in fixing the quantities of sugar to be covered by these arrangements.

Before these arrangements can be completed, however, representatives of other Commonwealth producers will have to be consulted. It is the intention of His Majesty's Government to undertake these consultations in the autumn. Representatives of the West Indies will, of course, be included in these further discussions.

The two delegations from the British West Indies insisted throughout the negotiations that any assurances which might be given must, to meet the needs of the situation, cover a period of at least ten years. While appreciating this view, His Majesty's Government regarded the period of the agreement as a point to be covered in the negotiations in the autumn.

Caribbean Lodge (No. 4826 E.C.). The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27th. A cordial invitation is extended to brethren from the British West Indies and British Guiana.

West Indian Passenger List

Booker Line

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. Arakaka (Captain J. McIntyre), at Liverpool, July 3rd :—

Mrs. P. Arnold	Miss G. Crichton	Mr. H. Goodrick
Mrs. E. Briou	Mr. & Mrs. J. Crichton	Mr. A. Learnoide
Mr. L. Burnett	Mr. & Mrs. P. Fricker	Mr. & Mrs. J. Potter
Mr. & Mrs. T. Cowell		

Sailings to British Guiana, in s.s. Amakura (Captain J. Carter), from Liverpool, June 30th :—

Mr. R. P. Bell	Mrs. M. G. Lomas	Miss M. Pattison-Muir
Mr. T. Bolitbo	Mr. N. A. Martindale	Mr. D. Sinclair
Mr. A. Khan	Mrs. R. M. Outram	Mr. & Mrs. C. Swabey
Mr. E. A. Lee		

Fyffes Line

Home arrivals from Bermuda and Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain A. G. Jones), at Avonmouth, June 21st :—

Mr. & Mrs. J. Aitken	Mr. & Mrs. E. Fincham	Mr. & Mrs. W. N. Parker
Mr. & Mrs. J. Armstrong	Dr. M. C. Greene	Mrs. F. H. Parkinson
Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Barnes	Mr. & Mrs. R. Gulliver	Mrs. D. C. Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. H. Brennan	Mrs. M. S. Harris	Mrs. E. N. Roud
Mrs. M. F. Cameron	Mr. & Mrs. F. Harvey	Mr. & Mrs. D. Santillo
Mr. & Mrs. L. R. Coker	Mr. & Mrs. A. Henderson	Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Scott
Miss F. M. Cownie	Mrs. N. M. Hensell	Mr. & Mrs. R. Short
Miss M. C. Cowrie	Mr. I. E. Jones	Miss H. M. Siu
Surg. Cdr. & Mrs. J. J. Cusack	Sub. Lieut. B. J. Murphy	Mr. & Mrs. B. C. Stone
Mr. & Mrs. O. de Lissier	Mrs. K. E. Muscett	Mr. R. A. Temple
Mr. & Mrs. A. F. Dron	Miss J. E. Newman	Mrs. F. H. Thornton
Mrs. S. L. Ebnimb		Mr. G. P. Thornton

Home arrivals from Trinidad and Jamaica, in s.s. Ariguani (Captain G. S. Gracie), at Avonmouth, June 29th :—

Mr. & Mrs. W. Brown	Mr. & Mrs. J. Fullerton	Mr. & Mrs. G. Radmore
Mrs. I. E. Campbell	Mrs. G. C. Goudc	Mr. G. N. Sale
Mrs. H. E. Cross	Miss E. L. Gourdel	Mr. W. F. Stodart
Sir Joseph De La Mothe	Mr. & Mrs. A. Groves	Mr. C. J. Thomson
Major R. Dennison	The Hon. Audrey Jeffers	Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Withers
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Ducat	Mrs. D. E. McCartney	Mr. & Mrs. S. G. Wretford
Mrs. M. Erskine-Lindop	Mr. & Mrs. D. M. O'Neale	

TRINIDAD

Dr. & Mrs. R. M. Arnold	Mr. & Mrs. W. Dunleavy	Mr. & Mrs. B. D. Magnan
Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Blake	Mr. A. E. Grant	Mr. & Mrs. E. W. March
Mrs. G. M. Bourke	Mrs. B. G. Hastings	Mr. & Mrs. A. Muscett
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Bunting	Mr. D. K. Hodgson	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Ruscoe
Cdr. & Mrs. W. Clarke	Mr. D. S. Lopez	Col. & Mrs. H. Toogood
Mr. W. Dudley		

JAMAICA

Mr. & Mrs. B. D. Magnan	Mr. & Mrs. E. W. March	Mr. & Mrs. A. Muscett
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Ruscoe	Col. & Mrs. H. Toogood	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Eros (Captain R. C. Vigurs), at London, July 9th :—

Mr. & Mrs. Anderton	Captain & Mrs. Hewet	Mr. & Mrs. Nait
Mrs. Bodker	Mrs. A. Marchallich	Mr. H. Proven
Hon. J. T. Calder	Miss V. E. Marslen	Miss E. Ryan
Miss F. Chambers	Mr. E. Maynier	Mr. C. Sharmaa
Mrs. Clarke	Miss J. McNaught	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), at Avonmouth, August 2nd :—

Miss M. V. Alexander	Miss M. E. Groves	Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Palmer
Mr. E. P. Arrowsmith	Lt.-Col. & Mrs. L. G. Harrison	Miss M. Phillipson
Miss B. L. Baird	Mr. R. T. Harrison	Mrs. M. Sanguinetti
Mr. A. Bethune	Mrs. A. L. Hartly	Mrs. F. D. Scott
Mr. & Mrs. G. Bourke	Miss H. Huber	Miss M. Stewart
Miss H. M. Bullock	Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Innes	Rev. & Mrs. A. Thornton-Down
Miss C. V. Calder	Mr. D. Johnson	Miss N. Thornton-Down
Miss L. J. Calder	Mr. F. Jones	Miss E. G. Wolsley
Mr. & Mrs. J. Camacho	Mr. & Mrs. N. P. Lindsay	Miss S. Worthington-Evans
Mr. & Mrs. J. Davies	Mr. R. G. McKeuzie	
Miss T. R. Davis	Mr. & Mrs. D. Noott	Mr. K. A. Wright
Mrs. J. G. De Werring	Mr. T. C. Pagett	
Mr. & Mrs. V. G. George		

Sailings to Bermuda and Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain A. G. Jones), from Avonmouth, July 14th :—

Mr. L. G. Blight	Mrs. M. C. Houghton	Mr. M. E. Patten
Mr. A. M. Bloomfield	Miss A. H. Hughes	Mr. A. T. Preece
Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Brickley	Mr. I. Hughes	Mr. H. C. Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Card	Mr. I. W. Hughes	Mr. A. J. South
Mr. & Mrs. A. Chambers	Mr. O. L. Jack	Mr. H. C. Symonds
Mr. F. J. Dooley	Mr. P. R. Jeffery	Mr. H. C. Tamplein
Mrs. L. J. Duuu	Mr. C. G. Lang	Mr. H. J. Tweedle
Mr. J. Duthie	Lt.-Col. C. P. Legard	Mr. J. Vale
Mr. P. Girling	Mr. F. Lewis	Mr. B. N. Wake
Mr. R. Gore	Miss B. F. Lloyd	Mrs. D. E. Wentworth
Mr. F. Harris	Mr. & Mrs. A. McLaren	Mr. D. H. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. A. Hedges	Mrs. E. F. Marsh	Miss B. M. Wood
Cdr. & Mrs. H. Hodgson		

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Eros (Captain R. C. Vigurs), from London, July 30th :—

Mr. & Mrs. A. Ashfield	Mrs. M. Hall	Miss L. A. Paterson
Mr. A. W. Ashfield	Miss O. W. Lewin	Miss G. Pbang
Mr. R. P. Ashfield	Mr. T. L. Lyons	Mr. V. I. Rudolf
Mr. D. H. Bicknell	Mr. & Mrs. D. C. MacGillivray	Miss H. O. Spence
Capt. & Mrs. A. Faulkner	Mr. B. Nuucs	Mrs. L. L. Stone
Mrs. Faulkner		

Jamaica Banana Producers' Steamship Co.

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Jamaica Producer (Captain G. E. Jenkins), at London, July 7th :—

Mr. Bowinan	Miss D. Gallant	Mr. L. Nunes
Mr. & Mrs. H. Cahusac	Mr. I. Gibson	Mrs. H. Orrett
Miss I. Cappe	Mr. R. Harvey	Mr. D. Pringle
Miss E. Cardoze	Mr. & Mrs. L. Henriques	Mr. J. Puri
Mr. H. Chio Fen	Miss J. Jarrett	Miss K. Samuels
Mr. & Mrs. A. Chisholui	Mrs. M. Johnston	Mrs. J. Stokes
Mr. & Mrs. R. Crum-	Miss L. Launcelott	Mrs. E. Strudwick
Ewing	Mrs. S. Lawrence	Mr. & Mrs. A. Tic Ten
Mr. & Mrs. D. DaCosta	Mrs. E. Leigh	Quinn
Mrs. E. Davies	Mrs. I. Lightbourne	Mr. & Mrs. H. Ward
Mrs. D. Duperly	Miss L. Lord	Mr. C. Weller
Mrs. E. Fisher	Mrs. J. McGahan	

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Jamaica Producer (Captain G. E. Jenkins), from London, July 22nd :—

Mrs. P. Adams	Miss M. De Cordova	Mr. J. MacGregor
Mr. H. D. Beall	Mrs. E. Edwards	Mr. A. G. McGregor
Miss V. H. Bell	Miss R. Harley	Mrs. E. Pettiford
Mrs. G. Bibby	Mrs. Jackson	Mr. & Mrs. Z. Stawski
Mrs. L. Browa	Mr. G. A. Mair	Mrs. R. Smith
Mrs. S. Browe	Mr. A. Marriott	Mr. W. Wau
Mrs. F. Cox	Mrs. E. MacGregor	Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Westers
Miss M. Da Costa		

Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

Home arrivals from the West Indies, in s.s. Cottica (Captain A. Lokman), at Plymouth, July 15th :—

Mrs. M. Barnard	Mr. & Mrs. J. Manantlay	Mrs. V. Taitt
Mr. & Mrs. H. Childs	Mr. V. A. Oliphant	Mrs. R. E. Trestrail
Mr. & Mrs. M. J. Hewitt	Mr. and Mrs. C. Sealy	Mrs. G. Yard
Miss M. Howell	Mr. & Mrs. J. Sutherland	

Home arrivals from the West Indies, in s.s. Stuyvesant (Captain B. Molenaar), at Plymouth, June 22nd :—

Mr. & Mrs. H. Burnwell	Col. G. C. Howden	Mrs. S. J. Patterson
Mr. & Mrs. A. Bartlett	Mr. & Mrs. F. S. Lindon	Mrs. M. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Blair	Mr. R. G. Mackilligin	Hon. A. Storey
Mr. & Mrs. B. Cincron	Mr. & Mrs. F. Meaden	Mrs. E. Storey
Mr. & Mrs. C. Chnstie		

West Indian Sugar Production

The following statement of estimated production of sugar for the quota year ending August 31st, 1949, summarizes the latest information received by the West India Committee :—

	Tons		Tons
Barbados	153,000	Windward Islands—	
Jamaica	235,925	St. Lucia	9,128
Leeward Islands—		St. Vincent	2,084
Antigua	18,000	British Guiana	184,690
St. Kitts	35,500	British Honduras	2,108
Trinidad	159,103		
		Total	799,538

The Barbados figure includes 20,000 tons, the equivalent of which will be manufactured as fancy molasses.

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of June production of crude oil and casing head gasolene amounted to 244,057 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the four weeks ended June 27th was 407,152 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for June was 245,353 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of June crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 479,894 barrels.

The Markets

August 2nd, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below :—

Dividend for Latest Year	Latest Quotation	Price Year Ago
2½ Consols	71½	75½
3½ War Loan	96½	102½
20 Angostura Bitters	82/6	87/6
10 Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	38/9	43/9
— Antigua Sugar Factory	12/-	13/-
30 Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	32/-	34/-
8 Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	43/-	48/-
14 Booker Bros. McConnell 10/-	35/-	38/9
6 Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	26/3	28/9
5 British Guiana Cons Gold 3/9	1/1½	1/7½
8 Caroni Ltd. 2/-	3/-	3/9
8 Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	20/-	22/6
7½ Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	4/-	5/-
12½ Kern Oil Co 3/4	8/3	9/3
10 Lummier & Trinidad Asphalt. Ord.	42/6	45/-
— Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	-/6	1/6
8½ Royal Bank of Canada \$10	145/-	165/-
17½ St. Kitts (London) Sugar	58/-	61/-
3 St. Madeline Sugar	18/3	19/3
10 Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	17/-	18/3
— Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	-/8	1/6
14 Trinidad Leaseholds 5/-	20/9	22/9
16½ Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	18/6	20/6
6 Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 6% Pref.	21/3	22/6
7½ Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/9	5/6
8½ United British Oilfields 6/8	21/-	23/-
— West Indies Sugar	17/-	19/-
6 West Indies Sugar 6% Pref.	22/6	25/-

* Free of income tax. † £1 shares.

Rum. The Board of Trade Returns for June are as follows :—

Imports	proof gallons	Month of June		January-June	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
Union of South Africa	...	63,081	120,599	554,652	638,318
Mauritius	...	—	158,317	1,508,257	1,061,454
British West Indies	...	165,717	571,234	1,318,489	2,007,537
British Guiana	...	77,866	320,707	875,747	1,338,183
Other British Countries	...	32,056	2,337	107,484	16,611
Foreign Countries	...	—	324	5,249	6,115
Total	...	339,044	1,171,185	4,369,878	5,068,218
Exports	...	9,580	18,494	99,416	220,085
Consumption	...	288,552	160,580	1,628,290	789,688
Stocks (end of May)	...	6,063,000	10,922,000	—	—

Cocoa. The Board of Trade Returns for June are as follows :—

Imports	cwt.	Month of June		January-June	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
British West Africa	...	96,048	327,032	1,389,431	2,172,705
British West Indies	...	7,085	4,719	55,984	48,061
Other British Countries	...	—	1,172	2,930	4,080
Foreign Countries	...	2	1	10,053	41,351
Total	...	103,135	332,924	1,658,398	2,266,197
Exports	...	—	—	—	—
Consumption	...	159,782	332,725	1,549,807	1,811,544
Stocks (end of May)	...	1,000	142,000	—	—

(Continued from page 201)

farms, no deflationary crisis is likely, since bananas are coming back and citrus has the prospect of a 10-year contract if growers favour the marketing plan, without which, as guarantee of supply, Mr. Strachey will not sign the contract.

TRINIDAD

Dollar Crisis. Our correspondent, Mr. Keith McCowan, in a letter from Port-of-Spain, dated July 23rd, says: "The Government has appealed for public co-operation in the economic crisis which England faces and which means for Trinidad and Tobago an indefinite cut-off of dollar goods, except those absolutely necessary.

Sugar. "The local press is eagerly reporting all news in connexion with the representations which are being made to the United Kingdom authorities by the West India Committee and the British West Indies Sugar Association (Inc.) in order to secure a long-term purchase guarantee for British West Indies export sugar at reasonable prices. One of the main newspapers is running a series of leaders, surveying the reasons why there should be no question about the grant of such a guarantee, and emphasizing that the issue is for the people of the West Indies a fight for existence.

Commerce. "A Junior Chamber of Commerce has been set up in Trinidad: members are required to be between the ages of 21 and 40, and associated in business as directors, partners, executives or employees with members of the senior chamber.

Excess Profits Tax. "Business circles are concerned over the lack of any action by the Government to make the tax refunds amounting to about \$1,000,000 promised in the Legislative Council in December, 1941, and provided for in the Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Ordinance of the same year. This war-time Ordinance provides for the refunds to be made after the end of hostilities 'at such date as the Legislature may hereafter determine,' on conditions to be decided by the Legislature. The big question appears to be where the money is to come from to make the refunds."

Honey. The controlled price of 72/6 per cwt. c.i.f. is still being obtained for West Indian honeys. The market is rather overstocked with other descriptions and there is a tendency to accept lower prices.

Pimento. The market continues quiet with spot still selling at 1/1½d. per lb. Forward shipment is still quoted at 119/- c.i.f., U.K.

Ginger. There has been a quiet but firm market. Prices tended to recede slightly, but during the past few days there has been a recovery due to an export demand for African ginger. Jamaica No. 3 is quoted at 195/- spot terms, No. 2 at 197/6 and No. 1 at 200/-.

Nutmegs. There is no change to report and 80's are still offered at 2/2 per lb. c.i.f., sound unassorted at 1/8, and defective, when obtainable, at 1/3.

Mace. There have been a few sales of whole pale at 5/- per lb. c.i.f., which shows no change since last month. Whole pale on the spot is slightly easier with buyers at 5/6. Broken grades are nominal and quoted at 1/- to 4/- according to quality.

Sugar. The Board of Trade Returns for June are as follows :—

Imports of Unrefined	tons	Month of June		January-June	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
Mauritius	...	—	9,068	45,253	100,377
Australia	...	—	5,621	14,899	162,857
Fiji	...	—	—	—	4,412
British West Indies	...	12,636	57,512	137,152	180,634
British Guiana	...	3,840	12,318	43,088	54,071
Other British Countries	...	—	—	—	—
Dutch East Indies	...	—	—	—	—
Cuba	...	167,365	28,529	419,100	114,271
Hayti	...	6,875	—	12,771	9,000
Dominican Republic	...	31,033	85,159	184,852	306,386
Mexico	...	27,608	19,417	76,837	35,413
Peru	...	3,943	—	3,942	12,569
Other Foreign Countries	...	—	—	—	9,889
Total	...	253,301	217,824	937,894	989,879
Consumption
Refined	...	53	2	110	12
Unrefined	...	206,800	223,238	934,043	882,492
Total	...	206,853	223,260	934,153	882,504
Stocks (end of May)
Home Grown Beet	...	63,700	113,052	—	—
Imported Refined	...	—	—	—	—
Imported Unrefined	...	317,590	326,900	—	—
Total	...	381,290	439,952	—	—

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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September, 1949.

The Sugar Discussions

IN our August issue we published the text of a Colonial Office communiqué dealing with the discussions which had just then been concluded, regarding the future sugar policy of His Majesty's Government with particular reference to the British West Indies.

Participants in these discussions on the West Indies side were a four-man delegation from the British West Indies Sugar Association, ably led by its chairman, Mr. H. E. Robinson, with which were associated the chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of the West India Committee. Operating independently yet co-operating in full amity at every stage on a problem which far transcends merely the particular interests of sugar producers but involves the whole future of the West Indies, was a Jamaica Government delegation with Mr. T. H. Mayers, the Attorney-General at its head, and comprising also Mr. W. A. Bustamante, Mr. R. B. Barker and Mr. O. K. Henriques, all Executive Councillors and all possessing special knowledge of the sugar industry. On the United Kingdom side were the Minister of Food, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and their officials and members of an Inter-departmental Working Party which had been specially set up some months ago to study the whole question of sugar production and supply. Two officials of trade unions in British Guiana associated with the sugar industry came specially to London at the same time to urge a solution of its problems along the same lines as those propounded by the other delegations.

Now that there has been time to digest the contents of the communiqué it may be appropriate to try to give some appraisal of what the delegations have jointly achieved and what lies ahead. First, what has been achieved? Perhaps that question can best be answered by saying what the West Indies wanted. They wanted from His Majesty's Government an undertaking to purchase agreed maximum tonnages of sugar from the British West Indies (and other parts of the Colonial Empire) at fair prices to be negotiated between buyers and sellers. They wanted this undertaking to cover a period of at least ten years, to be such as to enable the British West Indies to increase largely their exports of sugar, and the prices to be agreed under it to be specifically divorced from any direct relationship with the so called "world Cuban price" which is largely fictitious and consequently unacceptable to producers.

They have got in the direct terms of the communiqué the following declarations and assurances on the authority of His Majesty's Government :—

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- (1) A recognition that the prosperity of the sugar industry is vital to the maintenance of an adequate standard of life in the British West Indies ;
- (2) A declaration that it is the policy of His Majesty's Government to maintain and *improve* the economy of the British West Indies ;
- (3) A recognition that sugar is the main and indispensable basis of British West Indies economy and that therefore this will be given *special consideration* in fixing the quantities of sugar to be covered by the arrangements ;
- (4) A declaration that it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to make long-term arrangements which will give to the efficient producer of sugar in the British West Indies (and elsewhere in the Commonwealth) firm assurances of markets for agreed tonnages of sugar at reasonably remunerative prices to be negotiated with the producers.

In our view, moreover, these declarations, by clear implication, involve two definite commitments on the part of the Government :—

- (a) That the long-term arrangements will cover enough British West Indies sugar to enable present exports from that area to be considerably increased; and
- (b) that the so-called Cuban price will not be an element in fixing the prices to be paid from time to time for British West Indies sugar under these arrangements: the only question to be settled between the buyer and seller will be "What is a reasonably remunerative price?"

These are solid achievements and the negotiators are to be congratulated on what they have accomplished. It would be invidious, indeed, to apportion the credit. All played their respective hands admirably. The British West Indies Sugar Association can congratulate itself on having had able negotiators and, added to the experience of the West India Committee's representatives, the powerful support of the Jamaica Government delegation. The latter, in turn, may well feel that they entered the negotiations here with much of the groundwork already favourably laid by the British West Indies Sugar Association delegates following months of solid behind-the-scenes work by the West India Committee.

And now for what lies ahead ! So far no agreement has been reached on the period of any long-term arrangement. The Government negotiators took the view, which the delegations were bound to accept, that this was a point which should be covered in the detailed negotiations which will take place in the autumn.

(Continued on page 208)

From a Londoner's Notebook

MY notes this month are written on the shore of the Mediterranean and I hope my readers will extend some indulgence if at times they seem remote from the urgencies of London affairs. As a matter of fact, this season of the year, when Parliament is in recess and many of the great and good either basking in foreign sunshine or attending International conferences, or both, is often a time when the most important events for Englishmen seem to be happening outside England. At the moment of writing, indeed, a rather unhappy picce of news makes a link between this country and our own across the Channel. After one of the hottest and driest summers in living memory vast areas of the great forests south of Bordeaux, converted to tinders by the drought, are burning fiercely. For many days all efforts to cope with the conflagration, or even to confine it, have failed; when it is brought under control in one place the wind carries the sparks to another and it breaks out afresh. Thus the firefighters are often caught between two fires; and before the first week ended it was estimated that over a hundred lives had been lost. Refugees are flocking to the east and north, and much of the harvest and of the timber which is the permanent wealth of the lands, has been lost. In these circumstances there have been many offers from England to join in the defence; the whole of the 150 instructors and pupils of the R.A.F. School of Fire-fighting in Yorkshire volunteered, and those who are released are already taking their share, together with a civilian party from Kent Fire Brigade. This example of international friendship has been much appreciated by French Government and people.

* * *

Meanwhile the Consultative Assembly of Western Union, on which such high hopes have been reposed, has held its first meeting at Strasbourg. It was not to be expected that it should accomplish much at this early stage; but the debates have at least given the European peoples a much clearer idea of what the Assembly is and what it is not. It is emphatically not, and for a long time it cannot be, a European Parliament. It possesses neither of the essential functions of a parliament; it cannot legislate, and it cannot call governments, or a government, to account. The Committee of Ministers alone has executive functions, and is in no way responsible to the Assembly. And yet, if there is to be any future for Western Union, the Assembly is more important than the Committee of Ministers. The latter, after all, is only one more meeting of representatives of sovereign governments, trying to negotiate a common policy, such as has been attempted many times before. The Assembly is attempting something fundamentally new—the articulation of a public opinion of Western Europe as a whole. Though its members are at present appointed by governments, they represent something wider than the majority party or parties in power; the British delegation has in fact been made up of Socialists, Conservatives and one Liberal, roughly in the same proportion in the House of Commons. The

hope is that the various national delegations will not vote in solid blocks, but that those of like political leanings will combine on lines cutting across national divisions. Only if the Assembly gradually feels its way to representing Europe as a whole, rather than Englishmen, Frenchmen, Dutch and so on, meeting but not mingling, will it acquire a character out of which a true parliament may some day come. From this point of view even the storm in a teacup that broke out between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Morrison over the expenses of Mr. Churchill's understudy, Mr. Foster, had its promising side, for it involved a party and not a national controversy. At the same time students of English constitutional history will have noted with approval the firm stand made by the Assembly in insisting on discussing a wider field of affairs than that proposed for it by the Committee of Ministers; it was on a very similar point of procedure that our own Parliament in early days built up its power to have an opinion of its own, over against the Crown.

* * *

If politically the focus of interest in British affairs is on the Continent, economically it is across the Atlantic. The rapid exhaustion of our dollar reserves, which concerns the whole sterling area and was the subject matter of the recent conference of Commonwealth finance ministers in London, remain the most urgent and threatening factors in the national situation. Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr. Bevin have now to grapple with the formidable problem in conversations with the United States Government in Washington. The approach of this very important conference has been the occasion for the outbreak of a most undeniable "slanging match" between the less reputable newspapers in the two countries. On the American side it is being agreed that financial aid to Britain is mercy wasted, because it simply goes to bolster up Socialist policy and the distribution of charity under the name of "social service" which America cannot afford for her own people. Such writing naturally provokes crying retorts that America is trying to use her financial power to overthrow the Government elected by the British people. Neither charge is true, or taken seriously by the better-class organs of public opinion on either side of the ocean. Mr. Edward Hoffman, head of the Economic Co-operative Administration, after his tour in Europe, is understood to have reported very favourably on the prospects of the British campaign of production; he believes that the large increase in our exports to the United States, which is necessary for recovery, is now well within our power. British economists, concurring in this estimate, think that American tariffs, though much reduced since 1938, are still too high to allow of that restoration of Anglo-American trade which both countries desire. These are the practical issues, and not the tendentious wranglings of socialist and individualist pamphleteers which the Washington conference has to settle. There is certainly no easy solution; but the feeling on both sides is extremely friendly and co-operative.

The West India Committee

AT a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee held on August 16th, the following five candidates were elected to membership:—

<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposer and Seconder</i>
MESSRS. STEINTHAL & Co. (Country)	{ Mr. A. E. V. Barton, C.B.E. Mr. A. P. Blair
GROUP-CAPTAIN P. H. GIBBINGS, O.B.E. (British Guiana)	{ Mr. T. H. Naylor Mr. J. M. Campbell
MISS OLIVE MARY MILLARD, M.C.S.R. (London)	{ Mr. N. P. Sherlock Mr. W. C. Freeman
MAJOR CLEMENT ALFRED SWETENHAM (Country)	{ Mr. N. P. Sherlock Mr. W. G. Freeman
MR. W. A. MACNIE, C.M.G., O.B.E. (British Guiana)	{ Mr. J. M. Campbell Mr. T. H. Naylor

The Obituary List

The chairman referred with great regret to the death of Mr. Sydney Fitt (formerly of Trinidad) and Mr. Charles Day (Glasgow).

New Member of Executive

Mr. G. M. Eccles, who was elected to the Executive Committee at its July meeting, was born in England in 1899. During the 1914-18 war he served in the Royal Naval Air Service. He has been associated with British Guiana since 1919, when he joined the staff of S. Davson and Co., Ltd. as an overseer on the company's sugar estates in Berbice. He became one of the company's managers in 1928 and general manager of the estates in 1931. In 1941 he was appointed to the board of directors of S. Davson and Co., Ltd., and its subsidiary companies. In 1944 he was appointed the firm's chief attorney in the colony and on the death of Sir Ivan Davson in 1947, became joint managing director (resident in British Guiana) with Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Davson.

Mr. Eccles has been on the council of the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association since its formation and was president from 1944 to 1946, during which time he represented that body on the directorate of the British West Indies Sugar Association. He has attended numerous conferences connected with the sugar industry.

Mr. Eccles is also on the board of directors of Garnett & Co. Ltd., and of the Hand-in-Hand Insurance Co., Ltd.

Change in Secretaryship

At the August meeting, Mr. A. E. V. Barton, C.B.E., was appointed secretary in succession to Mr. Robert Gavin whose resignation to take up an appointment abroad was announced in last issue.

Born in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, in 1892, Mr. Barton was educated at Manchester Grammar School. In 1912 he entered the Imperial Customs and Excise Service, by open competition, and seven years later was appointed assistant to the Chief of Customs, Kenya and Uganda.

In 1924 Mr. Barton was promoted to British Guiana as Comptroller of Customs and became a member of the Legislative Council. He represented the colony at the Canada-West Indies Trade Conference, held at Ottawa in 1925.

After serving in British Guiana for three years, he became Collector General, Jamaica, and served as a member of the Legislative Council. He represented Jamaica at the first West Indies Conference, held in Barbados in 1929.

In the same year Mr. Barton was transferred to Trinidad as Collector of Customs and became a member of the Legislative Council and later of the Executive Council. While in Trinidad, Mr. Barton was called upon to undertake a number of public duties, one of the most important of which was the chairmanship of the Port-of-Spain Deep Water Quay Committee. He represented the colony at a series of inter-colonial conferences on trade and customs held at Port-of-Spain and Bermuda and Jamaica.

After nine years in Trinidad, he went to Nigeria as Comptroller of Customs and for the fourth time became a Legislative Council member. He retired from the Colonial Customs Service in 1944.

Mr. Barton then became a director of Booker Bros. McConnell and Co., Ltd., and later a managing director. The company has agreed to release Mr. Barton from executive duties for a minimum

period of two years in the first place to enable him to accept the position of secretary of the West India Committee. He will, however, retain his seat on the board of the company, as a non-active director.

Mr. Barton has always been keenly interested in all forms of sport and has held various positions on controlling bodies of sport in the several colonies in which he has served. He was for a time a member of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control.

Mr. Barton will take up his new duties on October 1st.



Mr. A. E. V. Barton, C.B.E.

The Barbados Storm

Many Made Homeless

THE following telegram dated Bridgetown, September 2nd, has been received from Mr. Hubert F. Alkins, regarding the storm which struck Barbados on the night of August 31st :—

Late on Tuesday night, August 30th, warning was received of the approach of a small tropical disturbance 180 miles east-south-east of Barbados, which was expected to pass slightly south of Barbados about mid-day on the 31st. Householders, business places and shipping took the necessary precautions. Most shops in Bridgetown closed.

Later cabled advice from Puerto Rico stated that the storm had passed slightly north of Barbados in the late afternoon. Wednesday night brought rough seas, high winds, thunderstorms and general heavy rains ranging from four to 13 inches. Telephone communications were interrupted in many areas. Floods and high winds caused damage to houses, roads, crops and bridges in the eastern parishes. Flood waters from several districts converged on Constitution River sweeping away houses and flooding a wide area. Many were made homeless and eight persons and hundreds of livestock were drowned. Queenspark Wall and Victoria Bridge were damaged. The Carcenage was littered with debris.

Most businesses remained closed on Thursday. The damage is still unestimated but is not likely to be very heavy. There was heavy rain on Thursday afternoon, but the weather is normal again. Legislative sanction is likely to be sought for a grant to be distributed to the affected parishes, to assist all distressed persons.

Trinidad Legislative Council

Mr. Savary Appointed Speaker

IT was announced in Trinidad on August 27th that the Governor, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has been pleased to appoint Mr. John Lewis Henry William Savary to be the Speaker of the Legislative Council under the new Constitution.

Mr. Savary was born in Trinidad in 1884 and educated at St. Mary's College, Port-of-Spain, where he was a colonial scholar in 1901. After being called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1905 he practised in Trinidad for 19 years before joining the Government Service in 1925, when he became Registrar and Marshal, and Registrar-General and Principal Registrar West Indian Court of Appeal. He was appointed Puisne Judge in British Guiana in 1928, in the Gold Coast in 1937, and in Jamaica in 1939. He acted as Chief Justice of British Guiana and Jamaica respectively on two occasions. In 1948 he became the Senior Puisne Judge in Jamaica, and retired on pension in May of this year.

It is hoped that Mr. Savary will be available to take up his appointment some time before the new Legislative Council is actually brought into operation in order that he may familiarize himself with procedure and consider the many details of organization, administration, etc. of the Speaker's office which will require his attention.

Square Deal for Cocoa Producer

THE Information Department of the Colonial Office issued the following communiqué on August 31st :—

Speaking at the lunch of the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, Ltd., held at the Grosvenor House, London, to-day, Mr. David Rees-Williams, M.P. (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies) said :—

" Our object in the Colonial Office with regard to cocoa is to ensure that good healthy crops are produced and that the man who produces them gets a square deal. The difficulty of producing on a plantation basis is accentuated year by year. Indignant nature is always trying to shake off methods which are contrary to her age-old ways and thus everywhere in the world where there are plantation crops, great battles have been or are being fought to counter the natural enemies of men and crops. We are enlisting the support of the farmers in the fight against swollen shoot disease. I met farmers personally on this subject in the Gold Coast. I am glad to say that their response was such that there are now more applications for cutting out than there is labour to deal with it."

On the question of a square deal for the producer, Mr. Rees-Williams said :—

" If it is right for the United States and the United Kingdom farmer to have security in prices and marketing for his products, why should not the African, the Malayan and the West Indian also have these privileges? Our object in the Colonial Office in the last few years has been to secure for the primary producer that which the industrial nations have obtained for their primary producers. The industrial nations have a great responsibility towards the primary producing nations whether dependent or otherwise. They must deal fairly with them. The industrial nations, by and large, are able to control the products of the primary producing nations and they therefore have a great responsibility. Furthermore, it is highly unfair if the industrial nations compete with the primary producing nations in the only products which those less advanced nations can produce; and not only this, if they also subsidize such competition, then, indeed, the position is likely to become a tragic one. In your deliberations in this question of the cocoa industry, I would always ask you to remember the human element, the man and woman whose livelihood depends on the cocoa bean."

(Continued from page 205)

Other Commonwealth producers will take part in these negotiations. Then the flesh will be put on the skeleton of principles which the present communiqué is in effect. The British West Indies delegations, however, feel certain that they can convince the Government that a period of at least ten years is necessary in order fully to achieve the purpose behind the declarations they have already given. Important, too, for the West Indies is the question of future supplies of sugar to the Canadian market. That will also have to be energetically tackled, but we know that at least we can count on Canadian goodwill.

And so we face the autumn negotiations in a spirit of quiet confidence that at last the structure of security and ordered progress which the British West Indies need so much will finally be achieved.



THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL : PROCESSION FROM ST. GILES TO HOLYROODHOUSE

See page 216

Photograph: *The Scotsman*



WORLD'S LARGEST AIR LINER. THE BRABAZON I TAKES THE AIR.



THE PILOT AND CREW AFTER THE FIRST TEST FLIGHT.

See page 216

The Future of Cocoa

A Lively London Conference

"MOST valuable and fruitful" was the phrase used by Mr. A. Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies, when he congratulated the president and members of the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance on the success of the 1949 Cocoa Conference, held in London from August 30th to September 1st.

Before the proceedings terminated it was unanimously decided to hold another conference next year, and participants from the United States, France and Holland—the three countries, though the fact did not appear at the conference, which participate with Britain in the Caribbean Commission—supported the decision and assured the Alliance of their continued and extended interest.

There was a full agenda, comprising papers and discussion under five heads: supply and demand; cocoa soils; cocoa research; disease and rehabilitation; and quality.

Mr. Coventry Woodhouse opened the discussion on supply and demand, and by reasoned argument based on statistics deduced a probable future world production of 650,000 tons of cocoa which would be roughly comparable with a demand of some 656,000 tons. His thoughtful paper raised argument from which emerged a consensus of opinion that the estimate of production was optimistic, and the estimate of probable demand too low.

Mr. C. F. Charter of the Gold Coast Department of Agriculture described the characteristics of the principal cocoa soils and gave particulars of the lines on which a detailed reconnaissance soil survey of the Gold Coast is being carried out. Dr. Howard Lees of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture outlined certain results of preliminary studies of Trinidad cocoa soils concerned with the trace elements present. Trinidad cocoa producers, he said, had annually exported, in their cocoa, one-third of a ton of copper. Both papers left the impression of much work still to be done.

This impression deepened when Mr. H. J. Page of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture told the conference of the comprehensive research projects in progress and planned under the Cocoa Research Scheme. With regard to what is nowadays the vexed question of finding competent staff he was able to give the encouraging report that of ten men required, six had been obtained and two were on the tapis. Progress was also being made with building and the development of River Estate. Research was being developed along five lines.

The first was concerned with the provision of improved planting material for rehabilitation and extension of cocoa plantings. Progress in the production of high-yielding clones, which was reported later in a paper by Mr. F. W. Cope, was encouraging. Mr. Evans had been successful in maintaining cocoa seed in viable condition for nine weeks as against the ten days which was the usual limit, an advance which might be expected materially to assist the distribution of improved strains of cocoa when they were produced. Negotiations with

the West Africa Cacao Research Institute, for co-operation in another expedition to South America to seek new material, were proceeding satisfactorily. Other research projects were designed to provide information on soil conditions and nutritional factors affecting the cocoa plant; manuring and cultivation problems; pests and diseases; and preparation and quality.

In regard to pests and diseases, Mr. Page spoke of the urgent need for some method of demonstrating the presence of cocoa virus in view of the "latent period" which occurs during which the tree may be infected, and a continual danger to neighbouring trees although there is no visible sign of the disease. A new development which would need study was the feasibility of using systemic insecticides to prevent distribution of virus by aphids.

Virus Diseases

The vast amount of work which lies ahead if adequate supplies of cocoa during the years ahead are to be ensured was really brought home to the conference on the second day, when disease and rehabilitation, and the implications of the work done at the West Africa Cocoa Research Institute, were reviewed. The chairman, Mr. Lloyd Owen, put members into a properly receptive mood by introducing the readers of scientific papers as those on whom the salvation of the industry depends. Mr. John Cadbury outlined the history of swollen shoot disease of cocoa up to the present year—a sad story of nibbling at the problem instead of taking a proper bite at it. Mr. Kenneth Smith of the Moltano Institute at Cambridge gave inside information on the nature of viruses which clearly demonstrated the technical difficulties facing those entrusted with elucidating the problem. A ray of hope was shed, however, by the speeding of discovery which has occurred since the introduction of the electron microscope. One slide thrown on the screen showed photographs of the molecules composing a virus, so far has science progressed in the investigation of this invisible, unfilterable—what? Mr. Kenneth Smith confessed that he still could not say. The results of a colossal amount of work in searching the forest for alternative host plants of the cocoa viruses were presented by Mr. A. F. Posnette. His work showed that there is a huge reservoir of potential infection in that certain of the trees most abundantly represented in the flora can carry the virus in one form or another, while, since the commonest insect vector is known to feed on more than a hundred different plants, it must be taken that plantations of cocoa are bound to be endangered. Mr. J. D. Broatch, deputy director of agriculture on the Gold Coast, then gave an account of what has been done so far to carry out the control and rehabilitation methods recommended by the West African investigators and endorsed by "the three wise men" who visited that area as an international cocoa commission.*

The West Indies, fortunately, are not immediately

*See CIRCULAR, March, 1949, page 63.

concerned with this West African problem, though in the long term the success or otherwise of the cutting-out programmes will have its repercussions in the Caribbean. There was much straight talk on all sides in regard to the difficulties of getting the work done as it should be done, and the devolution of responsibility. Sharp exchanges between Lord Rennell of Rodd and the Secretary of State for the Colonies have been reported in the public press. Dr. Voelcker, director of the West African Cacao Research Institute, emphasized that the future of cocoa will depend on whether it can be grown in a way which will enable the results of research to be utilized. This was an opinion with which the conference whole-heartedly concurred. It was generally accepted that there is an enormous lot of work to be done, that the men on the job are doing well, but that they must be reinforced and supported in every possible way; that the industry must press for this, and that governments and all concerned must give the matter a No. 1 priority.

The papers on quality in cocoa were intensely interesting. Mr. A. V. Gibberd, director of agriculture in eastern Nigeria, gave an account of the practical measures taken to improve the grade of Nigerian cocoa, by which the lowest grade has already been eliminated and a general improvement in quality brought about which was endorsed by speakers on the confectionery side both from Britain and the United States. Mr. B. L. Hancock of Rowntree and Co., Ltd. spoke particularly of quality in Trinidad cocoas, and made suggestions for improvement which, when they appear in the report of the conference, will undoubtedly receive careful study from those in the industry. Arriba cocoa, West African cocoa, and Criollo cocoas generally were dealt with in other papers, and finally Dr. Thaysen of the Colonial Microbiological Institute gave an account of work which has been done since the institute opened.

Dr. Thaysen was already able to report progress, though he emphasized that all results must in the meantime be taken as tentative. It has been determined that the sugar concerned with the fermentation of the pulp is fructose, and that citric acid is also present: also that three anthocyanins are to be found in the forastero bean, and none in criollo; while the criollo bean contains two reduced anthocyanins, and the forastero none.

In summing up on the last day Mr. Paul Cadbury said that he regarded the progress reported by the various research workers as the most encouraging part of the conference. It was desirable that there should be immediate extension of new planting, since it was apparent that during the next few years supply would barely meet demand. (The conference was told during the proceedings of new planting contemplated by the Colonial Development Corporation, but given no indication as to where this will take place.) Everything possible should be done to recruit adequate staff for carrying out rehabilitation programmes, and to introduce controlled grading of cocoa with adequate price differentials for better grades.

All concerned are to be congratulated on a most successful, comprehensive and informative conference. The report, when published, will be a useful contribution to the literature on cocoa, while the decision to continue the conferences as an annual event is a real service to the cocoa industry.

B.W.I. Primary Producers

Federation to be Formed

The *Monthly Bulletin* of the Caribbean Commission reports in the July issue that the farmers of the British West Indian colonies, British Guiana and British Honduras are to form an inter-colonial organization—the Federation of Primary Producers of the British Caribbean and British Guiana.

The organization will aid and encourage associations of producers in the various territories concerned, and will deal with research, marketing, and other questions. The federation will be free of governmental control.

The idea of such an association was born at the conference on British West Indies' closer association, held at Montego Bay, Jamaica, in September 1947. At the conference a resolution was passed to the effect that a federation of primary producers would quicken progress towards political federation.

First members of the organization will include the existing regional associations such as the British West Indies Sugar Association, the West Indian Lime Association and the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association, as well as the Jamaica Central Committee of Primary Producers, the St. Lucia Agriculturists' Association, the St. Vincent Planters' Association, the Grenada Board of Agriculture, and the Dominica Planters' Association. British Guiana and British Honduras will be represented by a government nominee until such time as a general organization representing the primary producers can be set up.

The federation is intended to serve not only agricultural, but fishery and forestry products.

British Guiana Rice

Under the Economic Co-operation Administration's technical assistance programme, two United States agricultural experts with experience of modern methods of rice cultivation and milling are to visit British Guiana to help the local government to increase the colony's production of rice.

The experts left the United States by air on July 20th and will spend three months in British Guiana.

They are: Mr. Henry M. Beachell, associate agronomist in rice production and breeding, U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry, Texas College Station, Beaumont, Texas; and Mr. O. B. Brown, a farm management specialist with the Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service.

While in British Guiana, the experts will assist in preparing a report on the local rice industry. It will include recommendations on measures to improve rice production, on areas where rice cultivation can be most economically extended, the most efficient methods for developing new rice farms, the reorganization of milling facilities and the use of mechanical equipment for rice production. In their study, the experts will take account of the British Guiana Government's plans for draining and irrigating new areas for rice farms. Present plans call for the irrigation of about 82,500 acres of land along the coast.

Colonial Research in 1948-49

Expanding Activities

THE annual reports of the seven councils or committees which advise the Secretary of State for the Colonies on questions relating to research in the Colonial Empire are again published together in one volume.*

By the end of the year under review a total sum of nearly £6,000,000 had been allocated, since 1940, to Colonial Development and Welfare research schemes, of which about 14½ per cent had gone to benefit the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras. A marked rise in the annual disbursements had been a feature of the last two years reviewed, indicating, in the view of the Colonial Research Council, that the shortages of scientific personnel, labour, building materials and equipment were being slowly overcome. This expansion in expenditure was expected to continue, and proposals are referred to for amendment of the Acts to enable the yearly disbursement to be increased.

Colonial Products Research Council

The most important event in the activities of this Council during the year was the opening of the Colonial Microbiological Research Institute in Trinidad. A programme of research was approved by the Council in November, 1948. Preliminary work was carried out on the disposal of rum distillery wastes. Progress was made in the study of micro-organisms which grow in cocoa pulp during fermentation and of the chemical changes taking place within the cocoa bean. Antibiotic substances, which arrest the growth of fungi, were isolated from soils collected both in Jamaica and Trinidad. Yeast from fermenting coco-nut sap was tested in a Trinidad bakery for its dough raising properties and found to be satisfactory, and the Institute negotiated during the year with the large bakeries in Trinidad for the production of a white wheaten loaf containing 2 per cent of food yeast.

Work on sugar carried out under the direction of Dr. L. F. Wiggins was directed mainly to the study of levulinic acid, mannitol and sorbitol obtained from sucrose by chemical means, and to the possible utilization of three products derived from sucrose by the action of micro-organisms. This work was carried out in the laboratory at Birmingham University, where Dr. M. Stacey became professor in succession to Sir Norman Haworth. Other investigations carried on in the laboratory related to the study of the fluorine derivatives of the carbohydrates, and work on starch and on the therapeutic properties of substances derivable from sucrose and starch continued.

In collaboration with Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., observations on petroleum were made which resulted

in the discovery of a sulphonic acid which, as a wetting agent, is comparable with the best commercial products. Other investigations carried on under the *ægis* of the council related to vegetable oils, plants of possible medicinal and insecticidal value, gums and pyrethrum.

Colonial Social Science Research Council

Two major problems which occupied the Council during the year were that of providing organizations capable of planning and conducting research in the colonies, and that of securing a sufficient number of suitably qualified research workers, for whom a scheme of studentships was brought to fulfilment.

In the West Indies an Institute of Social and Economic Research was established in Jamaica with Dr. H. Dudley Huggins as its first director. This institute is to be closely integrated with the University College of the West Indies, and will eventually have a staff of seven research officers. Mr. B. J. Bedell (in Trinidad), and Mr. Deans Peggs (in Jamaica) prosecuted investigations of the mental ability of the West Indian child. A social survey of Jamaica under the direction of Miss Edith Clarke was continued and carried to the stage at which preliminary reports should shortly be available. Mr. A. F. Wells continued his studies of Friendly Societies. Reports on the societies in British Guiana and the Windward Islands were in preparation; reports for Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica were published.

Colonial Medical Research Committee

There is no record in this report of research work carried out in the West Indies, though many of the findings of the workers active in Africa and the East may be expected to be applicable to West Indian conditions. Trials of the prophylactic value of paludrine, mepacrine and chloroquine led to the issue by the Colonial Office and the Medical Research Council of tentative recommendations for the use of these products in the prevention and cure of malarial attack. In West Africa the effectiveness of Gammexane in controlling the malaria carrying mosquito of that area was confirmed, the insecticide D.D.T., which has been used so successfully in British Guiana, being ineffective at twice the normal strength. Experiments with the new drug Hetrazan against filarial diseases, and with Miracil D for schistosomiasis, showed both drugs to have drawbacks as well as advantages. Studies made in Uganda have provided convincing evidence that an epidemiological type of yellow fever which exists in Africa is strictly analogous to the jungle yellow fever of South America. An interesting, and probably useful, discovery recorded in this report is the fact that chloromycetin will control gonorrhœal infection when administered orally. A series of investigations which may be anticipated to give results of general interest is comprised in the research scheme in progress on physiology in hot climates.

(Continued on next page)

**Colonial Research, 1948-49.* Reports of the Colonial Research Council, Colonial Products Research Council, Colonial Social Science Research Council, Colonial Medical Research Committee, Committee for Colonial Agricultural, Animal Health and Forestry Research, Colonial Insecticides Committee, and Colonial Economic Research Committee. Cmd. 7739. H.M.S.O. 1949. Price, 2s. 6d. net.

Committee for Colonial Agricultural, Animal Health and Forestry Research

This committee, after consideration of a resolution adopted at the Fifth Entomological Conference in regard to the need for expansion of research work on termites, recommended the secondment of an entomologist on the staff of the agricultural department in Uganda to undertake this work. This was agreed to.

The problem which was of chief concern to the cocoa research sub-committee was that of the swollen shoot disease of cocoa in West Africa. Other investigations in progress in West Africa related to the propagation and testing of clonal material and the biology of virus vectors. The committee also discussed the progress of the West Indian cocoa research scheme being carried out under the *aegis* of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, the problems involved in the transfer of planting material between Trinidad and West Africa and among the West Indian islands, and the principles governing the proper fermentation of cocoa.

In an attempt to remedy the shortage of staff for the purpose of carrying out further soil surveys in tropical and sub-tropical areas the soils sub-committee recommended the establishment of studentships for soil research in colonial territories. Six of these are to be offered in the first year and six in the second. It was also recommended that a statistician be appointed, to work at Rothamsted and carry out a comprehensive analysis of experimental data on the responses of tropical crops to fertilizers. In the first instance this analysis will be confined to sugar cane.

The stored products research sub-committee was mainly occupied with the activities of the West African pest infestation survey and most particularly with the outbreak of infestation among stored ground-nuts in North Nigeria. A code of practice governing the use of D.D.T. and benzene hexachloride with stored food-stuffs was circulated to colonial governments.

Colonial Insecticides Committee

This, the second report of the committee, covers much ground and deals with many items, which mostly relate to technical observations made in the course of investigations and trials. Techniques covered range from the application of insecticides by the old-established method of knapsack sprayers through power sprayers, spray guns, impregnated screens, insecticidal smokes and fogs, to application by fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, using principally D.D.T. and benzene hexachloride. The records of results are in the main findings immediately useful to the investigator rather than the practical agriculturist.

The report gives particulars of the results obtained in the experiments conducted against sugarcane frog-hopper in Trinidad by Caroni, Ltd., on dusting from a helicopter. It is recorded that excellent initial kills of adults (90 to 100 per cent) were obtained, but that in 3 to 6 days the frog-hopper population had again attained its former level. This result is of much interest as it is in complete accord with results obtained some twenty years ago by dusting frog-hopper on castor with calcium cyanide in North-East India. A perfect initial kill was obtained, but in the course of a week or so infestation was as bad as ever on the treated area. Adjacent areas, free from frog-hopper damage and untreated, remained unaffected.

British Guiana Air Survey

Exploring Possibilities of Settlement

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for the aerial photographing of 4,000 square miles in the Bartica and Potaro area of British Guiana. It will be carried out this autumn, and it is hoped that contour maps, which the Directorate of Colonial Surveys will prepare on the basis of the photographs, will be ready about June, 1950.

This represents a practical effort to put into operation recommendations made in the report of the British Guiana and British Honduras Settlement Commission. The Commission's aim was to explore openings for the transfer to these two territories of surplus population from the British Caribbean colonies.

Large-scale timber extraction from the Bartica triangle was one of the Commission's proposals. Others included the construction of an all-weather road from Bartica to Potaro and the production of cocoa and other crops in the Potaro and Mazaruni areas.

Development of the interior of British Guiana has been greatly handicapped by the lack of topographic data and a topographic survey of the areas concerned in which aerial photography must play an important part is one of the first essentials for putting the Commission's recommendations into practice.

Aviation in Trinidad

The annual report of the Trinidad and Tobago Department of Civil Aviation for 1948 shows a total of 15,237 movements at the airport during the year. These are classified as follows: commercial scheduled, 10,376; commercial non-scheduled, 952; private and light aero club, 3,793; service, 116.

The total number of passenger movements was 102,760. In transit passengers numbered 26,786, while 38,108 landed in the colony and 37,866 departed.

Mail loaded for despatch weighed 165,380 lb., and 137,832 lb. of mail was landed. The weight of freight loaded for despatch was 545,859 lb.; freight landed totalled 438,991 lb.

Supplies of fuel and oil totalled 2,097,065 gallons of petrol and 9,360 gallons of oil.

A rough survey indicated that 800 persons were directly employed in the aviation industry in the island during the year.

There was only one reportable accident during the year. This occurred to a Bell Helicopter carrying out spraying experiments, which in making an emergency landing in a cane field at night sustained damage. The pilot escaped with slight scratches.

West African Cocoa

Reduced prices to West African cocoa producers for the season commencing on October 1st have been announced by the Gold Coast and Nigeria marketing boards.

Gold Coast producers are to receive 45s. per load of 60 lb., against 65s. for the previous crop. Nigerian producers will receive £100 per ton against £120 per ton.

Colonial Metals and Minerals

Products Committee Report

A METALS and Minerals Panel of the Colonial Primary Products Committee was set up in August, 1947, to review, under the terms of reference of that committee, the possibility of increasing colonial production of those commodities.

Membership of the panel was drawn from the Colonial Office, the Ministry of Supply, the Board of Trade, the Treasury, the Foreign Office, the Mineral Resources department of the Imperial Institute, and, latterly, the Iron and Steel Board. The Ministry of Fuel and Power was represented when coal was discussed.

The panel has recently published its report,* in which is reviewed the position of the important minerals with the exception of radio-active minerals, gold, tin and oil.

Radio-active minerals are not dealt with as it is understood that steps are being taken to encourage a search for such minerals in the colonial territories.

Gold is in a special position. Stimulation of production depends primarily on price offered, and the price of gold is a matter of high policy with which the panel has no concern. The panel, however, approves the system of sliding scale royalties already adopted for certain low-grade gold mines and welcomes the statement of the Colonial Office that it is hoped to extend it to other minerals, as the general system of a fixed royalty rate might make the mining of low grade ore unprofitable and result in the mineral resources of a territory being inadequately worked.

All aspects of the production of, and international trade in, tin are under continuous examination by the Tin Study Group at the Hague, and the future rate of production will depend largely on the outcome of discussions conducted under the auspices of that group.

The panel has been assured by the Ministry of Fuel and Power that the British oil companies are fully alive to the importance of increasing the production of oil within the sterling area and that they have given and are giving special attention to any possibilities in the Colonial Empire. Further exploration work is being carried out in Brunei and Sarawak, and it is hoped shortly to issue licences in Trinidad for oil exploration in the marine areas. Production in Sarawak has declined since pre-war, but output in Brunei has increased to such an extent that "the territory has in the last few months supplanted Trinidad as the chief source of oil in the Colonial Empire."

The reviews of the position in regard to the mineral products which are dealt with in the report are based on the panel's findings in the light of information generally available up to May 1st, 1949. Particulars in regard to metals and minerals procurable in the British West Indian territories follow.

Asphalt and Manjak. Trinidad is the only colonial producer of natural asphalt, and Barbados the only colony known to possess deposits of manjak. Deposits of natural asphalt exist in Nigeria and British Guiana, but none of economic importance.

The panel is not aware of any world shortage of asphalt or asphaltites. Production of asphalt in Trinidad over the past ten years has averaged over 88,000 tons annually, and 200,000 tons is believed to be possible. Mining of manjak in Barbados, apart from surface working during the war, ceased in 1919, and it is not yet clear whether it would be an economic proposition to restart. The asphaltite grahamite was formerly mined in Trinidad and marketed under the name of manjak.

Bauxite. Colonial production is at present confined to British Guiana and the Gold Coast, production in Malaya having not yet recommenced. There are also deposits in Jamaica, Nyasaland, North Borneo and Sarawak.

The deposits in British Guiana are among the largest and richest in the world, and production is expected to reach 2,000,000 tons annually if the present demand continues. Estimates of reserves in Jamaica range from seven to more than 100 million tons. The treatment of Jamaican bauxite has been the subject of experiments now believed to have given results and plans to work the deposits are under development.

Diamonds. The rough diamond producing areas in the colonies are the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika and British Guiana, production in the last-named territory being comparatively small. There is a steady demand for low quality diamonds for industrial purposes, but the trade in gem diamonds is ostensibly a luxury trade and of a fluctuating nature. Producers in Tanganyika, Sierra Leone and the largest producer in the Gold Coast have agreements with the Diamond Corporation for regulation of sales, a system regarded by the panel as in the producers' interests so long as they receive an equitable share of the market. British Guiana, however, does not sell through the corporation.

Salt is produced in most colonial territories, but colonial production for export is centred chiefly in Aden, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Bahamas. It is such a low-priced commodity that only large scale production is economic, and in view of the relative abundance of supplies generally it is unlikely that the price will increase greatly.

Producers in the Turks and Caicos Islands had difficulty in disposing of salt during the war, but United Kingdom government assistance kept the industry in being, and present production is being taken up, while plans have been made for reorganizing the industry. There is a possibility, at a later stage, of some fine salt production for sale in the West Indies. The salt industry of the Bahamas has been completely reorganized in recent years, and the product is exported to Newfoundland and Canada for fish curing, etc.

The development of mineral production in the Colonial Empire depends fundamentally on the completion of adequate geological surveys. Plans were adopted in 1946 for completing the preliminary geological mapping of the territories by 1956, and it is

*Colonial Primary Products Committee, *Metals and Minerals Panel Report*. Colonial No. 247. H.M.S.O., 1949. Price 9d. net.

hoped that difficulties in obtaining competent personnel will be overcome in time to enable this to be done. Meantime the panel is of opinion that it could usefully continue in existence to consider particular questions of mineral development as they arise and to review the general position again from time to time.

Sea Island Cotton

THE report of the administrative council of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation submitted to the twenty-eighth annual general meeting held on July 12th shows that the area planted to Sea Island cotton in the British West Indies was 9,386 acres (excluding a small acreage in St. Lucia for which figures are not available), this being an increase of just over 2,000 acres compared with the figures for the previous season.

With the exception of St. Kitts, where labour difficulties restricted planting, the increase in acreage was general throughout the cotton-growing islands, and is attributed to a greater measure of satisfaction with the prices and to the fact that the price to be received was known in advance of planting.

Statistics for the 1947-48 crop are :—

	Acres	Total Lint		Clean Lint
		Bales Produced	Yield lb. per acre	Bales Produced
Antigua ...	1,544	544	135	521
Barbados ...	137	30	88	30
Montserrat ...	3,447	1,727	184	1,584
Nevis ...	2,000	617	97	483
St. Kitts ...	333	183	220	150
Anguilla ...	60	7	41	6
St. Vincent ...	1,865	722	137	638
St. Lucia ...	—	18	—	17
Total...	9,386	3,848	—	3,429

Marie-Galante cotton was grown only in Carriacou, as production ceased in the St. Vincent Grenadines. 115 bales of lint were produced from one area of approximately 1,200 acres.

In March, 1949, the area under cotton in the British West Indies was over 12,000 acres, and the estimated yield for 1948-49 about 5,600 bales. The superfine crop is expected to show a substantial increase in Barbados, and an increase is anticipated in St. Vincent despite competition from ground-nuts.

Antigua Cotton

The 1949 cotton crop in Antigua is reported to show an improvement in appearance and cleanliness as compared with that of 1948.

The total acreage planted was 3,500 acres, 80 per cent of which was peasant owned. The price for seed cotton has been 8d. per lb. Estimated exports of clean lint being not less than 2,000 bales, it is anticipated that the total income for the island in 1949 will be around \$450,000.

The picking season has given employment to every woman on the island who wished to work, while many men have been compelled to assist with the picking to take off the crop, one result being a shortage of charcoal.

Keep it Dark

The following interesting note, by E. G. Benson and D. B. Murray, is culled from the current issue of *Tropical Agriculture*.

In Trinidad it is the practice of some of the oil companies to get rid of waste natural gas by leading it through a 3 or 4 inch pipe 25 to 30 feet high and burning it at the top as a flare. This produces a continuous bright flame 6 to 8 feet high, visible at night for many miles.

Early in 1947, one of the companies erected such a flare on the edge of a field in which swamp padi is usually grown during the latter half of every year. Padi was planted in the area during the months of July and August and flowering was expected to take place in October. In the vicinity of the flare, however, the emergence of the flowering panicles from the sheathing leaves did not occur as was normally expected. The farmers concerned reported the matter to the oil company, who in turn communicated with the Agricultural Department.

Investigation in the field disclosed further that where a tree had thrown a shadow from the flare across the padi, the crop was flowering normally and as a result the extent of the shadow could easily be traced. The overall condition was, however, complicated by the fact that the padi was planted in a series of small plots at different times, and by existing local differences in water supply. These factors led to a patchy growth of the crop.

Most of the padis grown in Trinidad appear to ripen during the period of shortening days. It was evident that the light intensity of the flare at night was sufficient to upset the normal photoperiodic response of the plant, and to arrest the reproductive stages of flowering and fruiting, except in those areas of the field where the crop had been shaded from the flare at night. The effect was noticeable at least 300 yards from the flare, at which distance the light intensity must have been very low. At this distance even low obstacles cast long shadows and in these long shadows, padi was flowering normally.

As a result of this investigation, the company readily agreed to extinguish the flare and once this was done, in early November, the padi rapidly came into flower and the crop was harvested some 4 to 6 weeks late.

Barbados Fisheries

The Department of Fisheries in Barbados is constructing a special boat to be used in a long-term scheme of research into the habits of flying fish, bonita, king fish, dolphin and others, and for demonstrations of fishing gear new to Barbados.

The vessel is 43 feet long, 6 feet 7 inches deep, and has a beam of 13 feet. It is powered with a 53 h.p. Diesel Caterpillar engine which will drive the boat at a speed of 6 to 9 knots, and carries sufficient fuel to remain at sea for 5 to 6 days.

An ice-box in the boat will hold 10 tons of fish, and ring net fishing for bonita will be given special attention by the crew.

Trinidad Petroleum and Asphalt

Operations in 1948

MR. W. N. FOSTER, Petroleum Technologist, Trinidad and Tobago, in the administration report of the Petroleum Department for the year 1948, notes that there was little change during the year in the conditions governing the tempo of the industry, allocations of steel and dollars continuing to be restraining factors.

Both drilling and production were maintained at the same level as during 1947, but more attention was given to exploration than formerly since diminishing crude reserves was a matter of concern to more than one organization. Thirteen exploratory wells were drilled during the year, several of which obtained commercial production from comparatively shallow depths. This is regarded as an encouraging feature. There was no exploratory drilling in deep water in marine areas, the very expensive equipment required being unavailable.

One hundred and forty-five wells were commenced, and 141 completed during the year, against 162 and 157 respectively in 1947. The total footage drilled was 638,681, the comparable figure for 1947 being 644,689. At the end of 1948 there were 4,684 completed oil wells in the colony, of which 3,145 were on Crown oil-rights and 1,539 on private lands. The average completion depths of wells was about the same in 1948 as in 1947. The number of oilfield operators in the colony was reduced from 14 to 12, Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd. taking over the assets of Zenith Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., and United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. taking over the oilfield of Ramessar Partap.

The total production of crude oil for the year was 20,110,901 barrels, an average of 54,948 barrels per day. This represents a decrease of 2 per cent compared with the 1947 output.

No addition was made to either the topping or cracking capacity of the refineries, which remained at 95,000 and 50,000 barrels per day respectively, but 5 permits were issued for small field topping plants, and 3 other permits for the refining of oil. Crude oil run to stills, including imported crude oil, amounted to 27,074,000 barrels, an increase of 7.1 per cent on the previous year's figure. The completion of the vacuum asphalt plant, commenced in 1947 by United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd., was delayed by non-arrival of equipment. During the year Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. modified existing equipment to recover hydrogen sulphide and produce tetramer, and obtained permission to extend storage facilities by the installation of 11 additional tanks totalling 474,000 barrels capacity. Two plants for the recovery of natural gasolene operated during the year.

Total main storage capacity for crude oil and refined products amounted to 8,621,437 barrels at December, 1948, an increase of 3.3 per cent over 1947.

Contributions to Revenue

Direct contributions made by the industry to the revenue of the colony amounted to \$13,227,663, being 26 per cent of the colony's total revenue. Other local

disbursements totalled \$27,491,475. This was an increase of 11 per cent over the figure for 1947, while the average number of persons employed increased by 5.6 per cent.

Exports of petroleum and its products showed an increase of over 3 million barrels as compared with 1947, due to increased importation of foreign crudes. The amounts and values for the two years were as follows:—

					\$
1947	22,926,397 barrels valued at				61,897,237
	Petroleum bitumen ...	+++	+++	+++	1,253,869
	Total	+++	+++	+++	63,151,106
1948	26,167,894 barrels valued at				93,425,393
	Petroleum bitumen ...	+++	+++	+++	2,681,404
	Total	+++	+++	+++	96,106,797

Petroleum and asphalt and their products accounted for 78 per cent of the colony's exports during 1948, as the following table of exports for that year shows:—

	Value \$	Percentage of total
Petroleum and asphalt and their products	99,232,778	78.07
Sugar, molasses and rum	15,395,575	12.11
Cocoa	8,353,312	6.57
Fruits and fruit juices	2,216,648	1.75
Coco-nuts, copra and coco-nut oil ...	56,688	0.05
Bitters ...	409,542	0.32
Coffee ...	528	0.00
Other exports not enumerated	1,440,313	1.13
Total	127,105,384	100.00

Production of asphalt during the year was 128,993 tons, against 87,346 tons in 1947 and 93,851 tons in 1946. The Barber Oil Corporation of Philadelphia notified the Trinidad Government in November, 1948 of the corporation's wish to relinquish its interest in the asphalt business in Trinidad and arrangements were made for the unexpired portion (seven years) of the corporation's lease of the Pitch Lake to be assigned to Previté and Co., Ltd., London. [The completion of this transfer by formation in Trinidad of the Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd. was announced in the CIRCULAR, March, 1949, page 55.—ED.]

The oil produced, refined and exported since 1939 is shown in the following table:—

	Production in barrels	Quantity of crude oil refined in barrels	Quantity of crude oil and refined oil exported in barrels
1939	19,742,000	19,415,000	17,600,000
1940	22,227,000	22,060,000	20,173,000
1941	20,506,000	20,812,000	15,851,000
1942	22,069,000	21,914,000	19,063,000
1943	21,385,000	21,086,000	15,860,000
1944	21,635,000	22,498,000	19,754,000
1945	21,093,000	23,170,000	20,651,000
1946	20,243,000	22,713,000	20,432,000
1947	20,520,000	25,281,000	22,926,000
1948	20,110,000	27,074,000	26,168,000

The Colonial Month

At the end of a "month" which has extended to thirteen weeks, the Colonial Exhibition at the Central Office of Information Exhibition Hall, near Marble Arch, will close its doors on September 17th.

The West Indies Exhibit, staged by the West India Committee, closed on August 26th. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has already expressed, in a personal letter to Mr. J. M. du Buisson, his thanks to the secretaries, staff and helpers of the West India Committee for their part in maintaining the display at 40, Norfolk Street.

It is estimated that some 5,000 people visited the West Indian display, and attendances were well maintained to the closing day. So was the condition of the beautiful exhibit of fruit, to which members of the staff of T. J. Poupart, Ltd., gave unremitting attention throughout the whole period. The excellence of the fruit exhibit was never allowed to fall below the level of the fine displays contributed by other helpers—no easy matter in hot weather such as was experienced during most of the period.

West Indians Help Derby Cricket

Laurie Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Johnson, of Barbados, who has been playing for Derbyshire in the County Cricket Championship, has been in the news with top score of 77 against Lancashire, 77 against Sussex, and a good partnership at a critical juncture against New Zealand.

West Indians with George Fletcher and Co., Ltd., the sugar machinery manufacturers of Derby, did much to help Fletcher's cricket XI to win the Butterley Cup last year. This cup is competed for by the business houses in Derby and district, and the West Indians who helped to win it included Laurie Johnson, Michael Fredericks and Michael Hutson from Barbados; Richard and James Ashbee, Charlie and Bobbie Alexander, K. Cassels and R. H. B. Smith from British Guiana; and Neville Freakley from Trinidad.

The Pictorial Pages

The third Edinburgh Festival of International Arts was inaugurated on August 21st with a service in St. Giles Cathedral, attended by representatives of Scottish national life, foreign visitors and many of those actively concerned with the artistic side of the festival. After the service there was a procession down the Royal Mile to the Palace of Holyroodhouse where the Duke of Hamilton, representing the King, received the chief magistrates of a dozen European cities. The first of the pictorial pages in this issue shows the procession watched by a great crowd.

Aviation history was made on September 4th at Filton, Bristol, when the world's largest civil air liner, the 130-ton Bristol Brabazon I, made its maiden flight. The aircraft was in the air for 27 minutes and for most of the flight the cruising speed was about 140 knots—about 160 miles an hour.

The Brabazon I is 177 ft. in length and its wing-span is 230 ft. The fin is 50 ft. in height. It required 30,000 sq. ft. of metal skin to cover the fuselage and wings, which are secured by 1,500,000 rivets—equal to 11 miles of single-line riveting. The electrical system has 150 miles of wiring. The aircraft has a range of 5,500 miles in still air—sufficient for non-stop flights between London and New York. Because no pilot would be capable of actuating the controls on such a massive aircraft they are power operated.

The photograph reproduced in the top half of the second page shows the aircraft taking off, her under-carriage retracting. In the lower picture are seen Mr. A. J. Pegg, the pilot (seventh

from left) and the crew, photographed after the flight.

Trinidad Coffee

During the first three months of the year an excellent crop of *robusta* coffee was reaped in Trinidad. It was estimated that after meeting requirements for local consumption there would be an exportable surplus of some 2,000,000 lb.



The Colonial Month gift hamper presented to the 250,000th visitor to the main exhibition as described in last CIRCULAR.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"SOME smart folk can't tell a rotten rail without sitting on it."

SIR FREDERICK SEAFORD has been appointed a managing director of Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd.

THE news of the tragic death in Trinidad of Sir Norman Lamont was announced as the CIRCULAR went to press. A memoir will appear in our next issue.

THE West Indies Lawn Tennis Association will hold the 1950 competition for the Association's trophy in British Guiana. A photograph of the trophy was published on page 194 of the August issue of the CIRCULAR.

THE present officers of the Association are: Mr. C. Percira (Trinidad), president; Hon. H. V. Alexander, C.B.E. (Jamaica) and Mr. J. E. de Freitas (British Guiana), vice-presidents; Mr. N. Nothnagel (Trinidad), honorary secretary.

SIR HILARY BLOOD, who is to broadcast in the General Overseas Service on September 16th, on "A Future for the West Indies," believes himself to be the only Governor who has ever given a commentary on a Test Match.

JAMES NOURSE, LTD., announce that Mr. R. W. Hampton has been appointed chairman and managing director in place of the late Mr. G. C. Hampton, and that Mr. L. C. Williams and Mr. H. C. Chapman have been elected directors of the company. Mr. H. C. Chapman has been appointed secretary.

MR. ROBERT ADAMS, the stage and film actor, left Liverpool in the *Amakura* on August 23rd for British Guiana and the West Indies where he will lecture for the British Council on the theatre and films in Britain. He will be away about six months and will combine lecturing with professional engagements.

MR. J. L. WORLEDGE, Director General of Colonial Audit, left London by air on August 31st for a three months' tour of inspection of the Colonial Audit Departments in British Honduras, Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, British Guiana and Trinidad. He is due to return to the United Kingdom by the end of November.

JOINTLY with the Ashridge College of Citizenship, the Royal Empire Society is holding a course on "Aspects of the Commonwealth" from October 24th to 28th. Speakers will include Field Marshall the Viscount Montgomery, Rear-Admiral G. N. Oliver, Professor Arthur Newell, Dr. Franz Burger, Mr. H. V. Hodson and Mr. Robert McKenzie.

MR. COURTENAY HITCHINS, editor and managing director of the *Trinidad Guardian*, has returned to Port-of-Spain after a visit to England, Italy and France which occupied nearly two months. He was accompanied to

this side by his wife and their two sons. Mrs. Hitchins will return to Trinidad after her eldest son has started school at Malvern.

THE Jamaica (Constitution) Order in Council, 1949 extends the qualification for election to the House of Representatives for any constituency to residence "in the Island of Jamaica." These words are substituted for the words "in the parish in which that constituency is comprised," which appeared in the Jamaica (Constitution) Order in Council, 1944.

THE engagement is announced of Mr. Niall Patrick Sherlock, second son of the late Sir Alfred Sherlock and of Lady Sherlock, of Kalcoon, Caterham, Surrey, and First Officer Margaret Maud Bray, M.B.E., W.R.N.S., second daughter of the late Colonel Hubert Bray, and of Mrs. Bray of Mallards Close, Twyford, Hampshire. Mr. Sherlock is a managing director of Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd., and a member of the executive of the West India Committee.

THE King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Edgar Mortimer Duke, Solicitor-General, British Guiana, to be fifth puisne judge in Trinidad. Mr. Duke who was born in British Guiana in 1895, was educated at Queens Royal College, British Guiana, and at the City Engineering College and University College, London. He was called to the Bar in 1917. He was appointed acting Registrar of Deeds in British Guiana in 1929 and appointed Registrar in 1933. Mr. Duke was promoted to the post of Legal Draftsman in 1944 and became Solicitor General in 1946.

RECENT visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have included the following: the Hon. E. P. Arrow-smith, Mr. A. C. Barnes, Mr. C. J. Bettencourt-Gomes, Mr. A. G. P. Blair, Commander Charles Bushe, Mr. M. N. Cochrane, Sir Alan Collymore, Mr. C. B. B. Connell, Mr. J. St. F. Dare, Sir Joseph de la Mothe, Mr. E. Delmer Dew, Colonel Harvey Dow, Mr. R. S. Houghton, Sir Claude Hollis, the Hon. D. C. Macgillivray, Mr. J. A. Parnell, Captain C. M. G. Purchas, Mr. G. D. Pritchett, the Hon. P. M. Renison, Mr. Gerald Wight.

Sir John Shaw's Resignation

The Secretary of State for the Colonies announced on August 23rd that Sir John Shaw has sought permission from the King to retire from the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Trinidad and Tobago, on the ground of age, and that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to accept Sir John Shaw's resignation with effect from the end of his forthcoming leave in this country.

[Sir John Shaw is 55 years of age. He was appointed Governor of Trinidad in November, 1946, and assumed office in the following March.]

Obituary

IT is with great regret that we have to announce the death of the following:—

Sir Gerald Hawkesworth

Sir Edward Gerald Hawkesworth, K.C.M.G., who died in tragic circumstances at a London hotel on August 14th, was appointed governor of British Honduras in November 1946. He assumed office on January 14th, 1947 and resigned in June 1948 on the grounds of ill health.

During the early weeks of 1948 Sir Gerald was faced with a serious situation when it was learned that certain elements in Guatemala might attempt an invasion of British Honduras. Following representations which he made, H.M.S. *Sheffield* and H.M.S. *Devonshire* arrived at Belize with troops and marines and the crisis passed.

Sir Gerald served throughout the war of 1914-18 and was awarded the M.C. In 1921 he was appointed Assistant District Officer in Nigeria, and served there in several capacities until 1941 when he was promoted to be Chief Commissioner of Ashanti.

Sir Frank Stockdale

By the death of Sir Frank Stockdale, G.C.M.G., C.B.E.—briefly announced in last issue—the Empire has lost one of its greatest authorities on colonial agriculture and a distinguished public servant. He was deputy-chairman of the Colonial Development Corporation, and chairman of the governing body of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

Frank Arthur Stockdale, born in 1883, was educated at Wisbech and at Magdalene College, Cambridge. He began his colonial career in 1905 as mycologist in the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies. Three years later he was appointed Assistant Director of Science and Agriculture and Government Botanist in British Guiana, where he remained until 1912, when he became Director of Agriculture in Mauritius. In 1916 he took up a like appointment in Ceylon. There he remained until 1929, when he became Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In July, 1940, Sir Frank—as he became in 1937—was appointed Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies. In a speech before leaving for the Caribbean he said that the undertaking would be “the beginning of the blazing of a new trail in colonial history.”

From 1942 to 1945 he was co-chairman of the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission and in the latter year he returned to London on his appointment as Adviser on Development Planning in the Colonial Office. He became deputy-chairman of the Colonial Development Corporation in August, 1947.

In addition to his wide agricultural knowledge, Sir Frank was a first-class administrator and a man of great personal charm.

He married in 1908 Miss Annie Dora Packer, of Barbados, who died last year. Much sympathy will be felt for their two sons and the other members of the family.

A memorial service was held at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, Westminster, on September 6th. The

large congregation included members of the family, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies, and representatives of many institutions and associations. The West India Committee was represented by the treasurers and other officials; the chairman and deputy-chairman were unable to be present.

Mr. Sydney Fitt

Mr. Sydney Warton Fitt, who died at Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, on August 10th, had spent the greater part of his life in Trinidad where he was a well-known and popular figure.

He was born in England in 1877 and after leaving school began his business career with Alston, Arbuthnot and Co., in London. At the age of 21 he went out to Trinidad to take up a post with Alston and Co., Ltd., and later became a director. He retired in 1947 after nearly 50 years with the firm.

Mr. Fitt played a prominent part in the public life of the colony and was for many years a member of the Legislative Council. He had served as president of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and was one of the founders of the Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association. He will also be remembered as one of the pioneers in Trinidad of the match industry and of the manufacture of clay products.

“Uncle Sydney,” as he was affectionately known to a wide circle of friends, was a keen sportsman and was particularly interested in deep sea fishing.

Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Fitt and the other members of the family.

MR. JOHN McKECHNIE, who died suddenly on August 5th, had served with the Mirrlees Watson Co., Ltd., of Glasgow, since 1906, and had been secretary of the company for the past 18 years. Mr. McKechnie was at business to within a few hours of his death.

DR. GEORGE HENRY STEVEN died at Ardglas, Lochgoilhead, Scotland, on August 9th, at the age of 71. Dr. Steven joined the Colonial Medical Service after the first world war and held appointments in the Windward Islands and British Guiana. He retired to St. Lucia in 1937 and returned to Scotland in 1946. He is survived by his wife, one son and two daughters.

Tourism in British Guiana

The annual report of the British Guiana Tourist Committee for 1948 discloses that the committee has urged upon the Governor that it should be established as a statutory body with definite powers.

The lack of suitable accommodation for tourists was one of the greatest problems during the year. The committee assisted the managements of hotels in procuring import licences and duty exemptions for furniture imported for improvements.

There were 5,544 arrivals and 5,592 departures during the year, 2,893 in-transit passengers, and 829 “round-trippers.”

The Caribbean Lodge (No. 4826 E.C.). A regular meeting will be held at Freemason's Hall, Great Queen Street, on Tuesday, September 27th, at 5 p.m.

Cocoa in Trinidad

Requirement for Survival

IN an editorial in the July issue, headed *Is West Indian Cocoa to Survive or Perish?*, the "G.-G." Review of Trinidad gives expression to planting opinion in the island in the following terms:—

In November, 1946, our Editorial dealt with the parlous condition of the cocoa industry in the West Indies and we make no apologies for once more returning to the subject, which is of vital interest to the West Indies.

The West Indies, as everyone who is interested in this territory fully knows, are not suited to industry, but are naturally adapted to agriculture, which is the backbone of all the Islands in the Group.

Up to the present, cocoa estates have not recovered from the gruelling punishment they suffered for over twenty years, when returns for their produce barely paid for the reaping of their crops. To pile on the agony the dreaded Witch-Broom disease established itself in Trinidad and lack of funds prevented its proper control. The inevitable reaction was that cocoa plantations could not receive the essential care necessary for their cultivation and the crops dwindled to 50 per cent and in some cases to 25 per cent of their erstwhile yield, and a good many of them were abandoned.

In 1946 a turn for better prices took place. From an average of \$14.14 per fanega (110 lb.), the market strengthened until in 1948 planters were getting \$40.00 per fanega for their produce. The boom was short lived. In January this year the price dropped to \$34.00, continued dropping, until in February it halted at \$28.00 which figure is still being paid.

Lately Witch-Broom has got a firm hold in Grenada and Swollen Shoot disease has made its appearance in the Northern Range of Trinidad. No one can foresee whether there will be an upward or downward trend in prices for the new crop. There are those who prophesy that the latter will prevail but we suggest that this will once more place the cocoa industry in jeopardy and there is no excuse for forcing the price down.

Official information in regard to the sales of sweets and chocolates in Great Britain discloses that in April this year these were raised 84 per cent above the level of 12 months earlier, when rationing was in force. In the provinces sales were, without exception, more than doubled. The reaction of the British public, as soon as rationing of sweets and chocolates was raised, does not bear out the theory that prevailing prices for the raw material are excessive. After paying starvation prices for raw cocoa, some there are who cannot see that economical prices are necessary for the survival of the industry.

On May 24th, representatives of the Committee of the Cocoa and Chocolate Manufacturers' Association of the United States of America arrived in Trinidad. The mission was composed of Mr. Alexander Singer, chairman; Mr. John Whittaker, Mr. Lockett Coleman and Mr. Lester Maher.

Mr. Singer stated to the Press that the Committee was formed a few months ago to tour a number of cocoa producing countries in the Western Hemisphere, with a view of studying the quality of the produce in each of

the regions. Existing conditions generally under which the crop was produced were receiving the attention of the mission.

The Committee spent three days in Trinidad before departing for Belem, Brazil and during their stay visited some of the leading planting and propagating stations in the Island.

Among the districts visited was Montserrat, the cocoa district par excellence of Trinidad, and they were conducted around by a prominent planter who is on the committee of the Cocoa Planters' Association of Trinidad and Tobago. The mission was shown one or two abandoned estates and the members were shocked at their woeful condition. When they were told that these estates were typical of the state to which 50 per cent of the Trinidad plantations were reduced, they could hardly credit the fact, but statistics show that the figure of 50 per cent is an understatement rather than an exaggeration.

In spite of Mr. Singer's subsequent statement in which he emphasized that the cocoa and chocolate manufacturers did not arrange for imports, as this was done by other firms in the States, there can be no doubt that the manufacturers are the sole arbiters of the quality and value of the raw cocoa and it rests with them, and with them only, as to whether the grower goes to the wall or will be enabled to continue supplying the demand for the product.

Let us hope that the West Indies will not be forced to return to the days of 1740, when to quote Joseph's *History of Trinidad*, "there was a severe slump (in cocoa), many necessities had to be gone without and an air of decay crept even into the State Councils, where members of the Cabildo had but one pair of small clothes among them."

It is the consensus of opinion amongst those planters who have borne the brunt of the battle for existence that, taking into consideration the expense of fighting disease, the ever increasing cost of labour, estate supplies (including cultivation and reaping implements), and material for building repairs, that the minimum price of 30c. per lb. or \$33.00 per fanega will be required to rehabilitate and keep plantations in good order and to return a *fair*, not an exorbitant return on capital invested in the industry.

Journal of Agricultural Research, Vol. 78, No. 10, May 15th, 1949. A paper in this issue, by G. N. Stroman, reports the biometrical relationships of certain characters used in the cotton breeding programme at the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station.

The characters studied included lint percentage, lint index, boll weight, classer's length, percentage of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch (plus) fibres, mean length, length variability, three fourths point, strength index and fibre diameter. The results indicate the possibility of combining all the desired characters of yield and quality into one strain. This necessitates the use of a large number of individuals from selected line-bred or hybrid material.

Kew Bulletin, No. 2, 1949. Dr. E. E. Cheesman continues his notes on the classification of the bananas with particulars of *Musa sanguinea* and *Musa velutina*.

Sugar in the U.S.A.

Price Comparisons

THE issue of the *Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal*, dated July 28th, contains an interesting review of sugar price trends over the years in the United States of America, of the results of recent attempts to relate the price of sugar to the cost of living, and of the relation of price and consumption of sugar to "disposable income."

The matter arises out of consideration of the extent to which the United States Secretary of Agriculture has achieved the objective, laid down in section 201 of the Sugar Act of 1948, of achieving a wholesale price for refined sugar bearing the same relation to the cost of living as the 1947 sugar price bore to the cost of living in that year. In June, 1948, the price fell short of this objective by 1.48 cents per lb. In May, 1949, the shortfall was less, but still "rather wide" at 0.84 cents per lb., "and the declines in the Consumers' Price Index since last September have only partially offset the disparity that occurred in the spring of 1948, when sugar prices fell while other prices and costs rose."

Relation of "disposable income" per head in the United States to the sugar price has declined. Whereas in 1948 "disposable income" was four times that in 1910, the price of sugar was approximately one and one-half times the 1910 level. "With the cost of a pound of sugar representing a much smaller portion of the disposable income of domestic consumers than it did at any time prior to the war, it was assumed that domestic distribution would increase greatly last year. Actually, such increase did not materialize."

From the Civil War to the 1890's sugar prices declined much more sharply than did prices for all foods. From the 1890's to the beginning of the First World War sugar prices fluctuated within a range of less than 1½ cents per lb., and in 1913 they were practically at the 1894 low point. Prices of all foods, however, rose nearly 50 per cent from the low point of the 1890's to 1913. During the First World War sugar prices rose faster than the average of all food prices and, with premature decontrol in 1920, sugar prices temporarily shot up to levels well over 20 cents per lb. They declined with corresponding abruptness. In 1932 the wholesale price of refined sugar in the U.S. reached an all time low of 3.99 cents per lb. net cash New York. In 1940 the price was still only 4.34 cents per pound. During the Second World War and post-war period the rise in prices of all foods far exceeded the rise in sugar prices.

The long-term trend has been for sugar prices to decline greatly over the last 90 years in relation to other foods. Despite the Sugar Act, in comparison with other foods in the United States the price of sugar in 1948 was the lowest it has ever been. The downward trend in relative sugar prices was accompanied by an upward trend in *per capita* sugar distribution from 1860 to the middle 1920's, from 19 lb. per head per year during the Civil War to 117 lb. in 1926, but from 1926 to 1934 this figure fell 17 lb. Changes in consumer incomes and in prices of sugar could have accounted for a part of this decrease, but "it is apparent that *per capita* distribution did not respond appreciably to higher incomes and

continued low sugar prices from 1934 to 1940." In 1947, following war restrictions, there was a sharp rise to 103 lb. per head, but 1948 fell back to the 1934 figure of 100. "Whether there has been a decline in the normal demand for sugar since 1930, or whether there were abnormal demands in the 1920's, or whether other factors* explain the situation is not evident from a comparison of sugar distribution, price and income data alone."

The reduction in world sugar production during the Second World War was far greater than during the first one, and war-time programmes included price control, rationing and subsidies in the United States, and also international allocations and governmental purchase programmes covering most of the allied countries.

"No doubt the very severity of the world sugar shortage during the Second World War period did much to bring about the international co-ordination, as well as the acceptance of the domestic programmes that made effective price controls and rationing possible. The recollection by consumers of the high prices of 1920 and the recollection by producers of the disaster that hit them in 1921 brought support from a majority of both of these groups for a continuation of the war-time programmes until the dangers of runaway prices had passed.

"In view of the tremendous fluctuations that occurred in prices following the First World War, it is interesting that *per capita* distribution of sugar was 93 lb. in 1919; 92 in 1920; and 91 in 1921. In 1922 when prices started their recovery it rose to 111 lb., presumably reflecting a tendency to increase inventories on a rising market."

Bananas in the Cameroons

THE second annual report (for the year 1948) of the Cameroons Development Corporation gives the following figures of production of bananas: 1947, 4,015,600 stems; 1948, 4,585,669 stems. Shipments were: 1947, 1,281,330 stems; 1948, 4,078,408 stems. There was also the following production of dried bananas: 1947, 1,366,286 lb.; 1948, 417,492 lb.

The only market of consequence which is open to the corporation for this crop is the United Kingdom, and in negotiations for the bulk sale of bananas to the Ministry of Food provisional target figures of production for export have been discussed. For 1948 the target figure was a total of 4,000,000 stems from the Cameroons generally, and as will be seen from the above figures this target was accomplished. The plantings carried out in 1948 were designed to increase output to 5,000,000 stems in 1949. Further plantings are proposed which will give an output of 8,000,000 stems from 1951 onwards.

In order to spread the risk of damage from tornado, plantings have been diversified as far as possible within those areas for which transport can at present be provided, and the new plantings have included substantial development along the West Coast.

* [A factor that comes to mind is that of alcohol consumption and experiments with prohibition.—Ed.]

Supplies for the Colonies

Under-Secretary of State's Review

SPEAKING to the Advertising Guild in London, on July 22nd, Mr. David Rees-Williams, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, said:—

In general, it can be said that the supplies situation, both for capital and for consumer goods, is very much easier than it was a year ago. There are still shortages of some important items needed for colonial development. But the supply difficulties have been reduced to a hard core, and shortage of skilled manpower rather than of supplies is now the main limiting factor in the pace of colonial development.

There have been throughout the year steady increases in the amounts of steel being made available for export from the United Kingdom to colonial territories. The rate of export is now at least double that of a year ago and we hope that by 1950 severe shortages will be confined to certain special types, such as tinplates, tubing and piping, and sheet.

Enough cement is now being made available to the colonies to meet requirements. Where difficulties remain they are transport difficulties and not supply difficulties.

The position has also greatly improved for such key items as nitrogenous fertilizers and caustic soda.

Textile requirements are now being met with hardly any expenditure of dollars; but some colonial territories would willingly absorb more United Kingdom textiles at the expense of textiles from other sources, if Lancashire could make available larger quantities of the particular types needed in particular markets.

Colonial territories are making a great contribution with regard to production. The production index for 1948 was 151 compared with 119 in 1936.

The protection of the gold and dollar reserves of the sterling area and the maintenance of the strength of sterling is of vital importance for colonial territories as members of the sterling area. It is also of particular importance to them because their reserves are held in sterling and because it is largely on the strength of sterling that depends the ability of the United Kingdom to continue to give the assistance which it gives to colonial governments through development and welfare grants and loans, through grants-in-aid where these are needed, through the granting of access to the London market, in the field of defence, and in many other ways.

It is therefore in the interests of colonial territories to make what contribution they can to the further reduction of the dollar expenditure of the sterling area during this critical period.

Colonial governments have been asked, as an emergency measure, to suspend the issue of licences for imports from the dollar area except in urgent cases which cannot be postponed. This is a temporary measure, pending the completion of a review of colonial dollar import programmes, a review which colonial governments are carrying out, in consultation with the United Kingdom government, with a view to effecting such savings as are still possible without imperilling the economic position and development of their territories.

Research in the Caribbean

An Ambitious Compilation

OF the making of books there is no end, and much study is a weariness to the flesh. During the last quarter of a century organized attempts to overcome the insuperable burden imposed on research workers who require to keep up-to-date, by the collection, collation and publication of short abstracts of experimental work performed by other investigators, have been made by the establishment of central bureaux charged with that duty, and by certain learned societies. The ground covered by these abstracts has in general been determined by subject.

The Caribbean Commission has now published a compilation* whose aim is to cover research on all subjects in a given geographical area—the Caribbean—and to place on record not only work which has been completed, but also that which is in progress, and that which is contemplated. The information has been accumulated in implementation of the mandate conferred on the Caribbean Research Council in the interest of the Caribbean area to ascertain what research is being done, to survey needs, to advise concerning desirable research projects, to arrange and facilitate co-operative research, to undertake research assignments of a special nature which no other agency is able and willing to carry out, and to collect and disseminate information concerning research.

The recommendation that a publication of this type should be issued, "at least annually," was adopted at the second session of the West Indian Conference held in St. Thomas in 1946, and accepted by the Caribbean Commission at its fourth meeting held in Jamaica in June, 1947. The Caribbean Research Council made suggestions on methods of collecting information at its first meeting in November, 1947, and the Caribbean Commission passed directions to the secretariat at its sixth meeting held in Puerto Rico in May, 1948. A preliminary list of current research projects recorded in the course of the survey was presented to the third session of the West Indian Conference held in Guadeloupe in December, 1948. That conference recommended that the survey should be revised and completed and supplemented by a *Year Book*, and this is now to hand, containing, in its 400 odd pages, particulars of research projects throughout the Caribbean in the following fields of study: agriculture, forestry, fish and wildlife, medicine (diseases), public health, sanitary engineering, nutrition, sociology, statistics, economics, education, planning and housing, building, chemical technology, engineering, geodesy and surveying, and geology. Agricultural research, as might be anticipated from the dependence of the area on agriculture, dominates the volume and accounts for more than half of the projects listed.

Much credit is due to all concerned with the production of this *Year Book* for the expedition with which the task has been carried through. The amount of work connected with it must have been enormous. No one acquainted with research in any shape or form will

**Year Book of Caribbean Research*, 1948, Caribbean Commission, Kent House, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 1949.

expect the information in this first edition to be either complete or entirely reliable. The compilers themselves confess to shortcomings which may be expected to diminish through subsequent issues. The indices, by subjects, territories, and research workers, should prove adequate for serious students, and an appendix listing research institutes and personnel in Caribbean Commission territories should be a useful aid to contacts with and between research workers throughout the area.

Publications Received

The Fruit Annual and Directory, 1948-49. Edited by H. F. Tysser. Published by the British-Continental Trade Press, Ltd., 222, Strand, London. This book appears to have been a long time in going through the press. The preface is dated August, 1948, and the latest complete crop figures are for 1947, those for 1948 being estimates. In regard to dried fruit, the 1947 figures are estimates.

It is a very comprehensive and useful handbook, and in this edition several chapters have been included which cover the important subject of quick-freezing of fruit. The chapter on market fruits and their varieties has been revised and brought up-to-date, and new ideas and methods of packing are described. The directory section, compiled by Miss Rosamund Berkeley-Hill, is completed by a list of trade marks and a guide for fruit buyers.

How the Colonies Joined the Empire, by W. A. Wells. With a foreword by the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, C.H. Ernest Benn, Ltd., London, second (revised) edition. Price 3/- net. This little book was compiled as an answer to those who persistently accuse Great Britain of having built up the British Empire by aggression. It is not a connected history, but gives brief particulars of the origins and growth of the various territories of the Commonwealth and Empire, in a form very handy for reference. A study of this book will entirely disabuse those who may be otherwise persuaded to accept those accusations, and can be recommended.

Agricultural Extension and Advisory Work with special reference to the Colonies. Colonial No. 241, H.M.S.O., 1949. Price 2s. net. A report on a tour made by Mr. C. W. Lynn of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, in 1947, to study agricultural extension and advisory work in East and West Africa, England, Canada, the United States of America and Puerto Rico, with a foreword by Sir Frank Stockdale. Mr. Lynn has compiled a factual survey of the subject which will serve as a text-book for colonial agricultural officers, present and future.

Tariff Preferences in Western Europe, by Ronald S. Russell, with a foreword by the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery. Empire Economic Union, London. Mr. Russell is research secretary to the Union, and the inquiry on which this publication is based was directed to the possibility of setting up a system of tariff preferences among the countries of Western Europe.

Accepting, on general grounds, that there is no insuperable difficulty, and possibly substantial advantage,

in co-ordinating a British Commonwealth system of preference with a European preferential system, the next step is to ascertain the commodities in respect of which there is a field for the expansion of British Commonwealth trade with Europe.

Mr. Russell has collated data with respect to certain products imported by the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada in the Commonwealth, and by France and pre-war Germany in Western Europe, and suggests cases in which there is scope for the Western European countries to grant preferences to British Dominions over foreign countries, and for the Commonwealth to grant preferences and second preferences to the Western European countries.

Introducing the Colonies, prepared by the Colonial Office and the Central Office of Information, H.M.S.O., 1949. Price 1s. 6d. net. Designed to give a general picture of the British colonies, and of the problems being faced in improving social conditions and helping the people forward to responsible government. It serves as an introduction to further books in the same series, which will deal with regional groups of colonies in greater detail. The format is side-pocket size, and the book is fully illustrated by photographs.

The Colonies in Pictures, prepared by the Colonial Office and the Central Office of Information, H.M.S.O., 1949. Price 1s. 6d. An album of one hundred photographs in four sections: the first illustrative of the different colonial regions; the second of some of the natural conditions which form obstacles to progress; the third of progress being made in education, training and social welfare; and the fourth of progress in local government and administration.

Tropical Agriculture, Vol. XXV, Nos. 1-12, January-December, 1948. As might be expected when all the material for one year is combined in one issue, the contributions to this number form an imposing list, and range over a variety of subjects. Hardy and Hewitt contribute papers on nitrification and phosphate fixation in British Guiana sugar-cane soils. Cheesman discusses the yields from the field experiments of the cocoa research scheme. The results of an economic survey of peasant farming in two districts of the Oropouche Lagoon are described by Jolly. Notes on termites of the Lesser Antilles, prepared by the late Professor Adamson, form a useful record for workers on this little-understood group of insects. Fennah describes a comprehensive series of field tests with D.D.T. against crop pests in the Lesser Antilles.

Papers of more general interest include one on soil conservation and land use planning in native reserves in Southern Rhodesia, on the Louisiana system of sugar-cane cultivation, and the effect of tropical kudzu (*Pueraria phaseoloides*) on yield and composition of forage grasses.

Forest Department of Trinidad and Tobago. *Annual Report, 1947.* Two satisfactory advances recorded in this report are the increased appreciation of the value of local timbers which has now resulted from experience enforced upon timber users during and since the war, and the fact that the artificial regeneration of teak has already justified itself, the cost of establishment and maintenance being now covered by the sale of thinnings, which are in keen demand.



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. August 31st.

ANTIGUA has lately lost two prominent citizens in Mr. A. E. Mercer, a merchant, and Mr. J. Pogson Turner, formerly Registrar and Provost Marshal.

Miss Nellie Robinson has retired after 50 years as headmistress of the Tor Memorial High School.

We regret the loss of Mr. Martin Cochrane, solicitor and barrister, formerly the partner of the late Mr. T. F. Burrowes, and later his successor, who has left Antigua to become a magistrate in Fiji.

Water restrictions in St. Johns which should have been lifted after good general rain, continue owing to a fire at Bodyponds, the centre of Antigua's water supply. The fire was caused through an accident to a caretaker carrying a lantern, and destroyed the pumping station, causing serious damage and great inconvenience.

Two school girls of Five Islands village, finding a mortar bomb and pounding it in hopes of gold, caused an explosion and blew themselves to pieces.

BARBADOS

Shipping. Miss Joan Kysh, secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee, in a letter dated August 2nd, says: "The s.s. *Duc D'Aumale* of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique paid its last visit to Barbados on July 15th. This vessel will in future ply in the Mediterranean. The withdrawal of the *Duc D'Aumale* is to be regretted, as the inter-island passenger steamship accommodation is already extremely limited. The sailing of the s.s. *Golfito*, on her maiden voyage from the United Kingdom to Barbados, has been postponed.

"Visitors to the Bureau during the month included Mr. and Mrs. K. Helweg-Larsen, Danish author and his English authoress wife, who were on a six months tour of the Caribbean, collecting data and photographs for the purpose of writing a book to be called 'Caribbean Cocktail.' Whilst in the West Indies, Mr. Helweg-Larsen will also write a book for his publishers called, 'In the Footsteps of Columbus.' Mrs. Helweg-Larsen is also making a documentary film for educational purposes.

Crown Film Unit. "Mr. G. Wallace, director of the Crown Film Unit, Mr. W. Chasten, camera-man and Mr. E. Tilling, assistant camera-man, returned to the island for ten days to complete work here on a film on the British West Indies for the Colonial Office and Central Office of Information."

BRITISH GUIANA

Booker Line. A correspondent writing from Georgetown on August 7th, says: "The s.s. *Amakura*, latest addition to the Booker Line, arrived on her maiden voyage from Liverpool on July 14th. The trip was done in the record time of 13 days, 19 hours and 14 minutes.

Royal Agricultural Building. "Plans were approved at the half-yearly meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society to enlarge the

new building, now under construction, to provide for the accommodation of the B.G. Museum.

Public Service Salaries. "The second instalment of the report of the Commission which has explored salaries and wages of public employecs has been issued. In a covering minute by the Governor, read to members of the Legislative Assembly when the report was submitted, His Excellency pointed out that while the revision of salaries of subordinate and junior employecs was of the utmost importance, he could not too strongly emphasize the need for attaching adequate salaries to senior key posts, in order to attract applicants. There are many vacancies in the technical and professional branches which it has been impossible to fill at the salaries now being offered.

Communist Propaganda. "The Hon. V. Roth, in the Legislative Council on July 20th, charged the Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan with being guilty of a series of acts calculated to affect the goodwill and amity existing between all classes of the community. Mr. Roth said he was referring to the ever-increasing flood of communistic propaganda, and linked with it the 38th issue of a pamphlet known as the 'P.A.C. Bulletin' distributed to Members of the Assembly by Dr. Jagan. Mr. Roth suggested that the matter merited the attention of the Committee of Privileges.

"Mr. John Bennett, a 25 year old Amerindian, was on July 24th ordained a deacon of the Anglican Church in St. George's Cathedral by the Bishop of Guiana. It is the first time in the history of the diocese that an aboriginal has been received into the Anglican ministry.

Atkinson Field. "The U.S. occupation of Atkinson Field came to an end on August 1st. An interim agreement between the U.S. Army Air Force and the British Guiana Government has been signed whereby the entire area including all buildings, plant, roads and the aerodrome will be taken over."

DOMINICA

Hurricanes. Writing from Roseau on July 30th, a correspondent says: "The hurricane season being now on, the *Official Gazette* publishes the elaborate provisions that are made for warning of the approach of storms. Relief centres have been established throughout Dominica, in the event of a hurricane striking the island.

"Mr. J. B. Charles, one of our most enterprising planters, has recently returned from an extensive European and African tour. He has brought back many ideas for the betterment of the colony and doubtless we shall see them adopted in the near future.

Protest Meeting. "A meeting took place in the Market, Roseau, on the evening of the 4th to protest against the action of the Legislative Council in agreeing—so far as they were called upon to do so—to contracts with the Colonial Development Corporation. The chairman was Mr. J. B. Charles, who made an excellent

fighting speech and Mr. I. N. Shillingford followed, taking up specifically the increase in the electric power charges involved in the scheme. Representatives of the legal profession were on the platform but did not speak. A deputation interviewed the Administrator next day and presented a petition against the proposals. The Administrator left the island next day on leave, and our new Attorney General, the Hon. C. A. Harney, reigns in his stead.

Export of Bananas. "The *Barwena*, a fine and reputedly 16 knot steamer of the Belgian Fruit Line, made history in Dominica on the 17th by loading at Portsmouth, Salisbury and Roseau—and in the last port, not at the jetty but from Goodwill Beach—bananas destined for Dublin and Antwerp. She could take a few passengers for Dublin at £75 a head. Things look brighter than ever for Dominica and another steamer of the same line is advertised to take cut bananas on August 1st and 2nd. Bananas are said to be fetching in Dublin 1s. 4½d. per lb. while here they are about three halfpence per lb."

GRENADA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. August 27th.

With one dissenting voice—that of the Hon. T. A. Marryshow—the Grenada Legislative Council yesterday unanimously passed a resolution extending the life of the council for one year in order to enable the next General Election to be based on adult franchise. The motion, by the Hon. F. B. Paterson, was seconded by the Hon. R. C. P. Moore and supported by the Hon. Captain Earle Hughes and the Hon. C. A. O. Phillips Hughes.

August 31st.

Brigadier R. H. D. Arundell, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, has left for England via New York on a visit to the Colonial Office. The government of the Windward Islands has been assumed by His Honour G. C. Green, who took the oath yesterday. The Assistant Administrator Mr. T. B. Commissioning will deputize for Mr. Green.

JAMAICA

Sugar Delegation Return. Our correspondent, Mr. H. P. Jacobs, writing from Kingston, on September 1st, says: "The delegation sent from the Executive Council in connexion with the sugar industry returned from London on Sunday, August 28th. A civic reception was held at the Ward Theatre on August 29th, when the Attorney General, the Hon. T. Henry Mayers, was principal speaker on behalf of the delegation in reply to a speech of welcome by His Worship the Mayor Mr. L. G. Newland.

Citrus Marketing. "The poll taken of citrus growers in connexion with the Marketing Plan resulted in over 28,000 votes being cast out of a total of 31,000. No such high proportion of votes was expected. The proportion in favour of the plan was equally astonishing. The detailed figures are: For the Plan, 27,844; Against the Plan, 123; Spoilt Votes, 173; Total, 28,140.

"The Jamaica Imperial Association held its annual general meeting on August 23rd, when Mr. J. B. Clegg, Secretary for Economic Affairs, spoke on economic problems of the country. He pointed out that there was no easy way of obtaining capital necessary for

development and that no country could keep its standard of living indefinitely above that justified by its productivity, although all over the world there was a tendency to believe the contrary. Mr. Clegg also stressed that the neglect of soil 'spelled starvation and desolation for those who follow after us.' He claimed that the Government was fully aware of the danger and needed 'maximum support from all sections of the community.'

"On the same day, at a meeting of the executive of the Jamaica Imperial Association, Mr. Rudolf Elder was re-elected chairman, while Mr. H. V. Lindo, and Mr. James Henderson were elected vice-chairmen. Mr. G. G. R. Sharp, formerly first vice-chairman, declined nomination, pointing out that a vice-chairman of the Association should be in closer and more regular contact with its business than was possible in his case, in view of the amount of travelling which he has to do.

Citrus Factory. "Work has already started on the big £150,000 citrus-processing factory at Bog Walk which is part of the citrus extension scheme of the Citrus Growers Association and becomes practicable now that the producers have expressed themselves so strongly in favour of the Marketing Plan. At a general meeting held on August 30th to ratify the decision with regard to the factory, it was decided not to make any attempt at present to expand the packing activities of the Association. It is already running a packing house (in Kingston) which is the property of the Government.

Kew Factory. "It is stated that DeLisser Bros. of Montego Bay have given up their negotiations for the purchase of Kew Factory in Hanover from Lemon Hart and Co., who have decided to close down the factory next season, as they find it is unprofitable to run.

"A colossal corn crop is putting a strain upon Government storage space as the crop is purchased by Government at a guaranteed price and there is a steady flow of corn from all parts of the country. Four weeks of the autumn crop are said to have produced 3,300 tons, and Government has been compelled to rent additional space. It is expected that the total crop for the year will hardly be less than 8,000 tons, and perhaps as much as 10,000 tons.

Banana Loans. "A scheme for banana expansion loans to the extent of £50,000 from the Banana Reserve Funds has been approved by Government. Loans will be for three years at 5 per cent; not more than £20 for each acre, and with a ceiling for any one grower of £200. The loans will be made through the Commissioner of Commerce and Industries, who will be advised by 12 local Loan Committees. The Fruit Companies will make deductions from fruit purchased in order to enable loans to be repaid.

General Election. "It is now generally believed that the Houses will be dissolved at an early date and that the general election will be in December. A public announcement is expected within the next few days. [A telegram since received from Mr. Jacobs gives the date as December 20th.]

"The People's National Party recently held the annual conference, at which they presented an outline of their policy, stating however, that much of their

policy was contained in various party publications from 1941 onwards and that the final election programme would be prepared closer to the elections. So far as can be seen, the nationalization programme is confined to the acquisition of electrical power, and possibly some transportation services. There is no indication, as yet, how far the party has devoted serious thought to the financing of such purchases."

TRINIDAD

Weather. Our correspondent, in a letter from Port-of-Spain, dated August 26th, says: "The weather has for some time been humid and hot, with frequent heavy rains."

Governorship. "The announcement of the retirement of the Governor, Sir John Shaw, at the end of September, has been received with widespread regret."

Trade. "The colony's export trade for the first half of 1949 was valued at \$71,081,210. The two main items were petroleum, \$42,481,919, and sugar \$15,615,439."

Sugar. "The main editorial in the *Sunday Guardian* of August 14th commenced: 'The preliminary agreement on West Indian sugar announced last week represents a big gain on which the British West Indies Sugar Association is to be congratulated.' It ended: 'The agreement is preliminary because it fixes the principles on which the purchasing arrangements are to be worked out but leaves the details to be settled when representatives of other Commonwealth sugar producing countries have been invited to London. The use of the phrase "long-term" in the official statement may mean from five to ten years, but the West Indies will continue to press for a ten-year agreement. Mr. Robinson gave one of the reasons for this when he referred to the enormous rise in the cost of sugar machinery, which obviates any possibility of securing capital for new plant except under some long-range assurance. The way has at all events been cleared for further advance and the West Indies must prepare for concerted action in October when the final talks are likely to be held.'

Bananas. "The first post-war shipment of bananas from Trinidad to the United States was made on August 15th. 15,000 bunches left Port-of-Spain in the *Alcoa Corsair* bound for New York. It is hoped to make further shipments, the fruit being consigned by the Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture to the Eastern Banana Corporation of New York."

Tourism. "The Caribbean Interim Tourist Committee has decided to establish temporary headquarters at the headquarters of the Caribbean Commission at Kent House, Port-of-Spain, on the invitation of the secretary general of the commission."

Trade Commissioner. "Mr. Donald H. H. Cheney, D.F.C., has succeeded Mr. A. W. Evans as Canadian Assistant Trade Commissioner in Trinidad for the Eastern Caribbean and the Guianas."

Fire Tragedy. "Another serious fire, involving stored films, occurred in Port-of-Spain on August 3rd. The premises were in the Broadway business centre of the city and two men lost their lives. A film storage committee has given attention to the precautions necessary to protect the public from the hazards of film storage."

World Crops

WE welcome a new journal* which appears under the editorship of Sir Harold Tempny, well known throughout the colonies for his work in the Colonial Agricultural Service and as Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The aim of this new periodical is explained by Sir John Russell, in an introduction, as follows: "The combination of science and engineering with agricultural practice can undoubtedly solve the problems of production, but success will require a close linkage between industry and agriculture, at least at higher levels, and this will be greatly facilitated by the regular issue of an authoritative journal which can present the developments of modern agriculture to all technicians likely to be interested. Fortunately, the house of Leonard Hill, already well experienced in technological matters, has undertaken the task of issuing this Journal, and, equally fortunately, Sir Harold Tempny, a high expert in crop production in the colonies, has agreed to become its first editor."

In these days of increased mechanization and use of fertilizers, insecticides, etc., there can be no doubt that the more the engineer and chemist can learn of the requirements of colonial and other oversea agricultural producers the better. No one is better qualified than Dr. Tempny to see that they get reliable and relevant information.

Special articles in the first issue deal with rice, tobacco, palm oil and vegetable oils, sorghum and cocoa—all crops of importance to colonial producers—and with the steps taken to rehabilitate the island of Walcheren, and fertilizer placement to make the most of plant foods applied to the soil. The sections of the journal which make comment on agricultural matters and deal with items of agricultural news are informative and up-to-date.

We wish Sir Harold and his collaborators all success with this enterprising and useful publication.

Caribbean Lodge

At the meeting of the Caribbean Lodge (No. 4826 E.C.) held at Freemason's Hall, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2, on July 5th, Bro. H. G. Clarke was installed as Worshipful Master by W. Bro. N. S. Murray.

The following are the officers elected and appointed for the year 1949-50:—

W. Bro. H. G. Clarke, W.M.; W. Bro. N. S. Murray, I.P.M.; W. Bro. E. A. Andrews, P.D.G.D., S.W.; Bro. H. R. Guy, J.W.; W. Bro. A. L. Jupp, P.G.D., treasurer; W. Bro. G. J. Dent, M.B.E., secretary; W. Bro. S. A. Bacon, P.A.G.D.C., D.C.; Bro. L. J. Friend, S.D.; Bro. M. Previté, J.D.; W. Bro. E. Palmer, assistant D.C.; W. Bro. V. Lee, almoner; Bro. J. Norman Rose, L.R.A.M., organist; Bro. R. H. Givans, assistant secretary; Bro. J. W. Freeman, I.G.; Bro. W. E. Gough, Bro. R. H. Faulkner, Bro. R. J. Fell, Bro. C. Burgess, stewards; W. Bro. G. Hook, tyler.

**World Crops*, Vol. 1, No. 1, September, 1949. Leonard Hill, Ltd., 17, Stratford Place, London, W.1. Subscription terms— one year 25s. (85), two years 40s. (88).

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions, transfers and new appointments in the Colonial Service include the following :—

ACHE, G. (Chief Supervisor, Port Services Department, Trinidad), Assistant Wharf Superintendent, Port Services Department, Trinidad.

AGOSTINI, L. C. (Supervisor, Printing and Stationery Department, Trinidad), Assistant Government Printer, Trinidad.

BECKETT, J. U. (Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica), Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica.

CHENERY, J. W. B. (Registrar, Barbados), Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal, Barbados.

COVER, W. A. D. (Principal Clerk, Secretariat, Jamaica), Administrative Officer, Secretariat, Jamaica.

CULHANE, H. O. (Wharf Superintendent, Port Services Department, Trinidad), Deputy General Manager, Port Services Department, Trinidad.

D'ARCY, J. A. (Assistant Wharf Superintendent, Port Services Department, Trinidad), Wharf Superintendent, Port Services Department, Trinidad.

GARNER, R. E. (Assistant Information Officer, Trinidad), Assistant Secretary, Secretariat, Trinidad.

HALCROW, M. (Deputy Director of Agriculture, Barbados), Deputy Director of Agriculture, Nyasaland.

HEADLEY, T. T. (Deputy Registrar, Barbados), Provost Marshal, Barbados.

HOAR, C. E. W., M.B. (Pathologist, Grade B, Trinidad), Pathologist, Nigeria.

HOUSTON, N. S. (Sub-Inspector of Police, Jamaica), Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica.

MAHON, C. A. (Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica), Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica.

MITTELHELZER, F. R. (Principal Indoor Officer, Customs Department, British Guiana), Assistant Comptroller of Customs, British Guiana.

NOOTT, D. V. (Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica), Assistant Superintendent of Police, Sierra Leone.

OJAH, R. R. (Supervisor, Port Services Department, Trinidad), Office Manager, Port Services Department, Trinidad.

RUNDER, C. W. (Acting Magistrate, Barbados), Magistrate, Barbados.

VAUGHAN, H. A. (Police Magistrate, Barbados), Judge of the Petty Debt Court, Barbados.

WALKER, E. (Supervisor, Port Services Department, Trinidad), Chief Supervisor, Port Services Department, Trinidad.

WEDDERBURN, C. C., B.M., M.P.H. (Medical Officer (Health), Jamaica), Assistant Director of Medical Services (Hospital and Personnel), Jamaica.

WILLIAMS, H. (Provost Marshal, Barbados), Registrar, Barbados.

New Appointments

LUCK, L. C., L.R.C.S., Medical Officer, British Guiana.

PRICE, Miss J. M., Nursing Sister, Leeward Islands.

Protection of Indian Sugar

The Indian Tariff Board has recently examined in detail the question of protection enjoyed by the sugar industry in India, which was due to expire on March 31st, 1949, and made the following recommendation : The protection of the industry has to be continued until the cost of production in this country has been substantially reduced. The existing protection should be continued for a period of two years ending March 31st, 1951. There should be a detailed inquiry at the beginning of 1950 in order to determine the quantity of protection, if any, that would be necessary after March 31st, 1951.

The Indian government has accepted the recommendation for the continuance of existing protection, but for the present for one year only, ending March 31st, 1950, pending a further fuller inquiry.

West Indian Imports

Licensing Regulations

WITH reference to the notices published, on pages 247 and 248 of the November, 1948 number of the CIRCULAR, and subsequent issues, in regard to the treatment accorded to goods of United Kingdom origin in British West Indian colonies, the following amendments are made to the lists of goods for which individual import licences are still required :—

British Guiana. *Substitute* : Common laundry soap; cutlery ; gold—fully and semi-manufactured ; lead manufactures ; penicillin ; unmanufactured and semi-manufactured iron and steel ; animal feeding stuffs—oil cakes and meals (all types), mixed feed ; cereals (including rice)—wheat and wheat flour, barley, oats, rye, corn and grain sorghums, rice, whole and broken ; cocoa beans ; fats and oils—all fats and oils (edible and non-edible, including shortening and margarine but excluding castor beans and castor oil, sperm oil, tung oil, oiticica oil), and oil-bearing seeds ; meat (all types), including processed meat ; salted fish ; sugar (as sugar) ; pulses—dried peas and beans (excluding garbanzos or chick-peas) ; seeds—alsike clover, crimson clover and spring vetch.

Dominica. Items for which individual import licences are still required are unmanufactured and semi-manufactured iron and steel ; cement ; caustic soda and soda ash ; laundry soap ; fertilizers.

Jamaica. *Delete* : Items " gold " and " wool stockings," and *substitute* : Fully and semi-manufactured gold ; women's and girls' fully-fashioned wool stockings.

Trinidad. *Delete* : Cotton linings and poplins ; women's and girls' fully-fashioned wool stockings. *Delete* : The word " cashmere " from the item " knitted woollen garments made of cashmere, mohair, camel hair, llama and vicuna."

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of July production of crude oil and casing head gasolene amounted to 253,374 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the five weeks ended August 1st was 510,055 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for July was 253,354 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of July crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 549,723 barrels.

Nutmegs for Asthma

A correspondent to one of the leading Sunday newspapers gives the following cure for bronchial asthma : saw in half about six nutmegs, and sew them between two layers of muslin. Keep them on the chest as long as possible.

West Indian Passenger List

Booker Line

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. Enid (Captain O. Njerve), at Liverpool, July 22nd :—

Miss M. A. Fulton	Mr. & Mrs. C. K. Jardine	Miss P. I. Reece
Mrs. R. M. Fulton	Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Reece	Mr. H. G. Gregory Smith

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. Amakura (Captain J. Carter), at Liverpool, August 10th :—

Mr. J. P. Barlow	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Laver	Miss J. Y. Swingle
Mrs. A. Heape	Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Napper	Miss M. Swingle
Miss L. Heape	Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Orrett	

Sailings to British Guiana, in s.s. Arakaka (Captain J. McIntyre), from Liverpool, July 22nd :—

Miss W. F. Bender	Miss P. A. Mook-Sang	Miss S. C. Sawh
Mr. & Mrs. R. St. Bender	Mr. K. Narayan	Mrs. M. A. Taylor
Dr. L. G. Eudey	Mr. W. Robertson	Miss M. F. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Low	Mr. C. S. Sawh	

Sailings to British Guiana in s.s. Amakura (Captain J. Carter), from Liverpool, August 24th :—

Mr. S. A. Adams	Miss A. K. Morrish	Mr. & Mrs. D. O. Sagar
Mr. W. K. Adams	Mr. & Mrs. M. Rahaman	Miss M. W. Treadwell
Mr. W. A. Kingston	Mr. & Mrs. J. Richardson	

Jamaica Banana Producers' Steamship Co.

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Jamaica Producer (Captain J. M. Jenkins), at London, August 22nd :—

Mr. J. C. Barber	Miss G. Dickenson	Mr. J. S. Mellard
Miss A. P. Barlow	Mrs. M. Y. Firth	Miss C. V. Mogg
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Barnett	Mrs. A. B. Goffe	Mr. A. Nicholson
Mrs. E. M. Braumont	Mr. H. R. Harper	Mrs. M. Ricketts
Mr. S. O. Beekles	Mrs. E. M. Holding	Miss J. Symes
Miss D. K. Clacken	Mr. E. F. Lawes	Mr. H. A. Urquhart
Mr. J. F. Clark	Mr. R. M. Lord	Hon. & Mrs. S. M. Walker
Mr. L. A. Croke	Miss P. E. McKay	

Fyffes Line

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Manistee (Captain M. J. Robinson), at London, August 12th :—

Miss A. A. Anderson	Mr. C. R. Furlong	Miss D. C. MacGregor
Mrs. L. A. Baxter	Mr. C. I. Jackman	Miss G. E. Taylor
Miss D. L. Haxler	Miss E. L. Jones	Mr. H. L. Wynter
Mr. & Mrs. J. Findlay		

Home arrivals from Bermuda and Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain A. G. Jones), at Avonmouth, August 17th :—

Miss C. A. Adams	Miss F. V. Fox	Mr. & Mrs. D. G. Perkins
Mrs. M. H. Brown	Mrs. N. G. Fox	Mrs. E. N. Perkins
Miss S. M. Bryant	Miss M. Galloway	Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Peto
Mr. F. H. Buckler	Mrs. A. M. Giles	Miss M. Peto
Col. & Mrs. J. Harvey-Clark	Miss M. J. Giles	Mr. W. T. Pickett
Mr. A. F. Coombs	Mr. & Mrs. F. Henderson	Mrs. D. A. Roach
Mrs. B. M. Cutting	Dr. H. I. Lightbourne	Mrs. J. E. Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Druce	Miss O. L. Lowry	Miss J. M. Whitaker
Mrs. L. Edwards	Miss O. L. Messado	Mr. F. C. Willis
Miss J. A. Edwards	Mr. A. S. Michelin	Captain P. Wise
Mr. & Mrs. C. I. Escala	Mrs. E. F. Mitchell	Mr. A. E. Woodhead
Mrs. L. Ford	Miss M. K. Moore	Mrs. M. L. Wynne
	Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Percival	

Home arrivals from Barbados and Trinidad, in s.s. Ariguani (Captain G. S. Gracie), at Avonmouth, August 30th :—

Mr. & Mrs. R. S. Bancroft	Miss V. E. Somerville	Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Way
Mr. & Mrs. J. Glendonning	Mrs. G. M. Thornber	Mr. & Mrs. H. Woolhouse
Mr. & Mrs. C. Reed		

Mrs. M. Birrell	Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Gellard	Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Paterson
Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Black	Dr. & Mrs. F. Hamilton	
Mrs. L. S. Butt	Mr. T. L. Harding	Mr. W. J. Priest
Mrs. R. S. Carne	Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Hobson	Mr. & Mrs. J. Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. C. Cartwright	Mr. M. P. Jeffery	Mrs. G. Smeathers
Mr. A. B. Cormack	Miss J. B. McLelland	Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Taylor
Miss J. M. Dower	Mrs. C. C. Merry	Miss I. A. Ulrich
Mr. & Mrs. M. F. Faston	Miss K. Naipaul	Mrs. M. S. Walcott
Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Farnborough	Mr. & Mrs. W. Pairaudeau	Mr. & Mrs. R. Westwood

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain A. G. Jones), from Avonmouth, August 26th :—

Mr. & Mrs. H. K. Aitken	Mr. & Mrs. A. Douglas-Smith	Mrs. H. Orrett
Mr. & Mrs. O. Alberga	Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Draper	Mr. & Mrs. K. M. Rodwell
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Armstrong	Mr. J. D. Evelyn	Rev. & Mrs. H. Silverman
Mr. T. O. Beardsley	Mrs. J. St. A. Girling	Mr. & Mrs. A. Snelson
Mr. & Mrs. J. Clark	Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Harvey	Mr. & Mrs. G. Stockley
Mr. & Mrs. J. Collier	Mr. W. Heiz	Mr. & Mrs. K. L. Sutcliffe
Miss I. De Cordova	Mr. & Mrs. B. H. Lawson	Mr. & Mrs. R. Thomson
Miss E. M. Cove	Mr. & Mrs. E. N. Mais	Mr. & Mrs. R. Tidy
Mrs. J. E. Donald-Hill	Mrs. L. Moore-Holmes	Mrs. M. A. Todd
		Miss B. F. Wilson

French Line

Sailings to the West Indies, in s.s. Gasgoyne (Captain F. Prigent), from Southampton, August 4th :—

Mrs. M. Archibald	Miss M. Greaves	Miss L. Picker
Mr. & Mrs. D. Bates	Mr. P. Keevil	Mr. & Mrs. A. Sasson
Miss J. Bates	Mr. & Mrs. J. Lindley	Miss J. Sasson
Mr. D. Clifford	Miss M. Lindley	Mrs. E. Seigley
Mrs. C. Croudace	Mr. J. MacGown	Mrs. D. Slinger
Miss M. Edwards	Mrs. B. McNeil	Mrs. M. Solholt
Mr. & Mrs. R. Edwards	Mr. & Mrs. F. Maund	Mrs. M. Sticker
Mrs. A. Greaves	Mr. K. Norton	Mr. J. Watson
Miss A. Greaves	Mr. & Mrs. A. Picker	Miss A. Wrench
Mr. & Mrs. J. Greaves		

Royal Netherlands Steamship Company

Sailings to the West Indies, in s.s. Cottica (Captain L. Mager), from Dover, July 23rd :—

Miss M. E. Bowen	Mr. & Mrs. C. Gittins	Mrs. M. F. Lau
Mr. & Mrs. H. Brazao	Mr. W. Howard	Miss P. O'Connor
Miss R. A. Chenery	Miss B. E. Howlett	Mr. A. Oldham
Miss S. A. Chenery	Mr. J. O. Jones	Mr. & Mrs. E. Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. F. De Caires	Mr. S. Jones	Mr. J. F. Srukerran
Mr. & Mrs. E. Feamside	Mrs. A. G. Kendall	Mr. H. R. Theisen
Mr. H. W. de Freitas	Mrs. M. D. Knox	Mr. H. E. Widdebank

Sailings to the West Indies, in s.s. Bonaire, from Dover, August 20th :—

Mr. G. D. Bradley	Mr. G. I. Pritchett	Mrs. H. L. Wells
Mr. A. A. Cooper	Miss H. I. Skinner	Mrs. P. A. Wilson
Mr. J. F. Phipps	Mr. & Mrs. E. Thompson	Miss P. D. Wilson
Mr. E. G. Pritchett	Mr. M. Timpson	

West Indies at Westminster

British Honduras Hospital. Sir Wavell Wakefield asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on July 13th when it was proposed to start work on the building of the new hospital in Belize, for which layout plans had been prepared.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies said in reply that construction had been postponed owing to the need to devote available funds to urgent economic development. Extensive repairs, alterations and additions had, however, been made to the existing hospital.

When asked by Sir Wavell when it was proposed to replace the present wooden building with a permanent structure, Mr. Rees-Williams said that there was no immediate possibility of any new construction, because all the available resources of the territory were already committed.

Settlement in Guiana. Mr. Roland Robinson asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on July 27th whether it was proposed to proceed with the trial settlement of about 200 European families in the Kanuku Mountains area of British Guiana as recommended in the Evans Report.

Mr. Rees-Williams replied that the Report had emphasized that European settlement would depend entirely on access by road to the interior savannah country. Any trial settlement would have, therefore, to wait until there was at least a definite prospect that that long and costly road could be built.

Mr. Robinson then asked whether Mr. Rees-Williams could expedite the matter, as was recommended by his committee, as the number of displaced persons continued to be great.

Mr. Rees-Williams replied in the affirmative, but added that the total cost of the road would be £2,750,000 and that the matter needed a good deal of consideration.

Finance for Development. Mr. Edward Davies asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on July 27th, what approach had been made to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for assistance in developing the colonies; what schemes were under review; and, since such help would be a means of easing the dollar problem and advancing development schemes, if he would take steps to secure it forthwith.

Mr. Rees-Williams replied that the discussions between the International Bank and the Colonial Development Corporation were proceeding. As regarded possible borrowing from the International Bank by Colonial Governments themselves, it had been explained in the debates on the Colonial Loans Bill that the purpose of that Bill was to enable H.M. Government to guarantee any loans from the Bank for which colonial governments might apply. No such applications had yet been made, and Mr. Davies would appreciate that he could not force the pace.

The Markets

September 1st, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below:—

Dividend for Latest Year	Latest Quotation		Price Year Ago	
	71½	73½xd	70	78
3½ Consols	94½	95½	103½	104½
20 Angostura Bitters	82/6	87/6	75/-	85/-
10 Angostura Bitters Pur. Prof.	33/9	38/9	42/6	47/6
— Antigua Sugar Factory	12/-	13/-	15/-	15/6
* Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	36/3	38/9	43/-	44/8
8 Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	46/-	51/-	52/-	56/-
14 Hooker Bros. McConnell 10/-	33/9	37/6xd	87/8†	92/6xd†
6 Hooker Bros. McConnell 6% Prof.	26/3	28/9	29/4†	31/10½†
3 British Guiana Cons. Gold 3/9	1/1½	1/7½	1/6	2/-
8½ Caroni Ltd. 2/-	2/9	3/6	3/-	4/-
8 Caroni Ltd., 6% Prof.	20/-	22/6	22/6	25/-
7½ Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	4/-	5/-	5/9	6/9
12½ Kern Oil Co. 3/4	9/6	10/6	10/-	11/-
10 Limmer & Trinidad Asphalt. Ord.	42/6	45/-xd	45/-	47/6xd
— Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	—	1/6	1/-	2/-
* 8½ Royal Bank of Canada 3/0	150/-	170/-	150/-	170/-
* 17½ St. Kitts (London) Sugar	58/-	61/-	60/-	70/-
* 3 Ste. Madeleine Sugar	18/-	19/-	18/10½	19/4½
10 Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	16/9	18/9	18/6	20/-
— Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	1/3	2/3	2/6	3/6
* 14 Trinidad Leasolds 5/-	22/6	24/6	29/3	30/9
* 18½ Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	23/-	25/-	31/3	32/9
8 Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 6% Prof.	21/3	22/6	22/4	24/3
7½ United Sugar Estates 5/-	4/9	5/6	5/6	6/6
8½ United British Oilfields 6/8	21/3	23/3	22/3	23/9
— West Indies Sugar	18/9	20/-	18/1½	20/7½
6 West Indies Sugar 6% Prof.	22/6	25/-xd	24/-	26/-

* Free of income tax. † £1 Shares.

Honey. The controlled price of 72/6 per cwt. is still being obtained for West Indian honeys. The market is rather quiet.

Pimento. The market continues quiet with sellers on the spot asking 1/2 per lb., and 119/- c.i.f., U.K. for forward shipment. There has been more inquiry from the Continent and small sales have been made at the equivalent of the above prices.

Ginger. Sellers are asking 240/- for Jamaica No. 3 on the spot without buyers showing any interest. African is quoted at 255/- on the spot. Stocks of African on the spot are not large and no more is obtainable from origin.

Nutmegs. The market remains quiet and 80's are still offered at 2/2 c.i.f., sound unassorted at 1/8 and defective at 1/3½. There are small stocks on the spot which are selling slowly.

Mace. Prices remain unchanged with whole pale offering at 5/- per lb. c.i.f. Spot prices are also unchanged with buyers of whole pale at 5/6. Broken grades are still quoted at 1/- to 4/- according to quality.

Sugar. The Board of Trade Returns for July are as follows:—

Imports of Unrefined	Month of July		January-July	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Mauritius	8,547	3,135	59,799	103,865
Australia	—	12,366	14,898	173,427
Fiji	—	—	—	4,433
British West Indies	47,318	26,079	184,470	203,126
British Guiana	2,097	6,595	45,185	60,576
Other British Countries	—	7,349	—	7,349
Dutch East Indies	—	—	—	—
Cuba	85,919	89,670	505,019	203,955
Haiti	5,894	6,500	18,688	115,427
Dominican Republic	5,845	35,304	190,697	336,659
Mexico	12,864	24,972	89,702	60,384
Peru	21,412	—	25,355	12,569
Other Foreign Countries	—	—	—	9,886
Total	189,896	211,970	1,127,791	1,291,656

Consumption	Month of June		January-June	
	24	1	85	13
Refined	205,797	220,890	1,140,792	1,103,744
Unrefined	—	—	—	—
Total	205,821	220,891	1,140,777	1,103,757

Stocks (end of June)	Month of June		January-June	
	24	1	85	13
Home Grown Beet	45,350	91,100	—	—
Imported Refined	—	—	—	—
Imported Unrefined	330,450	257,600	—	—
Total	375,800	348,700	—	—

Rum. The Board of Trade Returns for July are as follows:—

Imports	proof gallons	Month of July		January-July	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
Union of South Africa	—	67,493	45,902	622,150	672,319
Mauritius	—	—	331,902	1,501,241	1,388,318
British West Indies	—	293,430	335,483	1,605,929	2,338,570
British Guiana	—	163,802	266,527	1,021,589	1,598,832
Other British Countries	—	2,412	2,264	109,796	18,875
Foreign Countries	—	1	—	5,250	6,115
Total	—	527,143	982,078	4,865,955	6,023,029

Exports	Month of June		January-June	
	24,101	18,638	123,517	238,723
Consumption	291,922	114,162	1,920,122	903,819
Stocks (end of June)	5,855,000	11,185,000	—	—

Cocoa. The Board of Trade Returns for July are as follows:—

Imports	cwt.	Month of July		January-July	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
British West Africa	—	43,943	225,989	1,633,364	2,398,233
British West Indies	—	2,120	7,438	58,104	55,519
Other British Countries	—	2,663	1,721	5,593	5,801
Foreign	—	8,801	18,421	18,854	59,772
Total	—	57,527	253,589	1,715,915	2,519,325

Exports	Month of June		January-June	
	103,714	332,923	1,658,799	2,146,276
Consumption	7,000	94,000	—	—
Stocks (end of June)	—	—	—	—

Visitors from Overseas

It would greatly facilitate the forwarding of correspondence if members of the West India Committee visiting this country would inform the Secretary of the date of the arrival and the address or addresses to which they would like THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and correspondence despatched.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr. W. R. Alefounder. | Mr. Harvey Hadden. |
| Mr. W. L. Alston. | Mr. C. E. Hamshere, M.A. |
| His Honour The Hon. E. P. Arrowsmith. | Mr. C. J. Hares |
| His Honour Chief Justice | Mr. R. S. Haughton. |
| O. L. Bancroft. | Mr. F. B. Henderson. |
| Mr. A. C. Barnes, C.M.G. | Mr. L. A. Henriques. |
| His Honour Mr. Justice | Mr. W. S. Jones. |
| E. P. S. Bell. | Comdr. R. Langton-Jones. |
| Mr. C. J. Bettencourt-Gomes. | D.S.O., R.N. |
| B.E.M. | Mr. Aubrey Leacock, |
| Mr. N. Peyton Birch. | M.Chir., F.R.C.S. |
| Mr. L. S. Birkett. | Mr. H. T. Lissone. |
| Mr. A. G. P. Blair. | Mr. Gerald Mair. |
| Mr. E. A. Boyce, | Captain H. V. M. Metvier, |
| B.Sc., M.I.C.E. | O.H.E., M.R.C.V.S. |
| Mr. W. C. Buie. | Mr. Leslie R. Mordecai. |
| Mr. John Burslem. | Lt.-Colonel E. F. Moulton- |
| Mr. C. S. Bushe. | Barrett, O.B.E., M.C. |
| His Hon. Chief Justice | Mr. H. J. Padmore. |
| Sir Allan Collymore. | Mr. H. J. Page, O.B.E. |
| Mr. Cyril B. B. Connell. | Mr. M. B. Parker. |
| Hon. H. H. Croucher. | Captain C. M. G. Purchas, M.C. |
| Mr. J. St. F. Dare. | Mr. Arthur Ridehalgh. |
| Sir Joseph De La Mothe. | Mr. G. F. Sharp. |
| Hon. George de Nobrega | Mrs. E. J. A. Simpson. |
| Mr. St. Y. de Verteuil. | Mr. H. L. Smith. |
| Lady Dorothy de Verteuil. | Mr. T. E. Noble Smith. |
| Mr. G. M. Eccles. | Mr. N. V. Stafford Solomon, |
| Mrs. Elsie Gamble. | M.B.E. |
| Hon. N. W. E. Giles, | Hon. Alan Storey, D.F.C. |
| M.A., F.R.G.S. | H.E. Sir Edward Twing, |
| Mr. H. L. Goddard. | K.C.M.G., M.B.E. |
| Mr. W. Grason. | Lt.-Colonel F. Wood, M.B.E. |

British Guiana Population

The Registrar-General of British Guiana, in a recent estimate, gives the population of the colony, at the end of 1948, as 402,615. This is the first time that the figure of 400,000 has been exceeded.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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Devaluation

"... If the exchanges had been free—and it is the Bretton Woods agreements, as well as British policy, which keeps them unfree—the dollar value of the pound would have fallen, but it would have fallen relatively slowly and in a calculable manner, and it would almost certainly have stopped before reaching the low level of \$2.80 at which it is now officially fixed. This process, to put it mildly, has certain advantages over the Treasury's method of watching the black market quotations and then suddenly undercutting the most pessimistic seller of sterling, while making a promise that if the downward jolt to \$2.80 proves to be too drastic there will be an upward jolt to come later. The financial community no doubt recognized that the old official rate of \$4.03 had become quite unrealistic. It even accepted so clumsy a device as devaluation for putting it right. But to suggest that it liked the process is surely to go a little too far."

Thus *The Spectator* summarizes the what has and the what might have been of devaluation and sounds a warning of shoals ahead. Sir Stafford Cripps has given the Government's reply to the free exchange arguments. On one point all parties are agreed—that devaluation in itself is no cure for our economic sickness and that the need for exertion and economy at every turn is merely given fresh emphasis by the sudden jolt to the foreign exchanges.

In terms of plain arithmetic the value of every dollar obtainable for sterling area goods jumped in a moment a matter of 43 per cent in terms of sterling, and for the moment, no doubt, the hopes of producers within the sterling area of sugar, cocoa, cotton, bananas and other tropical produce, and especially those resident in colonies lying in close proximity to the U.S.A. and Canada, soared correspondingly.

Sober reflection, however, quickly modified the first flush of optimism. There was, for example, the quick reaction of certain British manufacturers to the new situation. Almost immediately came the news that the dollar prices of British cars selling in the U.S.A. had been heavily cut. One industry at least promptly decided that the best way to take advantage of the new situation was to reduce prices in the hope of increased sales.

Perhaps the simplest case to consider in relation to the British Caribbean colonies is that of the tourist industry, where every tourist from Canada and the U.S.A. will have almost three pounds to spend in place of two before the change. It is important that these tourists should be made to feel the benefit of the new

rates. The aim of the tourist industry must always be to build for the future so that more and more use shall be made of the undoubted attractions these colonies have to offer. It would be unfortunate if, for example, any colonial government should yield to the temptation to levy direct taxation on tourists. Equally it would be foolish for any who profit by tourists, whether they be hotel owners, merchants or taxi-drivers, to attempt, by exorbitant charges, to exploit the position.

Not entirely dissimilar is the case of the sugar industry. To its long-term security of markets and prices is the paramount consideration and it would be unwise to follow the will-o'-the-wisp of the Cuban price just because for the moment it has been rendered more attractive by the devaluation of sterling. While an increase in the cost of production is unavoidable as a direct consequence of devaluation and accordingly an increase in the price over that of 1949 is justly due, the industry will undoubtedly profit most in the long run, while seeking the remunerative prices that are assured by the terms of the recent United Kingdom Government undertaking, by continually striving for higher efficiency at the lowest cost. Indeed it is hardly necessary to utter the warning that there is no surer road to eventual disaster, particularly in an industry whose product is not only highly competitive but which is sold in market conditions providing constant pressure on the price, than to attempt to achieve an unjustifiable advantage that can only be temporary and must throw the whole future economy of the industry out of balance.

The outlook for cocoa is somewhat different. For some time now New York has dominated the world market and the West African Cocoa Boards have been obliged to act in sympathy with New York. West Indian prices have of course followed suit with the normal differentials for their special qualities, but even so, they have not in recent months been regarded as sufficiently remunerative having in mind the long years of unfavourable prices and heavy drop in production through disease and inability to maintain cultivations. For cocoa planters, therefore, the increased sterling prices which can normally be expected to follow devaluation may, despite the inevitable increase in production costs, enable them to undertake the rehabilitation without which their future must be precarious.

In the case of citrus and bananas the important new feature which devaluation introduces is the likelihood of increased demand from Canada. Existing banana contracts with the Ministry of Food, however, and the smallness of Jamaican production compared with pre-war figures, despite encouraging progress recently, may

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From a Londoner's Notebook

THE devaluation of the pound can have taken few people by surprise. Indeed several days beforehand I was told by a casual acquaintance in a French café, not only that it was coming, but the exact date and time when the announcement would be made. He turned out to be right in every detail, except his prophecy that the new rate of exchange would be three dollars to the pound. The unprecedentedly low rate of \$2.80 has undoubtedly been a severe shock, and controversy may rage for a long time over the question whether so violent a jolt was really necessary.

As to the necessity of the devaluation itself there is no serious dispute. It is only a recognition of facts. The only true value of a currency is what people will willingly give for it, and the busy dealings on the black markets of the world showed that by that test the official grossly overvalued the pound sterling. As a result it was becoming more and more difficult for our exporters to sell their goods at competitive prices in the markets of the dollar area: and the effort to maintain the controlled rate of exchange had caused the nation's last financial reserves to sink to the region of 300 million pounds—where 500 millions is the acknowledged danger level. With a rate of \$2.80 it may be hoped that the drain will cease; and if the pound has now been undervalued, its recovery by the recognition of that fact will at least be a pleasanter process than would be an eventual further devaluation, which would be a fatal blow to the national credit.

So much is more or less agreed; and few but extreme partisans will be inclined to place on the Government the main share of the blame for the post-war economic misfortunes that have brought about this result. But Sir Stafford Cripps's broadcast announcing the devaluation struck most impartial hearers as quite wrong in tone, and has given his political opponents their opportunity. Instead of frankly admitting devaluation as a grave financial defect, creating a situation requiring a great national effort to retrieve, he rather gave the impression that it was a clever technical move planned by the Government, from which happy consequences would flow automatically. There is, of course, a certain foundation for this attitude. With the pound devalued by 30 per cent, English prices in dollar markets are correspondingly reduced, and our exporters gain so much competitive markets—though not against their European rivals, whose currencies, as was to be foreseen, were promptly devalued in line with sterling. Sir Stafford made much capital over this improvement in the prospects of the export trade. He laid far less stress on the equally obvious fact that we must now export at present sterling prices some 44 per cent more goods to earn even the same inadequate number of dollars that have been coming in hitherto. And the mere problem of production thus posed is very far from solving itself. If it is not solved, the additional goods would presumably have to be taken from the home market, which might plunge us into inflation, or from

exports to soft-currency areas, which would create new unbalances in foreign trade.

* * *

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was also thought to be excessively optimistic when he said that the only important commodity where price need go up would be bread—by a penny on the loaf—and that he only expected the cost-of-living index to rise by one per cent. It is this observation especially that has set the Opposition quidnuncs buzzing with talk about a general election in November instead of next spring. They reason from the opinion of their economists that the cost of living is bound to rise substantially, and that the Government does not like having to face the electorate after this rise has had time to show itself and disprove Sir Stafford Cripps's hopeful forecast. So far the Government and their supporters have given not the least sign that their minds are running in this way, or that they are prepared to sink their Steel Nationalization Bill, which would be lost if they staged an early election and were defeated. But there is no doubt that the devaluation crisis has set the lists for the electoral battle. When Parliament was recalled to discuss it, Mr. Churchill took the occasion to deliver one of his most ferocious diatribes against the whole economic policy of the Government. It was brilliant and devastating—not a judicial contribution to the solution of the national problem, but a first-rate election speech designed to carry votes against Socialism; and it was answered in the same terms by Mr. Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, and other Government speakers.

* * *

One thing is certain, and that is that both sides are putting their fighting equipment in order at high pressure, so as to be ready for an election whenever it comes. It promises to be very bitterly contested. The Government defend their financial policy on the ground that it alone will maintain full employment and the social services untouched. Detached economists have been heard to say that the crisis shows we cannot afford either; but their view will not be heard at the election, for neither side dare risk votes by blurting out such an unpopular truth—if truth it is.

* * *

Meanwhile the financial argument has caused the disclosure of the Russian possession of the atomic bomb to pass with surprisingly little public excitement. We had, in any case, become resigned to the recognition that the discovery must be made in Russia before very long; and, if there is to be an arms race, reliance must be placed in the very substantial lead which the Americans have gained, and which is not thought likely to be overtaken. But beyond this goes the feeling, developed by events in Europe during the last eighteen months, that the graver danger from Russia is not armed attack, but the progressive enslavement of peoples by the peaceful penetration of Communist ideas. Against that we need more subtle weapons than nuclear fission.

Barbados Deep Water Wharf

Alternative Schemes

An improvement in port facilities for Barbados is long overdue, and there is an urgent desire in the colony for a deep water harbour to obviate the double handling of cargoes due to the present necessity of lightering overseas vessels in Carlisle Bay.

The consulting engineers to the Barbados government, Messrs. Coode, Vaughan-Lee, Frank and Gwyther, have prepared two alternative schemes. One, which has been designated Scheme A, provides for a harbour situated in the north-western area of Carlisle Bay, extending from south of the Carenage to a point just south of Beckles Road, Bridgetown. It would consist of a south breakwater, 2,350 feet long, and a west breakwater, 1,500 feet long. Within the breakwaters would be three jetties, each 600 feet long by 130 feet wide. Six ships could berth alongside the jetties, and four or five beside the breakwaters. There would be two sheds, each 260 feet by 70 feet, on each jetty, and a warehouse 400 feet by 90 feet at the root. This scheme would destroy the amenities of the Bay Street promenade, and require the acquisition of a number of properties. An additional strip of land along the shore, all of which would be required by the harbour, would have to be reclaimed. The cost of the scheme, exclusive of engineers' supervision and the acquisition of properties, is estimated at £3,897,000.

The other scheme, which has been designated the north scheme, proposes the construction of deep water wharfage about one mile north of Bridgetown, on reclaimed land, between Pelican Island and Spring Garden anchorage. In this scheme there would be a main breakwater some 2,700 feet in length, together with an island breakwater. The main wharf would be 2,100 feet long. Five ships could berth at the main wharf, and four or five alongside the breakwater. There would be five warehouses, each 400 feet by 90 feet. The area of reclaimed land would be about 130 acres, of which 92 acres would be surplus to requirements; no land would therefore need to be acquired, though there might be some claims for loss of sea-front amenities. The estimated cost of this scheme, exclusive of engineers' supervision, is £3,078,500.

Both harbours would be dredged to a depth of 35 feet.

Scheme A, it is estimated, would take six years to construct; the north scheme five years. While scheme A would interfere with the present anchorage for ships in Carlisle Bay and with the Carenage, and would worsen road congestion ashore, the north scheme would not interfere with the anchorages and would relieve road congestion. Further advantages of the north scheme are that the open storage space will be greater and future extensions will be more readily possible.

In connexion with the proposals, Sir Douglas Ritchie, vice-chairman of the Port of London Authority, was asked by the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies to undertake on behalf of the Barbados government an investigation with a view to advising on the economics, organization and operation of a deep water harbour, and on the merits of the suggested schemes. Sir Douglas has submitted to the Barbados government a

report in which he expresses the opinion that the north scheme is by far the more advantageous. He also states, however, that "the new undertaking will be a sound economic proposition only if some aid can be afforded to it from sources beyond its own revenue earning capacity." To provide this aid he suggests: (a) that the harbour authority should be relieved of interest on the sum of £350,000 to be found, if the north scheme is proceeded with, from public funds; (b) that the new harbour should be relieved of the interest charges on the cost of reclaiming the land retained for government use; (c) that the cost for roads, surfacing, etc., and maintenance be divided pro-rata to the areas for harbour and for government use.

Dispute with Guatemala

British Honduras Wants Settlement

On July 12th the Legislative Council of British Honduras carried unanimously the following resolution, which was forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"Whereas His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has, without prejudice, repeatedly offered to submit for adjudication, on a legal basis by International Court of Justice, the territorial claims made by Republic of Guatemala in regard to the colony of British Honduras; and whereas the persistence in voicing the originating claim may, in the minds of some, give rise to uncertainty as to the future status of this colony, and thus tend to discourage to some extent investments from the outside; and whereas the people of this colony have stated their unalterable determination to remain British, and to work out their own independence within the framework of the British Commonwealth: be it resolved that this Council respectfully urges upon His Majesty's Government the imperative necessity to take all proper steps to bring about the speedy determination of the claim made by the Government of Guatemala."

In his acknowledgment the Secretary of State reiterated the willingness of His Majesty's Government to submit the claim to legal adjudication by the International Court, and assured the Council of that Government's inflexible determination not to countenance any change in the international status of the colony or any part of it in the absence of a legal decision by the International Court.

On September 8th His Majesty's Government delivered a note to the Guatemalan Government in which the position was reviewed, a suggestion by the Guatemalan Government that there is a desire in British Honduras for a termination of the British connexion was repudiated, and His Majesty's Government's wish that the issues should be properly and fairly settled at the earliest possible moment, affirmed.

British Honduras Dollar

The West India Committee has received inquiries as to the effect of devaluation on the British Honduras dollar. This normally moves with the United States dollar, and the rate of exchange, when the devaluation announcement was made, therefore became \$2.80 to £1.

The Pictorial Pages

THE marriage of the Earl of Harewood and Miss Marion Stein, which was solemnized at St. Mark's Church, North Audley Street, on September 29th, attracted large crowds to the west-end of London. The King and Queen, who had travelled from Balmoral with other members of the Royal Family to attend the ceremony, were among the 900 guests. Both Lord Harewood and his brother, the Hon. Gerald Lascelles, have estates in Barbados, the former owning Waterford and the latter Belle and Mount. The photograph reproduced in the first of the pictorial pages in this issue was taken at St. James's Palace during the reception. It shows, from left to right: Queen Mary, the Princess Royal, the Earl of Harewood and his bride, the King, the Hon. Gerald Lascelles, groomsman, and the Queen.

The illustration at the top of the second page was taken at Newmarket on September 26th, the first day of the yearling sales. It shows horses being paraded before entering the sale ring. The photograph reproduced in the lower half of the page was taken at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on September 15th when about 300 shareholders of Tate & Lyle, Ltd. met to support Lord Lyle, the president, in his company's opposition to the proposed nationalization of the sugar refining industry. At the extraordinary general meeting, which was followed by separate class meetings of the debenture, preference, and ordinary stockholders, the board's proposals for the segregation of certain assets, based on the belief that "nothing but harm to workers, consumers, and stockholders alike can spring from the nationalization of the sugar refining industry," were approved.

Daily Mail Boosts West Indies

Enclosed with the issue of the *Overseas Mail* (the weekly edition of the *Daily Mail*) of September 3rd to 10th was a twelve-page illustrated supplement, the second of a series of special supplements reviewing Commonwealth enterprise, dealing with the West Indies and British Guiana.

In the production of this supplement the West India Committee co-operated with the *Daily Mail*, and the supplement featured an article on sugar in the British West Indies by Mr. J. M. du Buisson, chairman of the Committee.

Products dealt with in other contributions were asphalt, bananas, citrus, cocoa, coco-nuts, oil, rum, Sea Island cotton, spices and timber. Canada-West Indian trade, air-travel facilities, and tourist attractions were the subject of special articles, and many of the principal firms connected with the West Indies supported the venture by inserting attractive advertisements.

The supplement has been highly spoken of in many quarters, while the wide and extensive circulation of the *Overseas Mail* will carry it to large numbers of people in every quarter of the globe. On behalf of the British West Indies the West India Committee welcomes the enterprise of the *Daily Mail* and expresses thanks for the opportunity to co-operate in such wide dissemination of information about the Caribbean colonies.

Colonial Office Window

West Indian Display

Since June an additional display window has been available at the Colonial Office headquarters in Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1. The window which formerly existed continues to be used for the display of official booklets, reports, picture sets, etc., dealing with the colonies, but the new window is being devoted to a running series of exhibits devoted to one territory or group of territories.

The Colonial Office has placed this window at the disposal of the West India Committee on behalf of the British West Indies during the month of November, and from the 1st of that month a display featuring West Indian sugar and rum will be on view.

Jamaica Banana Delegation

A delegation from Jamaica arrived in London on September 23rd to discuss with the Ministry of Food the price of Jamaica bananas for next year and plans for the extension of the present purchasing agreement.

It consists of Mr. D. C. Ferguson, Commissioner of Commerce and Industries, and chairman of the Banana Committee, and three members of the All-Island Banana Growers' Association—Mr. Richard Williams, its chairman, Mr. R. Burke, and Mr. C. de Lisser.

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prevent early shipments to Canada from that colony. The new situation may nevertheless stimulate production in Dominica, St. Lucia and Trinidad, provided the necessary shipping space is available, and adds new point to the recommendations of the Evans Commission for the establishment of banana plantations in British Guiana and British Honduras. Citrus is in a somewhat different position and as regards grapefruit juice the possibilities of doing business with Canada appear to be good. This is most fortunate since the United Kingdom market for juice is, for the moment, saturated. Products such as tomatoes and other fresh vegetables from Jamaica, the Bahamas and Bermuda are also likely to be increasingly in demand from Canada, and in the case of individual items at certain seasons, from the United States.

The oil industry of Trinidad can expect increased receipts from sales of oil and refined products since prices are based on quoted United States gulf export prices but as an offset against that must be placed increased costs of machinery and equipment, some of which still comes from dollar sources, increased freights and increased wages, which must be expected, since by agreement they are linked to the official Trinidad cost-of-living index figure and that is bound to go up in view of the large amounts of foodstuffs which still come from dollar—mainly Canadian—sources.

These are but examples of the possible effects of devaluation on a few West Indian industries. The factor which must give the greatest overall cause for anxiety is the imponderable impact of the new dollar sterling exchange rate on costs, whether they be raw materials and supplies, machinery or wages. To what extent a balance favourable to the general economy of the area can be reached it is too early yet to judge.



THE MARRIAGE OF THE EARL OF HAREWOOD



THE NEWMARKET YEARLING SALES



SUGAR NATIONALIZATION : A SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture

Report for 1948

THE placing of the finances of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture on a more satisfactory basis in 1947 enabled the Governing Body and Principal to put into effect, in 1948, a reorganization of the financial administration at the college and an overdue revision of remuneration to staff and labour. The approval in principle by the Colonial Office of a supplementary grant of £87,925 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, towards the cost of erection of new buildings, equipment, etc., at the college, permitted the approval of certain plans for new building, including seven much needed houses, a new biology building and a sugar laboratory, to go forward in 1949.

The Principal also made attempts, with the approval of the Board, to secure a greater measure of decentralization of administration at the college, to give himself more time for matters of policy and for bringing into operation the research schemes which have been planned and centred upon the college.

Sir Eric Macfadyen filled the office of chairman of the Governing Body till July 31st, 1948, when he resigned and was succeeded by the late Sir Frank Stockdale, who occupied the chair for the remainder of the year and signed the Governing Body's report. It pays tribute to the great services rendered to the college by Sir Eric, who was unanimously appointed president for life on September 8th, 1948. Mr. J. M. Campbell was appointed vice-chairman of the Governing Body in September, 1948, and in the autumn of the year visited the college, and discussed various matters with the Principal and staff.

At the end of the year Sir Algernon Aspinall, secretary of the college since its inception in 1921 until 1940, and subsequently consultant to the Governing Body, resigned owing to health reasons. Sir Algernon, who was largely responsible for the drafting of the terms of the Royal Charter of Incorporation under which the college has carried out its work since 1926, receives tribute in the report for his work for the college, especially in its early days. His resignation was accepted with great regret.

Other resignations were those of Mr. E. Melville, Sir Errol dos Santos, and Mr. J. C. Muir. Mr. Melville was succeeded by Mr. T. B. Williamson, Sir Errol dos Santos by Mr. A. R. W. Robertson, and Mr. Muir by Mr. E. W. Leach. Dr. G. A. C. Herklots was also nominated by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to fill a further vacancy.

The autumn of 1948 saw the formation of "The Gordon Miller Trust," a trust fund created for the welfare of the scientific and administrative staff at the college by a contribution from Mr. J. Gordon Miller, a vice-president and former chairman of the West India Committee, and a member of the Governing Body of the college.

Staff changes consisted mostly of additions. Major H. N. Lee filled the post of bursar. Mr. C. W. Lynn took up duty as senior lecturer in agricultural extension and advisory methods, but Mr. J. D. J. Cameron

resigned from the post of farm manager. Dr. K. S. Dodds, Professor of Botany, resigned at the end of the year. Mr. J. Wilson took up the duties of senior lecturer in botany, and Mr. F. W. Cope those of senior plant breeder under the cocoa research scheme. Mr. R. E. Osborne was seconded from the Jamaica Department of Agriculture to be officer in charge of the banana breeding station at Bodles, Jamaica.

Mr. G. Rodrigues became senior lecturer in chemistry and soil science, and Dr. F. Haworth, bio-chemist, and Dr. J. W. Porteous soils chemist under the cocoa research scheme. Two soil surveyors were appointed under the soils research scheme. Dr. L. F. Wiggins, Director of Sugar Research, paid two visits to the college during the year.

Four diplomas and eight associateships were awarded, and 66 students were in residence. 17 scientific papers by members of the staff were published during the year, and are listed at the end of the report.

B.W.I. Research Schemes

The position reached in regard to the four research schemes which were approved in 1947 was as follows:—

The Banana Research Scheme. The object of this scheme is to check the harmful effect of Panama disease, either by breeding a new variety of banana which is resistant to the disease and in other respects capable of replacing the Gros Michel, or by discovering some means of controlling Panama disease on the Gros Michel banana. Work on this latter aspect was in abeyance pending the appointment of a plant pathologist. Research on banana breeding had already been in progress at the college for a number of years, and at the banana breeding station at Bodles in Jamaica male parents produced in the first stage at Trinidad, and carrying the genetic factor of immunity from Panama disease, have been crossed with bananas of the Gros Michel type. Mr. H. J. Page, the Principal of the college, hazards the statement that "it is not unlikely that the desired result might be achieved, or at any rate well in sight, within a five-year period."

Arrangements made under the scheme for an expedition to south-east Asia, to collect wild varieties of banana for breeding purposes, fell through, but Professor R. E. D. Baker and Mr. N. W. Simmonds visited East Africa and there collected varieties, of south-east Asiatic origin, suitable for trial in the breeding programme. Cytogenetical work, essential for the successful prosecution of the breeding programme, was continued by Mr. N. W. Simmonds as senior cytogeneticist under the scheme, but a second cytogeneticist has still to be appointed.

The Cocoa Research Scheme. This scheme, which is financed in equal shares from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and by the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance of the United Kingdom, and is entirely administered by the college, provides for the appointment of two plant breeders, two plant physiologists, one bio-chemist, two soil chemists, one entomolo-

gist, one plant pathologist and one field officer—ten scientific officers in all. Of these, five had been appointed: one plant breeder (Mr. F. W. Cope), one plant physiologist (Dr. H. Evans), the bio-chemist (Dr. F. Haworth), one soil chemist (Dr. J. W. Porteous) and the field officer (Mr. G. E. L. Spencer).

The object of the scheme is the application of scientific knowledge and research to the rehabilitation and improvement of the cocoa-producing industry of the British West Indies. The general direction of work on soils is under Professor Hardy; that of the botanical section of the scheme under Professor Baker. Mycological and entomological work in connexion with cocoa diseases was covered during the year by Mr. W. T. Dale and Professor T. W. Kirkpatrick respectively, but a full-scale attack on these problems awaits the appointment of full-time officers.

Excellent progress was made during the year in the rehabilitation and laying out of River Estate for new field experiments. About 233 acres are now under control.

The Sugar Research Scheme. This is a five-year scheme in the first instance. The research staff provided for consists of eight officers: a director, six chemists and a chemical engineer. Dr. L. F. Wiggins succeeded in recruiting three chemists and a chemical engineer, and until the new sugar laboratories at the college have been built he and they will work at Birmingham University.

The objects of this scheme have been defined as: "To advance factory technique and efficiency by technological investigation and fundamental research and to investigate what new products may be made from sugar-cane, its direct products and its by-products, and to examine the possibilities of their manufacture."

Under technological research the work is first being directed to the external graining technique for production of "C" sugars; the prevention and removal of scale in sugar evaporators; and the disposal or utilization of "dunder" from rum distilleries.

Fundamental research projects include an investigation of the constituents of cane juice and molasses; the effect of varying conditions of growth on the sugars present in the cane; studies on the chemistry of sucrose, its constituent sugars and degradation products; methods of isolation of sugar-cane wax; the composition and uses of bagasse; and the manufacture of furfural and levulinic acid from sugar-cane.

The Soils Research Scheme. This scheme is for a period of ten years in the first instance. It provides for a senior staff of four soil surveyors (two of whom were appointed during the year) and three soil scientists, to work under the direction of Professor Hardy.

The object of the scheme, broadly defined, is the improvement of knowledge of the soils of all the territories in the British Caribbean, with particular reference to their agricultural utilization.

A major part of the programme involves a detailed survey of the soils in all the British Caribbean colonies, a task which will demand many years' sustained and concentrated work, the importance of which in providing information fundamental to the development of the agricultural possibilities of the British Caribbean can scarcely be exaggerated.

Departmental Reports

With the inception of the above research schemes the college has become in fact, if not yet in name, the central agricultural research institution for the whole of the British Caribbean. When the difficulties and delays involved in finding qualified staff and carrying out a large building programme have been overcome, and the schemes are in full operation, the value of the college as a teaching centre also is bound to be enhanced considerably. Meantime, the difficulties have been such that building operations could not be started in 1948 as had been hoped, and until the buildings are ready lack of accommodation is likely to hamper both sides of the work.

Agricultural Department. A feature of the work of the year was the introduction of a course on agricultural extension work, conducted by Mr. C. W. Lynn and divided into two parts, one a long and comprehensive course for the Colonial Office probationers, the other a shorter course with emphasis on West Indian conditions for the year III Diploma students. The appointment of a senior lecturer in animal husbandry enabled modified courses in that subject to be started, which will improve as a wider variety of stock becomes available. The teaching was further supplemented by new courses for Colonial Office probationers and year III Diploma students given by the Conservator of Forests and the Drainage and Irrigation Engineer, both of which proved very successful.

Several species of grasses and legumes, the majority of which were collected in Venezuela by Mr. Evans, were introduced at the old college farm for observation and trial. About 50 acres of the new college farm were cleared and sown to arable crops, grass and grass-legume mixtures.

A need which made itself felt during the year, as the practical field work and the new farm were developed, was the lack of trained subordinate field staff, which will have to be remedied to place the department on a thoroughly satisfactory basis.

Department of Botany and Genetics. Work undertaken in this department in connexion with banana and cocoa research has been referred to above. Yields continued to be recorded from the cocoa clonal tests, and a report on the formal analyses of the records for CRB 1, 2 and 3 over the past six crops was prepared by Mr. Dodds and Mr. Cope. [Mr. Cope presented a paper on the results of these clonal experiments to the Cocoa Conference in London, reported in the September issue of the CIRCULAR.—Ed.]

Department of Chemistry and Soil Science. The analytical branch dealt altogether with 956 samples during the year. These included soils from a reconnaissance soil survey of British Guiana sugar-cane lands; peat soils from Tanganyika; soil samples from Carriacou, Ecuador, Dominican Republic; and soil and leaf samples from various experiments. Investigations on the genesis of soils continued. Researches were started on fundamental bio-chemical soil processes involving carbon and nitrogen, and on variability in the bio-chemical components of the cocoa bean.

Professor Hardy attended the conference on tropical and sub-tropical soils held at Rothamsted Experimental Station in June, and afterwards toured West Africa for

twelve weeks on a Carnegie Fellowship to study African soils.

Department of Economics. The principal work of this department during the year was the maintenance of the accounting system and the preparation of memoranda for the peasant experimental holdings. Improvements were effected in the clip-card system of accounting devised by Dr. Jolly. The recording of tree yields in selected cocoa fields continued.

Professor Shephard was mainly occupied with his duties as vice-principal, but gave a course of lectures to Trade Union officials attending a course organized by the Labour Adviser to the Development and Welfare organization, served as adviser to the British co-chairman at the third session of the West Indian Conference, and served on several official committees in Trinidad.

Department of Zoology and Entomology. Professor Kirkpatrick represented the college and the Trinidad Government at the fifth Commonwealth Entomological Conference in London in July, and Dr. Callan represented the college at the thirteenth International Congress of Zoology at Paris and the eighth International Congress of Entomology at Stockholm.

There were no important alterations in the lecture courses. Professor Kirkpatrick continued his experiments on transmission of the cocoa virus by insect vectors, and Dr. Callan continued the work on the survey of insects of economic importance in Trinidad. A ladybird predator on *Aphis gossypii*, and a parasite of the ladybird which offsets the control value of the latter, were investigated, and among other interesting observations was the discovery of a nematode parasite of mole crickets in Trinidad.

Dr. F. J. Simmonds of the Commonwealth Bureau of Biological Control continued his investigations, and made a survey of the present position of sugar-cane moth borer (*Diatraea*) in Trinidad. Parasites of the moth were released, and predators of coco-nut scale sent to Barbados.

Department of Mycology and Bacteriology. The Professor and senior lecturer were both on long leave during the year, and attended the Commonwealth Mycological Conference in London. Professor Baker also attended the Cocoa Conference in London. The senior lecturer visited St. Vincent in early May to inspect the cocoa nursery, and in October answered an urgent call from Grenada to confirm and report on the outbreak of witches' broom disease on cocoa in that island. The teaching work was helped by the purchase of six microscopes. Some 250 new sheets were added to the herbarium during the year. An account of the fungi of Barbados and the Windward Islands, and a detailed study of the fungi of Trinidad and Tobago, were prepared for the Press.

Department of Sugar Technology. 1948 was an "interim" year, in which plans were being made for the reorganization of work under the Sugar Research Scheme. The Sugar Technologist was the only resident member of the staff. Both Dr. Wiggins and Mr. Yearwood attended the 1948 meeting of British West Indian Sugar Technologists in Barbados, to which Dr. Wiggins contributed a paper on the chemical aspect of the sugar-cane and spoke on future developments at the department of sugar technology.

Investigations included preliminary observations on the pH of cold limed cane juice and the residual calcium content of the clarified juice, on evaporator scale deposits, the analysis of bagasse and the effect of temperature on the sucrose in clarified juice for different periods of time. There were no sugar technology students, and the factory did not operate.

Plant Quarantine Station. During the year seven varieties of sugar-cane were received from Puerto Rico. Only four survived, and were subsequently released to British Guiana. Cuttings of *Arundo donax* from Jamaica were grown in quarantine and released to British Guiana. Other material handled included banana suckers, cocoa pods and beans, grass seed and cuttings.

Professor Baker resigned from the post of secretary and officer-in-charge, and Dr. Phillis took charge for the rest of the year.

Library and Publications. There were further delays in the publication of *Tropical Agriculture*, and the parts for 1948 were combined in one issue to be published in 1949. [Recently appeared.—Ed.] Notable additions to the library during the year were a valuable collection of books and pamphlets dealing with cane-sugar, presented by Mr. Noel Deerr, and 13 volumes of Hakluyt Society publications, presented by the British Council.

Scottish Industries Exhibition

Both from the selling point of view and as a public attraction, the Scottish Industries Exhibition, held at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow from September 1st to 17th, proved to be, states the *Board of Trade Journal*, "the most successful staged north of the Border."

The exhibition, the largest trades fair ever held in Scotland, was opened by the Queen, and on September 9th the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) entertained senior officials of the Colonies, High Commissioners of the Dominions, the American Ambassador and senior representatives in this country of South American countries, at lunch. Mr. J. Gordon Miller, vice-president and past chairman, represented the West India Committee.

Overseas Visitors to U.K.

The Travel Association of Great Britain has announced that the following concession has recently been introduced for overseas visitors permanently resident outside Europe, to be granted at the discretion of the customs officers.

Tobacco (including cigars and cigarettes), up to 1 lb. ; spirits (including liqueurs and cordials), up to 1 bottle (i.e., $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a gallon) ; perfumed spirits and toilet waters containing spirit, up to 1 pint ; wine in bottle, up to 1 bottle ($\frac{1}{4}$ th of a gallon).

Gifts to the value of £5 brought in by visitors in the above category are also admitted free of purchase tax.

U.K. Import Relaxations

The *Board of Trade Journal* dated October 1st, 1949, announced certain relaxations of import restrictions on goods imported into the United Kingdom from the British West Indies, among other countries. The list of goods covered by the open general licence operative from October 5th and published in full in the *Journal* includes the following items of special interest to the British West Indies:—

Food, Drink and Animal Feeding Stuffs—Part A.

Bananas, dried; wines and spirits, excluding gin; chewing gum base; chutney; fruit juices (citrus and soft fruit); fruit, preserved, including candied and cut peels, and crystallized, glacé, metz or drained fruit (including fruit paste); ginger, preserved; honey; jams and marmalades, canned; mango pulp; mango, sliced; peels in brine; pickles and vegetables preserved in vinegar; pimento in brine; tamarinds; tapioca, cassava, and manioc, excluding flour, starches, and roots (ground or whole); tomato juice or purée, canned; tomato powder; tomato sauce and tomato ketchup; tomatoes, canned; turtle meat; vegetables, canned.

Part B is a list of fresh fruit and vegetables which includes most of the ordinary green vegetables and legumes and tomatoes, but the open general licence for certain of these is liable to suspension at certain periods. The full list should be consulted.

As regards fruit the list excludes bananas, oranges and grapefruit* but includes lemons and limes, mandarines, tangerines and clementines, and nuts in shell, not including Brazil nuts.

Of the other groups contained in the open general licence items of special interest to the West Indies are asphalt (Trinidad lake); cement, gypseous, including burnt gypsum and plaster-of-paris; beeswax; essential oils with some exceptions (the exceptions include bois de rose, lemon oil and pimento oil); liquid rosin; sugar cane wax; coco bristle; palmyra; citric acid; drugs, medicines and medicinal preparations, manufactured or prepared; coir matting; footwear of all types; hats; certain items of pottery and other fire clay products.

Preserved Ginger in Syrup

The British West Indies have been included in new arrangements for the importation in bulk into the United Kingdom of preserved ginger in syrup.

Provided the applicant undertakes to comply with certain conditions, the Board of Trade will consider the issue of a block licence which will allow the trader to import the commodity without having to obtain individual licences for specific quantities.

Copies of the appropriate application form I.L.D./A may be obtained from the Board of Trade (189, Regent Street) or the Ministry of Food (Carlton Hotel, Pall Mall), and the applications should be submitted to the Import Licensing Department, Board of Trade, through the Ministry of Food, Preserves Division, Import Section, Carlton Hotel, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

* All bulk purchased by the Ministry of Food.

British Beet Sugar

Results in 1948-49 Season

LEUT.-COLONEL SIR FRANCIS HUMPHRYS, chairman of the British Sugar Corporation, Ltd., since its formation in 1936, presided for the last time at the annual general meeting of the corporation held on July 26th. He has been succeeded in the chairmanship by Sir Alan Saunders, Co-ordinator of Housing Production at the Ministry of Health from June, 1946 until last July.

The meeting approved a dividend of 4½ per cent, less tax, for the ninth successive year.

The outturn for the 1948-49 season of 559,432 tons in terms of white sugar was the highest yet achieved by the Corporation, and exceeded the results of the previous year by 130,000 tons. 174,000 tons of molasses and 300,000 tons of dried pulp were produced, and about three million tons of leaves and crowns for stock feed.

The crop was grown by more than 42,000 farmers on rather less than 400,000 acres, the average acreage contracted being 9.43 acres. The average yield was 10.84 tons per acre and the average sugar content 16.33 per cent. Corresponding figures for the previous year were approximately eight tons per acre and 18 per cent sugar content. Payments to farmers for beet of 1948 crop totalled £23,800,000.

Sir Francis estimated that rated on a dollar saving basis the value of the Corporation's products was not less than \$70,000,000.

The Corporation earned a record high sum (£643,622) under the "incentive" scheme, but the deficiency payment, which in 1947-48 was only £569,000, was back to the usual average for the last ten years, at £3,441,756. Sir Francis accounted for this deficiency as follows: "The total cost (after deducting income received from by-products) of producing white sugar in bond, was 4.94d. per pound and the price at which the Corporation's white sugar in bond was purchased by the Government was 4.28d. per pound, leaving a total deficiency of 0.66d. per pound, or slightly more than £6 a ton on a production of 559,432 tons."

Sir Francis concluded: "A subsidized industry presents an easy target for criticism, but is there any civilized country that does not subsidize its sugar production in one form or another, and is not the cost well worth while?"

"As a set-off against a 10-year average subsidy of £3,222,000, apart from the average sum of £7,824,000 which has accrued to the Exchequer in Excise duty, the following benefits can be claimed:—

"The production from the soil of our own country of roughly one-quarter of the nation's sugar requirements; a very large tonnage of stock feed; a saving of dollars on the above, far greater than could be earned by any alternative crop grown on a similar acreage, since sugar beet provides more food for man and beast than any other crop grown in this country; and lastly a valuable aid to agriculture productive of the most far-reaching consequences, not the least of which is the maintenance and improvement of the fertility of the soil."

During the off-season, on behalf of the United Kingdom Government, the Corporation, in ten of its factories, dried a quarter of a million tons of surplus potatoes.

Grenada Nutmeg Association

Achievement in Price Stabilization

Father A. M. Bowring, O.P., Grenada, has contributed to the issue of the *Commentator*, of August 12th, a spirited tribute to the work of the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association.

"In the Legislative Council," writes Father Bowring, "about half the Hon'ble. Members seem still to be strongly opposed to the G.C.N.A. Their attitude is distinctly puzzling, and it is difficult to account for their opposition . . . for the facts are solidly in favour of the Association."

Opinion among the people of Grenada is also divided. While growers responsible for more than 60 per cent of Grenada's nutmeg production are in favour of the Association being the sole agent for the sale of nutmeg and mace overseas, rather more than half of the producers, comprising a preponderance of "small growers," are against the monopoly. The latter, states Father Bowring, are accustomed to live largely on credit. "Such persons find the having to wait for the balance of their payment in the form of a bonus frequently inconvenient and sometimes galling—and yet they are the very ones who stand to benefit most from the co-operative method of marketing their produce."

The Grenada exports of nutmegs and mace from 1929 to 1948 inclusive are given in a table which we reproduce below. The table shows the abnormally high prices received during the years 1942 to 1948, when Grenada held a virtual monopoly in the spice market, subsequent to the over-running of the Netherlands East Indies by the Japanese. In 1948 N.E.I. returned to full production, and a "catastrophic fall" in the prices of nutmegs and mace was to be expected. This, however, has not taken place. In the first half of 1949 Grenada nutmegs have made an average price of 30.8 cents per lb. and mace 70.19 cents per lb. against corresponding average prices for the years 1932 to 1941

of 8.52 cents and 33.46 cents per lb. respectively. "It is reasonable to think," writes Father Bowring, "that the G.C.N.A. is in a large measure responsible for this good achievement. . . . During the first 18 months of its full functioning, that is, from January, 1948 to June, 1949, the G.C.N.A. sold 36,438 cwt. of nutmegs for \$1,634,904; and 7,566 cwt. of mace for \$772,841. That is, the average price of nutmegs over the 18 months was 40.06 cents per lb., and the average price of mace over the same period was 91.2 cents per lb. Let the studious reader compare those figures with the statistical tables covering the years 1929 to 1948."

The following is the table:—

GRENADA NUTMEG AND MACE EXPORTS 1929 to 1948
(Prices are "Gross F.O.B.")

Year	Nutmegs			Mace		
	cwt.	£	cents per lb.	cwt.	£	cents per lb.
1929 . . .	22,666	100,323	18.96	3,765	55,766	63.48
1930 . . .	19,972	67,794	14.55	3,567	41,395	49.73
1931 . . .	26,195	54,808	8.97	3,658	28,864	33.82
1932 . . .	27,305	36,859	5.78	4,181	36,859	37.78
1933 . . .	28,287	37,024	5.61	4,116	22,476	21.81
1934 . . .	31,284	48,778	6.68	4,042	25,103	26.60
1935 . . .	29,416	56,754	8.27	5,120	40,848	34.16
1936 . . .	27,738	61,617	9.52	5,157	42,077	34.77
1937 . . .	39,153	105,264	11.52	6,454	61,895	41.11
1938 . . .	36,269	74,625	8.82	5,078	38,995	32.91
1939 . . .	38,319	73,933	8.27	6,876	49,457	30.83
1940 . . .	41,906	79,596	8.14	5,493	38,507	30.05
1941 . . .	38,207	97,137	10.90	6,492	60,120	39.69
1942 . . .	37,528	241,750	27.60	6,799	92,757	58.45
1943 . . .	45,408	269,173	25.40	6,691	69,649	44.61
1944 . . .	51,447	295,351	24.60	6,763	72,379	45.87
1945 . . .	46,824	290,535	26.60	6,768	77,883	49.31
1946 . . .	49,237	408,453	35.56	8,495	129,979	65.60
1947 . . .	35,398	442,325	53.54	5,892	155,989	113.40
1948 . . .	17,995	208,027	49.54	4,039	103,251	109.50

The figures showing cwt. and £ have been furnished by the Treasury, and may be taken as absolutely correct. The figures showing cents per lb. have been carefully worked out, checked, and may be taken as accurate to the nearest tenth (and probably even to the nearest hundredth) of a cent.—Editor, *Commentator*.

Colonial Cottons

A meeting of considerable interest to the cotton industry was held on September 22nd, at the Shirley Institute, Manchester. This was the third annual meeting summoned by the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation to enable their executive committee, which comprises representatives of the main organizations in the trade, to discuss matters of mutual interest with their scientific advisory committee and with representatives of the British Cotton Industry Research Association, the Cotton Board, the Raw Cotton Commission and scientific workers from overseas. Some 40 representatives attended.

The discussion was centred chiefly on the steps necessary to secure that colonial cottons should meet the spinners' requirements.

It was agreed that to achieve this object, steps must be taken by the governments concerned to ensure adequate control from the issue of seed up to the marketing of the lint, and that incentives for the production of good quality cotton and satisfactory ginning must be provided by means of price differentials.

New Rum Still for B.G.

THE well-known British Guiana firm of H. K. Davson & Co., Ltd., are to install a new continuous rum still in the colony. The still, which is being constructed by the A.P.V. Company of Wandsworth Park, London, is nearing completion, and this firm recently entertained a number of persons prominent in the West Indian sugar, alcohol and rum industries to luncheon at the Savoy Hotel following a visit to the works.

Features of technical interest in this rum still lie in the use of the A.P.V.-West high efficiency plate design for the rectifying column, in the new design of robust, easily cleaned plate used in the analysing column, in the use of the A.P.V. Paraflow heat exchanger for feed pre-heating by means of spent wash and in the utilization of a 2-pass open top vertical condenser. The plant is equipped with a fusel oil decanter and a new method of "heads" removal.

Under construction by the same firm are a lager brewhouse for the Caribbean Development Co., Ltd., and a citrus juice de-aeration and pasteurization plant for the Citrus Growers' Association of Jamaica.

Rum Market in India

Prospects Not Encouraging

THE August issue of the *Wine and Spirit Trade Record* contains the following memorandum by the United Kingdom Trade Commissioner at Bombay on the market for rum in India:—

By far the greater proportion of rum consumed in India comes from India's own distilleries, and the following are local production statistics in respect of undivided India: 1944-45, 478,504 L.P. galls.; 1945-46, 574,790 L.P. galls.; 1946-47, 447,506 L.P. galls.; 1947-48 (for India only from August, 1947), 261,892 L.P. galls.

It was possible, until recently, to market Indian rum of reasonable quality at lower retail prices than imported spirit, and Indian rum was in fact quite popular with the labouring classes in certain areas of this country and also with the middle-class sections of certain relatively small communities, notably the Goanese and Indian Christian communities. The imposition of a substantial still-head duty on Indian rum has brought about a state of near parity with imported rum in the matter of retail prices when purchases of reputable brands are effected through reputable dealers observing normal profit margins. (Clubs continue to offer Indian rum, presumably old stock, at prices much lower than those asked for in the case of Jamaica rum.) This improves the competitive position of imported rum, but it does at the same time place rum out of the reach of the bulk of the labouring classes, and no noticeable improvement in the level of imports is anticipated. The demand for rum for the Indian armed forces is not particularly large, the regulations of the Royal Indian Navy, for instance, actually forbidding the consumption of spirit by ratings aboard ship.

Imports of rum have in fact been comparatively negligible in volume. The pre-war average appears to have been in the region of 2,000 gallons per annum, to which the United Kingdom was by far the largest contributor; and imports since the end of the war have been 44 gallons in 1945-46, 6,605 galls. in 1946-47, 2,477 galls. in 1947-48 and 713 galls. in the six months ended September 30th, 1948.

Immediate business prospects are not encouraging owing to India's prevailing difficulties in the matter of foreign exchange and in view of the growing acceptance and implementation in this country of prohibition measures. There has been, also, a diminution in the amount of money available for the purchase of luxury goods. The import licensing rules framed for the six-monthly slipping period ending June 30th, 1949, provided for the import of rum from soft currency countries on a monetary ceiling basis. There was no allocation of foreign exchange for this purpose to newcomers to the trade and established importers were given licences equivalent to 40 per cent by value of their imports of rum in any year between 1937-38 and 1947-48. The import of rum from other than soft currency countries has been prohibited.

The growth of prohibition measures in India has not been on a uniform pattern—in some provinces and states the enforcement of total prohibition appears to

be in sight, whereas in others few restrictions have been introduced—but the cumulative effect on the trade in beers, wines and spirits has been considerable.

The Indian Customs Tariff provides for the levy of a duty on rum imports at the rate of Rs. 55 per imperial gallon of the strength of London proof, but a preferential rate of Rs. 33/12 per imperial gallon of the strength of London proof is imposed if the rum is the product of a British colony. The duty is subject to increase or reduction in proportion as the strength is greater or less than London proof; but no distinction appears to be drawn between bottled rum and rum imported in bulk.

Barbados Pottery Prospects

The report recently prepared by Mr. J. R. Brannam on the proposed clay-making industry of Barbados is reviewed in the May issue of the *Monthly Bulletin* of the Caribbean Commission.

Raw materials and other conditions are stated to exist for the manufacture of building bricks, hollow bricks, roofing tiles, floor tiles, flower pots, domestic pottery and insulating bricks, but not for making white china and earthenware.

Mr. Brannam sees "no reason why coloured and glazed vases, jugs, bowls and ash trays should not be produced comparable in price and quality to similar articles at present made in the United Kingdom," but does not regard the setting up of a brick or block-making plant alone on a commercial scale as justified for the moment, while roof tiles are thought to be too costly except for the most expensive type of building. A fair local demand for floor tiles is anticipated, with the possibility of export in limited quantities to other West Indian islands.

Flower pots, if reasonable package and freightage arrangements can be made, offer possibilities as an export product.

West Indian Sugar

A Kingston, Jamaica, correspondent contributes an article to the September issue of *The Times Review of Industry* in which he states that the announcement by the British Government of the decisions resulting from conferences with the British West Indies Sugar Association's delegation and the special political mission from Jamaica has been welcomed there as "one of the soundest and best policies that His Majesty's Government have instituted."

"The British Government have now agreed," states the article, "that sugar is vital to the British West Indies, that the United Kingdom Government will make a long-term marketing agreement, that prices will be remunerative to efficient producers, that quantities will be specially considered and that there is need for a 10-year assurance. These points of agreement have cleared the air of hostile criticism and dispelled doubt."

Much improvement has taken place in the British West Indian sugar industry, and West Indians insist that their sugar industry is efficient and can survive and thrive in a really free world market.

Some Books Reviewed

The West Indian Scene

"This tourist boom in the West Indies won't be confined to Cuba and Jamaica. Some of the people who before the war went to the less fashionable Riviera places—Cassis and Villefranche and Le Levandon—are going, I'm pretty sure, to be attracted now to the smaller West Indian islands. A lot of people are going to want to travel there; quite a few will want to settle there. I want to write a book that will 'put them in the picture,' that will tell them what to expect as regards the climate, the conditions and the people there, the way things are and why things are and how they are, the kind of book, in fact, that I should have liked to have had to read myself when I went there first."

In these words, Mr. Alec Waugh explains the purpose of a Caribbean travelogue, first published in 1931, which has now appeared in a new edition* of which Mr. Waugh has presented an inscribed copy to the library of the West India Committee.

The new edition contains an up-to-date bibliography, and an appendix describing the effect of the operations of a modern film unit in the remoter parts of one of the smaller islands. Its appearance at the present juncture, when devaluation may be supposed to make a Caribbean holiday still more attractive to our American cousins, must be regarded as timely. Much of the contents we have already reviewed on previous occasions. The book can safely be left to commend itself to those who procure it.

The Colonial Service

On September 15th there appeared a book, from the pen of Sir Charles Jeffries, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, entitled *Partners for Progress*.†

This book breaks new ground by being not an account of the Colonial Service, but an attempt to explain it to the ordinary man. It is an ambitious project. Sir Charles himself asks, "How is one to convey, in a few black-and-white pages, some impression of the immense variety and colour of life and work in this vast organization?" He solves his problem by "spotlighting" varied and contrasted features of the work of the service in different parts of the Colonial Empire.

Selection of the features which have to serve as illustrations of the general theme is the determining factor in the success of an essay of this type, and only one with the long experience of colonial affairs and the intimate knowledge of the Colonial Service, possessed by Sir Charles, could have attempted it.

For an adequate appreciation of the background, against which the work of the service must be considered, some knowledge of its history and organizational details is essential, and these are outlined, briefly but

* *The Sugar Islands*, by Alec Waugh. Farrar, Straus & Company, New York, 1949. Price 3s.

† *Partners for Progress. The Men and Women of the Colonial Service*, by Sir Charles Jeffries, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., Deputy Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. George G. Harrap & Co., Ltd., London, 1949. Price, 12s. 6d. net.

lucidly, in the first part of the book. It is in the second part, which gets down to the details of the individual and collective work of the officers of both sexes in the service, that the "spotlighting" is brought to bear with real effect. Having explained that "to attempt to catalogue the variety of jobs done by the Colonial Service would be to make almost a complete list of the more respectable activities of the human race," the author proceeds to describe samples, beginning with Governors and working down. Interspersed with his description are letters which give a personal insight of the experiences and impressions of men and women as they have gone about their jobs in different colonies.

These jobs, in most cases, have been pioneer jobs, for the record of the Colonial Service, as we all know, has of late years in particular been one of progress. "The colonies," writes Sir Charles, "cannot progress as fast and far as they might, the Colonial Service cannot be adequately staffed or do its work effectively, without the support of the British public." It is in the hope of stimulating public interest that the book has been written. In this it seems well designed to succeed.

The Conduct of Empire

In a half-page author's note prefacing her book *Empire and After*‡, Rita Hinden endeavours to counter the impression, conveyed in some 180 pages of critical examination of the past conduct of affairs in the British Empire, "that the colonial peoples are mere helpless, passive participants in a situation which they cannot control," and that "the problem of evolving the right relationship between the strong and the weak nation, the dominant Power and its subjects," rests entirely with Britain.

The book consists largely of quotations from criticism of the conduct of empire and colonial affairs, mostly by people who did not themselves have the job of conducting them at the time of speaking or writing. The impression conveyed by such a compilation must of necessity be one-sided.

We have read the book with interest, but are by no means convinced that it affords a solution to the difficulties of the subject.

The South African Sugar Year Book, 1947-48. Compiled and edited by the Editor, South African Sugar Journal, P.O. Box 1209, Durban. Price 5s., including postage. This useful publication contains the usual particulars of the work and proceedings of the South African Sugar Association, the South African Cane Growers' Association and the Sugar Technologists' Association, together with production statistics and sugar factory reports.

Special contributions to this issue include a comprehensive survey of the development of the sugar industry by Dr. H. H. Dodds, Director of the Experiment Station, an article on "Sugar Down Through the Ages" by Mr. Samuel Schoenfeld of New York, and the Board of Trade and Industries report on the determination of prices of South African sugar for the 1948-49 and 1949-50 seasons.

‡ *Empire and After, a Study of British Imperial Attitudes*, by Rita Hinden. Essential Books Limited, London, 1949. Price 12s. 6d. net.

British Guiana in 1782

An Impecunious Governor

THE thanks of the Executive of the West India Committee have been expressed to Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Davson for the presentation to the library of an old manuscript.

It consists of a memorial, dated June 28th, 1782 from Lieut.-Colonel Robert Kingston to the King, and an account of "Produce for Taxes" consigned for the use of the King to Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan.

The memorial reads as follows:—

The Memorial of Lieut. Col. Kingston Appointed by the Honourable General Vaughan, Lieut. Governor of the Colonies of Demerary, Essequibo and Berbice which Appointment His Majesty was graciously pleased to confirm as signified in a letter from the Secretary of State dated 12 of October 1781.

¶ Humbly Sheweth

That your Memorialist having been sent to those Colonies in March 1781 by the Kings Commander in Chief to examine into the State of Them, had among other things frequent opportunities of discerning that the Principal Planters lived with great liberality, and at considerable expence.

Your Memorialist being Appointed to the Government of these Three Colonies, in each of which the Dutch Governors had every one an Allowance from Holland for a Public Table, was Obligated at great expence to make provision in some degree suitable to the situation he was to fill; that the Articles necessary for this purpose purchased at Barbados, are near cent per cent dearer than in Europe, that the People trading from Barbados to those Dutch Settlements added 70 per cent and upwards to the advanced Barbadian price.

That your Memorialist by the great expences unavoidably incurred in consequence of His Appointment remains at this time more than Eight hundred pounds out of Pocket, having neither Salary, nor any Sum advanced to provide himself for a Station of Dignity and consequence in the Eyes of the Inhabitants. The heavy loss of so much money (great part of which was borrowed for that service) resting with your Memorialist puts him to very great inconvenience, and he will be exceedingly distressed thereby unless His Majesty should be moved to take the same into His Royal consideration, and be graciously pleased to order him relief either out of the Sale of Produce taken from Demerary to England the latter end of the year 1781 (as Taxes) in a ship called the Lady Johanna, and two other vessels under convoy of the Hyaena Frigate, or in such other manner as His Majesty out of His great Grace and Wisdom shall be pleased to direct. All which is most humbly submitted by said Lieut. Governor.

RT. KINGSTON.

June 28th, 1782.

St. Lucia is to borrow £408,000 on a 3½ per cent inscribed stock, 1965-70, at a price of £98 10s. 0d. The finance is required for the rebuilding of Castries, capital of the island, and for providing sewage works and housing. The loan is being taken up as to £208,000 by the Crown Agents for the Colonies and the balance is being sold to the London market.

Caribbean Tobacco Trade

"The tobacco trade is an excellent example of one of the imperative needs of the Caribbean economy—the standardization of the methods of reporting trade statistics. The French territories and some British either combine cigars and cigarettes, or, where they differentiate between them, do not give the statistics both by volume and by value. Curacao gives its imports by number, Surinam by weight. Puerto Rico's statistics, presented by number, are not comparable with say, Trinidad's, presented by weight. The most striking example, however, of this lack of uniformity is the Jamaica statistics of cigars. Presented by weight up to 1944, the numerical system was adopted in 1945, thus making it impossible to compare not only the volume of imports or exports but also the price trends."

This need for a standardized method reporting trade statistics in the West Indies has been stressed in the CIRCULAR on more than one occasion. It was one of the recommendations of the second session of the West Indian Conference in 1946 that the Caribbean Commission should act to bring about uniformity in the publication of trade statistics, and we look forward to the time when such action shall have borne fruit.

The quotation is taken from the introduction to *The Tobacco Trade of the Caribbean*, recently published as External Trade Bulletin, No. 4, of the Caribbean Commission. This bulletin gives statistics of imports and exports of tobacco, cigars and cigarettes for the Caribbean territories over the years 1935 to 1947. Comparative tables and index numbers of imports and exports by volume and value have been compiled and included, but for the reason given above they are not entirely satisfactory. The inclusion of *per capita* tables of imports and exports, which had commenced with External Trade Bulletin No. 3 dealing with *The Fish Trade of the Caribbean*, has been discontinued in accordance with a recommendation of the third session of the West Indian Conference in 1948.

Central Film Library

West Indian Films

The return of bookings of West Indian films, available on loan from the Central Film Library, during the year ended June 30th, 1949, was as follows:—

Sound films

Grapefruit (16 mm.)	...	...	32 displays.
Sponges (16 mm.)	...	...	241 "
Plantation People (35 mm.)	...	...	22 "
Tropical Lumbering (16 mm.)	...	...	131 "
Petroleum (16 mm.)	...	...	58 "
Asphalt Lake (16 mm.)	...	...	172 "

Silent films

Cargo from Jamaica	...	...	351 "
West Indian Cattle	...	...	138 "
British Guiana	...	...	317 "

These bookings total 1,462, against 1,544 bookings in the previous year. The film "Pleasure Trove in Trinidad" has been withdrawn, and there is now only one 35 mm. film of the West Indies in the library.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"WHEN bone done gone eat, dog come togeder agen to find mo'."

MR. JOSEPH ISSA, a director of E. A. Issa & Bros. Ltd., and Mrs. Issa, have arrived in London from Jamaica for a short visit. They came via New York and arrived on this side in the *Queen Elizabeth*.

MR. E. B. MCINERNEY, manager of the London branch of the Royal Bank of Canada since 1929, has been appointed to the board. He will be succeeded by Mr. B. Strath, who has been assistant manager of the London branch since 1948.

WEST INDIAN visitors to the Caribbean Lodge on September 27th were W. Bro. C. Y. Shephard, P.A.G.D.C. and W. Bro. G. H. Knight of Trinidad, W. Bro. Sir Alan Collymore of Barbados, and W. Bro. Cyril B. B. Connell of St. Kitts.

MR. T. P. LECKY, Senior Livestock Officer of the Department of Agriculture, Jamaica, left the island recently for an 18 months' course in genetics at Edinburgh, and Mr. Ross Murray, Issa Scholar, also left to study at St. Andrews.

MR. C. D. HUTCHINS, of the Department of Agriculture, Jamaica, has been appointed Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture in charge of Extension Services. Mr. Hutchins was formerly in the service of the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

ANGOSTURA BITTERS, LTD., announce that Mr. Arthur Emlyn and Mr. Robert Wallace Siegert have been appointed joint general managers, retaining their seats on the board of directors. Mr. J. R. Taylor becomes the secretary and Mr. R. A. Wright deputy secretary.

DR. E. A. DUNN, formerly Bishop of British Honduras and Archbishop of the West Indies, concluded a visit to London in the middle of September and returned to British Honduras. A farewell luncheon was given to Dr. Dunn in London by members of the Honduras Church Association and among the speakers was Sir John Hunter, a former Governor of the colony.

STUDENTS from eight colonies are taking the Polytechnic diploma course of journalism which started on September 20th, at the Regent Street Polytechnic, London. They include Mr. Calvin Bowen, of Jamaica (*Daily Gleaner*), Mr. J. L. R. Chongsing, Trinidad (*Trinidad Guardian*), and Mr. Leigh Richardson, British Honduras (*Belize Billboard*).

GEORGETOWN is becoming museum-minded. The population of the capital, according to the latest colonial report, is a little over 94,000, while visitors in 1949 to the British Guiana museum totalled 93,352 to the end of July. In the month of July alone 22,445 people visited

the recently opened natural history section of the museum.

As reported in the CIRCULAR of August, Mr. Robert Gavin has resigned as secretary of the West India Committee in order to take up a post abroad. It was announced from Geneva on September 6th, that Mr. Gavin had been appointed chief of the non-metropolitan territories section of the International Labour Office. He takes up his duties in Geneva on November 1st.

THE West Indian Club will entertain Mr. Robert Gavin to dinner at the Savoy Hotel on Monday, October 24th, at 7 p.m. Mr. J. M. du Buisson, chairman of the West India Committee, will preside. Members of the West India Committee who are not members of the club, but who would like to attend, should communicate with the honorary secretary of the club.

THE engagement is announced of Mr. Bonner E. C. Shekell, second son of the late Mr. Hilton Chambers Shekell, and of Mrs. Shekell, of Chester Vale, St. Peters P.O., Jamaica, and Chetwynd House, Newport, Shropshire, and Miss Ann Elise Whitaker, youngest daughter of Mr. L. B. Whitaker, of Hazelwell, Oxshott, Surrey, and formerly of Gray's Inn Central, Annotto Bay, Jamaica, and of the late Mrs. Kathleen Mary Whitaker.

RECENT visitors to the West India Committee have included the following: Mr. W. H. Allan, Mr. Francis R. Anjo, Mr. C. S. Bushe, Mr. M. N. Cochrane, Chief Justice Sir Allan Collymore, Mr. Cyril B. Connell, Mr. J. Findlay, Mr. Vincent L. George, Mr. R. C. Haughton, Mr. C. R. Jacob, Captain R. Landry, Mr. H. V. Lake, Major S. W. S. Macqueen, Mr. A. E. Muschett, Mr. A. Moir Reid, Mr. G. F. Sharp, Professor C. Y. Shephard, Mr. A. Bruce Skinner, and Mr. T. Augustus Toote.

New Governor of Trinidad

Sir Hubert Rance Appointed

As we go to press it is announced that Sir Hubert Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., has been appointed Governor of Trinidad and Tobago in succession to Sir John Shaw whose resignation was announced in the last CIRCULAR.

Sir Hubert, who was born in 1898 and educated at Wimbledon College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, followed a military career until 1946 when he became Governor of Burma.

In April of last year he became chairman of the Standing Closer Association Committee in the West Indies, comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, and co-chairman of the Caribbean Commission.

He acted as Governor of the Leeward Islands during Lord Baldwin's visit to London during the early part of this year.

Obituary

Sir Norman Lamont

THE death of Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., was briefly reported in last CIRCULAR. He died on September 3rd at his estate Palmiste, San Fernando, Trinidad, after being attacked by a bull.

Sir Norman, who was in his 80th year, had been connected with the colony for such a long period that many had come to regard him as a Trinidadian. Members of the older generation, however, will remember that he had a distinguished political career on this side before taking up residence in Trinidad.

He was educated at Winchester and then studied at the College of Agriculture, Downton. He unsuccessfully contested Bute as a Liberal candidate in 1900, but was returned at the election of 1905. Sir Norman was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, from 1906-8, and to the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Winston Churchill, for the following year, but failed to regain his seat in the election of 1910.

On the death of his father, the first baronet, in 1913, he succeeded to the title and to the Palmiste group of estates in Trinidad; he had owned the neighbouring estate of La Ressource since 1892. Sir Norman then spent most of his time in Trinidad and was a member of the Legislative Council from 1915 to 1923.

He took a leading part in the formation of the West Indian, now the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, and was a governor from its foundation until 1945 when he retired. Sir Norman was chairman of the West India Association of Glasgow from 1940 to 1947 and a member of the Executive of the West India Committee for a similar period.

His publications included *Problems of the Antilles* (1912); *Inventory of Lamont Papers* (1914); *Problems of Trinidad* (1923); and *Gleanings* (1947), which consisted of the speeches and writings of Sir Norman over a period of 50 years, and contained chapters on Scottish history, genealogy, and on economic and other conditions in Trinidad.

He leaves no heir.

Cocoa in Liberia

Dr. Oskar F. Kaden, writing in *Gordian*, in the issue of September 10th, considers that the plan to increase cocoa production deserving the most attention is, without doubt, the North American plan in Liberia.

The American company of Stettinius, Jr., using local seed, has already planted a million new cocoa trees in the western province of Liberia, and is counting on an annual production of 50,000 tons of cocoa in 12 years' time. Pre-war exports from Liberia were of the order of 500 tons of poor quality beans per annum. Legal standards have now been set up, however, which will ensure a better quality in future.

Cultivation of cocoa is being extended partly on a plantation scale and partly on a smallholding scale. Liberia now has a modern port on the west coast of Africa in Monrovia, with a first-class airport about ten miles away.

Raw Cotton Prices

When the devaluation of the £ sterling was announced on September 18th, the Raw Cotton Commission at once cancelled all selling prices for raw cotton.

A subsequent announcement by the Commission declared a new list of cover quotations and differential adjustments to take effect on Tuesday, September 20th.

The cover quotations were changed as follows:—

Increased by 465 points per lb.

American (AM); North Brazilian—Serido style (NB); Haitian (HT); West African (WA); East African (EA); Argentine (AR); Russian (GE); East Indian—short staple (IS); East Indian—American seed (IL); Sundry American (OT).

Increased by 440 points per lb.

Brazilian—Sao Paulo (BS).

Increased by 360 points per lb.

Peruvian—Tanguis (PT); Zeidab—Irr. Amer. Seed (HO).

Increased by 350 points per lb.

East African—BP52—(BP).

Increased by 200 points per lb.

Zagora (UG); Ashmouni (UM).

Increased by 100 points per lb.

Giza 30 (NS); Giza 7; Sudan, "L" types×4 and below (HL).

Unchanged.

West Indian Sea Island.

There were changes in differential adjustments of East African, Egyptian, and Sudan types, but none in the case of West Indian Sea Island types.

Cover facilities were restored as from the opening of business on Tuesday, September 20th, 1949. Any business concluded since Saturday, September 17th, is covered on the basis of the price list dated September 20th, 1949.

Indian Jute Bag Position

In the September, 1947 issue of the CIRCULAR, page 208, was quoted an analysis of the economic consequences of the division of India into Hindustan (India) and Pakistan by Mr. G. D. Birla, a leading Indian industrialist.

Statistics were given showing the position in regard to jute production, and the possibility of trouble "should political division bring with it a sharp severance of economic relationship between Pakistan and Hindustan."

Such a severance has now occurred. India has devalued her currency to the same extent as sterling. Pakistan has decided not to do so. Since at least 60 per cent of the raw jute is produced in Pakistan, while all the jute factories are in India, this means a considerable increase in price of raw material to the jute manufacturer.

At the time of writing India has stopped all imports from Pakistan except perishable goods, and hot argument is in progress, and may continue for some time, between the two governments. Meantime some disruption of the jute industry is inevitable, and some increase in the price of jute bags is to be anticipated.

Trinidad and Tobago in 1947

THE annual report on Trinidad and Tobago for 1947 discloses an estimated increase in population of 3.2 per cent, which indicates that the rate of increase is being well maintained. The estimated figure at December 31st, 1947 is 586,700 against 568,619 at December 31st, 1946. The birth rate and death rate were both almost identical with the corresponding rate in the preceding year.

The peak figure of employment during the reaping season on the large sugar estates was similar to that in 1946 (22,215 against 22,442), but the average number employed per fortnight rose from 18,350 in 1946 to 19,235 in 1947, indicating greater regularity of attendance. There was an increase in the number employed in cocoa production (16,000 against 15,000 in 1946). Coco-nut cultivation provided employment for about 5,000 workers. The oil and asphalt industries maintained their normal levels of employment of approximately 14,000 and 600 work-people respectively. Some 12,000 workers found employment at the docks, on the railway, and in public works. There was a further decline in the civilian labour force employed on the United States defence bases from 5,878 to 3,500, but the number employed in minor industries in the colony had risen to about 10,000, with a further 7,000 in the distributive trades and around 10,000 in various forms of domestic service.

Wage rates in the sugar industry were further increased from the beginning of the year bringing the total wage bill of the larger estates to more than \$5,000,000, and the average daily earnings given for outlassing on cocoa estates show an increase of 12½ per cent over 1946. An improved wage scale, effective from December 15th, 1947, was negotiated and accepted in the oil industry, and there was an upward revision of the schedule of wage rates for Government manual employees (excluding dockers) which took effect from April 1st, 1947. There was a reduction in the normal working week in the port transport industry from 48 to 44 hours, accompanied by a small increase in earnings.

Despite price controls and food subsidies the cost-of-living index rose, mainly because of increases in the cost of imported commodities, from 216 at the end of 1946 to 226 at the end of 1947.

The number of workers' unions rose from 18 to 23, and their membership from about 15,000 to approximately 20,000. Strikes in the oil and sugar industries engineered by the British Empire Workers, Peasants and Ratepayers' Union resulted in an inquiry and report (Colonial No. 215) by Mr. F. W. Dalley, who condemned the activities of the above union. During the year, however, there was an improvement in the status of responsible trade unionism and a revitalization of the local Trades Union Council. Two ordinances relating to labour were enacted during the year, of which one was an amending ordinance necessitated by the repeal of the United Kingdom Trade Disputes Act of 1927.

The revenue of the colony in 1947 was \$37,325,302, and the expenditure \$37,417,052, showing a deficit on the year's working of \$91,750. The corresponding figures in 1946 were: revenue, \$41,889,871; expenditure, \$31,936,680; balance, \$9,953,191. The Public Debt

of the colony at December 31st, 1947 was \$26,074,860, against \$26,562,364 at December 31st, 1946.

The production of sugar in 1947 was 110,068 tons compared with 109,603 tons in 1946. A much higher production had been aimed at, but was reduced by drought conditions and a certain amount of froghopper. The average yield of cane per acre was 24.8 tons, and tons of cane to produce one ton of sugar, 9.62. Rum exports amounted to 844,910 proof gallons valued at \$1,846,235 (1946 figures 617,120 proof gallons and \$1,229,345).

High prices for cocoa encouraged many estate owners to reclaim their plantations, and exports rose from 6,626,962 lb., valued at \$1,171,781 in 1946 to 9,009,644 lb., valued at \$3,205,049 in 1947. Prices paid directly to the producer increased from \$28.00 per fanega (110 lb.) in January to \$41.00 per fanega in December. Witches' broom disease accounted for less damage than usual, and the Government Cocoa Rehabilitation Scheme made further progress, 105,995 rooted cuttings being issued against 70,000 in 1946.

With the price of copra maintained at \$7.00 per 100 lb. work on bringing the plantations back to maximum production continued. All copra produced (40,033,078 lb. against 39,617,401 lb. in 1946) was manufactured in the colony into oil, lard substitute and margarine. 546,510 gallons of coco-nut oil, valued at \$789,022, were exported.

Grapefruit and orange cultivation increased, but the lime industry continued to decline owing to premature dying out of trees. The export of fresh grapefruit was resumed during the year. The value of exports of citrus and citrus products was \$1,038,324.

Exports of raw coffee, at 1,265,675 lb. valued at \$250,014, were on a similar scale to those in 1946. Rubber tapping virtually ceased with the expiration on June 30th, 1947 of the agreement with the United States Rubber Development Corporation, and exports during 1947 totalled 324,899 lb. valued at \$221,296. Exports of tonca beans were 204,176 lb. valued at \$196,515.

Output of crude petroleum in 1947 amounted to 20,520,186 barrels (20,232,541 barrels in 1946); of asphalt 87,346 tons (93,851 tons in 1946).

Lord Listowel in West Indies

The Earl of Listowel, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, left London by air on October 1st for a tour lasting about two months of the British Caribbean colonies. His tour will include visits to the Bahamas, Jamaica, British Honduras, Trinidad, British Guiana, Barbados, the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands.

Lord Listowel will preside over a Conference of the Governors of the Caribbean colonies to be held at Barbados from November 7th—12th.

Miss Carmen Peterkin, a Ranger captain from Georgetown, British Guiana, has arrived in London for a six months Guiders' course. She hopes to qualify to train Guide companies in the West Indies. She is the guest of the British Council.

Publications Received

Fire, Overseas Edition, 1949. Features a salute to British Fire Services overseas from the Fire Service of the United Kingdom, conveyed by Firemaster Martin Chadwick of Glasgow. Is a directory of overseas fire services, and includes particulars of those in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad.

Wine and Spirit Trade Record, Vol. 78, No. 905, September 16th, 1949. Gives particulars of a revised issue of the Australian Customs Tariff which contains certain additional items. Under the heading General Tariff Rates these include: Rum, pure—not exceeding proof per gall., £3 9s. 6d., exceeding proof per proof gall., £3 9s. 6d.; Rum, blended—n.e. proof per gall., £3 10s. 6d., ex. proof per proof gall., £3 10s. 6d.; Bitters—n.e. proof per gall., £3 12s. 6d., ex. proof per proof gall., £3 12s. 6d.; Liqueurs—n.e. proof per gall., £3 9s. 6d., ex. proof per proof gall., £3 9s. 6d.

Tariff ratings formerly shown as "intermediate" are changed to "most-favoured-nation."

A new rating named "special" has been introduced. It applies to wet goods from British countries, and is levied in respect of rum, pure and blended; bitters and liqueurs. The rates are the same as for the British Preferential tariff, which remains unchanged.

Proceedings of the 1948 Meeting of British West Indies Sugar Technologists. 144 representatives attended the 1948 meeting held in Barbados, and the report of the proceedings, as usual, is full of matters of interest to the technical man. A particularly suggestive paper is that by Mr. R. F. Imes of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica), Ltd., on plant analysis in relation to the nutrition of sugar-cane.

The West Indian Review, August 27th, 1949. Among the interesting articles in this issue is one by Orford St. John on the beauty of trees. Mr. St. John places the following as the six most beautiful trees to be found in Jamaica, in order of merit: bamboo, willow fig, oticte apple, star apple, guango, almond.

Jamaica Department of Agriculture, Extension Circulars, No. 22. *Tomato Pests and Their Control*, by W. H. Edwards. Notes for the small grower on control of the common pests of tomato plants and tomatoes in Jamaica. No. 23, *Rat Control*, by W. K. Mitchell. Taking as his motto "The only good rat is a dead rat," the author gives advice on trapping and on setting poison baits for the pests.

The Geographical Magazine, Vol. XXII, No. 5, September, 1949. Sir Harry Luke contributes to this issue an article entitled *The West Indies since the Moyne Report* in which he surveys developments which have taken place in the British West Indies since the publication of the report of the Royal Commission of 1938-39.

Included among the illustrations are Kodachromes by Mr. Hugh Paget, a former member of the secretariat of the West India Committee.

Engineering Industries Association Classified Directory, second edition, June, 1949. A complete record of the members of the association and their products at December 31st, 1948. An inset supplement gives

particulars of 56 member firms who have joined the association since January 1st, 1949.

Brief Sketch of British Honduras, new and revised edition, 1948. Mr. A. H. Anderson, District Commissioner, El Cayo, has prepared a third revision of this useful handbook. The new format is slightly larger, and this has permitted the inclusion of more details and several new items, while the trade statistics and general information have been brought more up-to-date. The map has been improved, with contours and boundaries printed in colour, and a number of illustrations have been added.

Essays and Fables in the Vernacular, by Michael McTurk, C.M.G. (Quow). No. 14 in the British Guiana *Daily Chronicle's* Guiana edition of reprints and original works dealing with all phases of life in British Guiana. \$2.40. First published in 1899, this new edition of McTurk's collection is a notable addition to the series.

Canadian Trade Index, 1949. The new edition of this year book, published by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Inc., of Toronto, includes particulars of over 10,000 Canadian manufacturers with addresses, branches, export representatives, trade marks and brands; a directory of exporters of agricultural and allied produce; a special export section giving information on government and trade services, finance, controls, etc.; and indices in French and Spanish as well as English to the classified lists of producers and manufacturers.

Education of Colonial Peoples

AT the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the education section devoted the afternoon of September 2nd to the consideration of objectives in the education of colonial peoples.

A résumé of the discussion given in *Nature* (September 24th) brings out the fact that it was focused mainly on two points, the lack in the colonies of economic resources for development, and the means of bringing about closer social contacts between the colonial peoples and the people of Britain.

Mr. W. E. F. Ward, deputy educational adviser to the Colonial Office, opened the session, and expressed the opinion that as responsible government is an accepted aim of British colonial policy, education must be planned with this in view; it must be recognized as an instrument of social change, and must make its contribution towards the solution of social and political problems. A Nigerian spokesman defined the main objectives in colonial education as an attack on ignorance, poverty, malnutrition and disease, and rural squalor; he wanted a campaign of mass education. It was agreed that educational development is essential for economic progress, while the opinion was expressed that rapid industrialization might be too dearly bought at the price of disintegration of the old social system.

The intractability of the economic problem, and the difficulty of ensuring from colonial revenues the wherewithal to cover recurrent expenses, was a disturbing point revealed in the discussion.

St. Lucia in 1947

THE estimate of the population of St. Lucia at December 31st, 1947, which is given in the latest report,† is 81,143, of whom 39,787 are males and 41,356 females. This figure has been obtained by adding an estimated natural increase of 1,599 persons and an excess of 662 immigrants over emigrants to 78,882, the estimated population at December 31st, 1946. No reference is made to the census of 1946, which was shown in the last report to have disclosed figures out of agreement with the estimates. The number of inhabitants per square mile, based on the 1947 report on vital statistics, was 348.

Agricultural wage earners on the estates are estimated at 9,500. There were 4,000 peasant proprietors, and 1,750 found full-time employment in fishing. Manufacturing industries employed 2,800 persons, and 1,020 were engaged in cottage industries. Land transport gave full time work to 400 employees, and an average of 600 found casual employment on the waterfront, etc. The wholesale and retail trades absorbed 1,200 workers, domestic service 2,300. Government projects provided employment for 550 unskilled workers, and 350 persons were employees at the U.S. base.

Orders in Council during the year granted cost-of-living bonuses which increased the minimum wage for an eight-hour day to 3s. 0d. for male agricultural workers, and 2s. 3d. for females. The statutory minimum wage for shop assistants remained the same as in 1946, as did the wages of skilled workers but for certain increases granted to semi-skilled government employees in the telephone and survey departments. An appendix sets out the wages and hours of work, and salaries, of different classes of workers in detail. The official cost-of-living index figure for December, 1947 was 227, as compared with 199 in December, 1946.

The two trade unions continued in existence, with a total membership increased to 6,360, and both negotiated successfully for wage increases during the year. There were also two occupational organizations—a Civil Service Association and a Teachers' Union—both as yet unregistered as trade unions, and during the year the Government granted approval for the establishment of a Whitley Council for civil servants.

Local revenue in 1946 was £252,600 and local expenditure £229,381, the corresponding figures for 1945 being £226,885 and £210,904. The contribution from Colonial Development and Welfare funds in 1946 was £105,786, and expenditure on that account £78,812. The Public Debt at December 31st, 1946 remained unchanged at £122,446.

The value of agricultural exports continued to rise, and attained the sum of £247,047 in 1947, against an amended figure of £156,701 for 1946.

Sugar production was 6,164 tons against 5,700 tons in 1946, the quantities of cane milled being 62,996 tons and 52,687 tons respectively, and extraction rates one ton of sugar from 10.41 and 19.43 tons of cane. The average yield per acre in 1947 was 28.64 tons of cane. Exports of raw sugar in 1947 totalled 4,615 tons, valued at £99,647, against 4,234 tons valued at £76,212

in 1946. There was an increase in the quantity of molasses produced during the year from 228,070 gallons in 1946 to 312,489 gallons, though exports were still negligible. Rum produced totalled 103,830 proof gallons, as compared with 84,800 proof gallons in the previous year. Only 13,431 proof gallons were exported, bringing in £1,872; the remainder was consumed locally.

The increased production of coco-nuts continued, a large proportion of the products being disposed of to Barbados for processing, the value of these exports being £63,700 as compared with £61,230 in 1946. Two privately owned factories produced 46,500 gallons of oil in 1947, but the proposed copra factory had not yet materialized.

Better prices for cocoa permitted the undertaking of some arrears of cultivation, and assistance was obtained under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for the establishment of a cocoa propagation centre. Exports were 7,726 cwt. valued at £66,374 against 2,780 cwt. valued at £7,738 in 1946.

The value of exports of lime products decreased from £4,823 in 1946 to £2,340 in 1947. This decline is attributed entirely to the "dying out" of lime trees.

In the latter part of the year the banana trade was resumed but on a small scale, exports totalling 1,511 bunches valued at £304. In 1938 banana exports were 100,726 bunches valued at £13,568. With resumption of the trade at good prices agriculturists were anxious to rehabilitate their fields, but lack of healthy planting material proved a drawback.

Implements for mechanical cultivation were introduced into the island during the year, and some 50 acres of thickly wooded land were cleared and partly cultivated. Exports of forest products increased in value from £11,582 in 1946 to £12,380 in 1947. These included 177,598 bags of charcoal, valued at £11,121.

West Indian Sugar Production

The following figures of British West Indian sugar production in 1948 and 1949 have been received from the British West Indies Sugar Association (Inc.).

	1948	1949
	(long tons of sugar)	
Antigua	12,174	18,000*
Barbados	78,226	152,731
British Guiana	172,991	184,500*
Jamaica	192,814	236,145*
St. Kitts	31,393	35,667
St. Lucia	9,270	9,200*
Trinidad	115,941	159,032
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	612,809	795,275

* Estimated.

The Barbados figures include fancy molasses equated on the basis of 330 wine gallons to one ton sugar.

Preliminary estimates of sugar production in 1950 are: Jamaica, 255,650 tons; Trinidad, 154,000 tons.

The Jamaica Finance Board, according to a Press telegram, have forbidden any resident of a hard currency country to buy property in the island without permission.

† Colonial Annual Reports. *St. Lucia*, 1947. H.M.S.O., 1949. Price 2s. net.

Customs Tariff Amendments

Barbados. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1949, effective from June 7th, 1949, provides for the following addition to the Second Schedule (Exemptions from Import Duties) of the Barbados Customs Tariff: "Machinery and apparatus imported for the purpose of irrigating agricultural land on a certificate to that effect of the owner or occupier, or the duly authorized agent of the owner or occupier, of such land."

St. Kitts. Statutory Rule and Order No. 2 of 1949 provides for the following amendments to the St. Christopher and Nevis Customs Tariff, with effect from May 5th, 1949: *Item No. 63*: Milk. (a) Condensed or otherwise preserved containing not less than 7 per cent of butter fat, per 48 lb., 24 cents (full tariff), free (preferential tariff). (b) ditto, containing less than 7 per cent of butter fat, per 48 lb., 24 cents (full tariff), free (preferential tariff). (c) Other kinds, 5 per cent *ad valorem* (full tariff), free (preferential tariff).

Jamaica. Customs Tariff Resolution (No. 3), 1949 provides for the following amendments to the customs tariff, effective from May 25th, 1949: *Item 1*: Alcohol, spirits and intoxicating liquor; (1) (a) Ale, stout, porter, beer, cider and perry except as provided in sub-head (b) preferential tariff 6s. 10½d. per gallon, general tariff 8s. 6d. per gallon; (2) (a) Brandy, whisky, gin and rum imported in bottle and accepted by the Collector of Customs as not exceeding 80 per cent proof spirit, preferential tariff £4 10s. 0d. per liquid gallon, general tariff £5 18s. 0d. per liquid gallon; (2) (b) Brandy, whisky, gin and rum imported otherwise than in bottle or exceeding 80 per cent proof spirit, preferential tariff £5 12s. 6d. per proof gallon, general tariff £7 2s. 6d. per proof gallon; (3) Bitters, liqueurs and cordials, including flavouring extracts: all kinds, containing 40 per cent proof spirit or over, preferential tariff £5 12s. 6d. per liquid gallon, general tariff £7 2s. 6d. per liquid gallon.

Customs Tariff Resolution (No. 4), 1949, provides for the duty free entrance into Jamaica of badges and relief supplies, which shall include medical supplies, foodstuffs and sundry other goods imported by the Jamaica Branch of the British Red Cross Society, effective from May 25th, 1949.

Import Licensing Department

Change of Address

As from Monday, September 19th, 1949, the staffs of the Import Licensing Department, Board of Trade, were transferred from Regent Street, W.1, to Romney House, Tufton Street, Westminster, London, W.1. (Telephone number, Abbey 9080).

The machinery section of the Department (and the staff dealing with E.R.P. claims) continue to be housed at 91, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

In order to prevent illegal dealings in dollars, a censorship of letters, similar to that in force during the war, has been imposed in Jamaica. Four ex-Government officers have been appointed to do the work.

Paper Bags for Sugar

THE August issue of *The Canada-West Indies Magazine* gives extracts from a treatise prepared for the Taiwan Sugar Corporation of China, on the use of multiwall paper bags in the shipment of sugar.

First attempts to introduce the multiwall valve bag for packing sugar were unsuccessful, not because of any defect in the bag itself, but because the filling machine at first used did not meet the requirements. However, about 1931 two large Pacific Coast refineries adopted the open-mouth multiwall bag as a liner for their cotton or burlap bags, and the protection afforded against penetration of moisture and contamination by dust, dirt, liquids and moulds proved entirely satisfactory.

After the first bag-filling machine was developed, the next step was to replace the jute-or-cotton-paper combination with a sugar container consisting of paper only. A five-ply bag was evolved, strong enough to meet all requirements as a sugar container, in addition to its protective advantages, with a saving of cost, since when there has been a steady replacement of the open-mouth bag by the multiwall paper valve bag, filled by automatic packaging equipment. Figures quoted for bags of 25 lb. capacity and over show that the number of paper bags used in the sugar industry in the United States has trebled in the last five years. In 1943 the number was 54,488,800, and in 1947 had risen to 162,410,000.

Tests with these bags have shown that sugar may be packed at a temperature as high as 155°F.; that it may be stored in the bags for more than twelve months; and that there should be no trouble from hot packed sugar sweating in the bag when placed in high piles, if the sugar when packed contains 0.25 per cent of moisture or less.

One large company—the Michigan Sugar Company of the United States—has stated that with the use of multiwall paper bags and automatic filling equipment costs of labour and material for bagging have been reduced by 58 per cent.

West Indian Club

First Honorary Member

Mr. G. J. Dent, M.B.E., has become the first honorary member of the West Indian Club under an additional by-law recently adopted which empowers the management committee to elect as honorary members persons who, in the opinion of the committee, merit that consideration.

Mr. Dent, who has been acting honorary secretary of the club since the death in 1941 of Captain F. F. C. Messum, was elected honorary secretary at the same meeting of the committee, which took place on September 14th, 1949.

Mr. Duncan George Stewart, who was Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas from 1944 to 1947, has been appointed Governor of Sarawak. He succeeds Sir Charles Clarke whose appointment as Governor of the Gold Coast was announced recently.



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

RACING. Writing from St. John's on September 22nd, our correspondent, Miss Helen Goodwin, says: "The Antigua Turf Club held its autumn meeting on September 8th; it was attended by the Governor and the Administrator. The Derby Cup was won outright by Dr. A. W. Lake, and goes to St. Kitts. Won also by a St. Kitts' horse was the Mount-gay Cup, which will be held by Mr. W. E. Walwyn; but Mrs. Moody Stuart again holds the Lavington Cup, won for the fourth time in succession by her popular favourite 'The Clipper.' Mr. C. E. De Freitas was the winner of the Brown and Company Cup.

Rainfall. "We have been extraordinarily lucky in having heavy pond rains during September without danger of hurricane. One depression actually formed directly over this island. The rainfall to date at Agricultural Station at Friars Hill for September is 10.40 in.; for the year to the end of August is 31.13 in. Our water difficulties are over for the present, and the young crop looks healthy. But for the alarming news of the devaluation of the pound sterling, Antigua would be a cheerful and happy place. Good rains make a vast difference in our outlook.

Tennis Champion. "We are very proud of Mr. Ian McDonald's success in the inter-colonial lawn tennis tournament held in British Guiana where, at 16 years of age, he won the men's singles championship. Mr. McDonald played for Trinidad, but he is the grandson of Dr. and Mrs. W. McDonald, of Antigua.

Steel Band Competition. "At a gathering of the local steel bands on the Antigua Recreation Grounds, the Governor stated that these bands had improved beyond recognition during the year, and offered a prize of a large and beautiful banner for annual competition. The winning band this year rejoices in the name of 'Hell's Gate' and wears a smart uniform of black and white, decorated with their badge of a skull and crossed bones. There were six entries for the competition, and all were escorted through the streets by large and enthusiastic crowds."

Good Rains. A correspondent, in a letter from St. John's of September 14th, says: "This month commenced with heavy downpours of rain. In some districts the rainfall was over 10 inches and many streams overflowed their banks. Pastures, dry and almost bare a few weeks ago, are now green and luxuriant. In spite of all the rain, however, the heat continues to be most oppressive.

Sugar and Cotton. "The 1949 sugar crop ended with 18,262.97 tons. The crop dragged out over 26 weeks during which the factory lost 973.11 hours out of cane. Estate and peasant lands alike are being extensively cultivated for the planting of cotton and

should the weather continue to be favourable, this year's crop will be bigger than the last.

General. "The annual meeting of B.W.I. Sugar Technologists is scheduled to commence here on the 27th inst., and will be held at the Mill Reef Club which has been very kindly placed at the disposal of the Antigua Sugar Association (Inc.) by its board of governors. It is expected that over 60 visitors from other West Indian islands will attend."

BARBADOS

Shipping. Miss Joan Kysh, secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee, in a letter dated September 1st, says: "In the near future Barbados will be included as a regular port of call on the outward run in the Surinam service of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co. The frigate H.M.S. *Bigbury Bay* visited Barbados from August 8th-17th.

Racing. "The mid-summer meeting of the Barbados Turf Club was held at the Garrison Savannah on August 1st, 4th and 6th. This meeting was attended by large and enthusiastic crowds. The record first prize of the Barbados Turf Club Sweep was \$32,164.

General News. "Government has decided that Barbados shall not adhere to the Caribbean Tourism Interim Committee, which held its first meeting in Trinidad at the beginning of August. Robert Thom, Ltd., have been appointed as passenger sales agent for Trans-Canada Air Lines in addition to Gardiner Austin & Co., Ltd.

"A large crowd attended the dance-cabaret fashion parade in aid of the Royal and Merchant Naval Welfare League, which was held at the Marine Hotel on August 20th."

BRITISH GUIANA

Trade Commissioner in U.K. A correspondent writing from Georgetown, on September 16th, says: "The council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce has approved the establishment of a West Indies Trade Commissioner Service in the United Kingdom; the annual cost to the colony is estimated at £5,070.

Anglican Convent. "The corner stone of the Convent of the Good Shepherd, the first Anglican convent to be built in the colony, was laid on August 21st by the Bishop of Guiana. The estimated cost of the building is \$90,000. His Lordship will be visiting Jamaica during September in order to consult with the Archbishop of the West Indies whose resignation as Primate takes place on September 30th. The Bishop of Guiana, as senior bishop in the West Indies, will be taking over the jurisdiction of the affairs of the Arch-episcopal See until a new archbishop is enthroned.

Labour Troubles. "A strike of three weeks duration at Pln. Wales, West Bank, Demerara, has just terminated. The strike began with porters in the

sugar factory but spread to all factory employees and then to cane cutters. The owners of the estate closed down the plantation after the strike had been in force for a week explaining that they could not afford to continue operation until a minimum number of employees signified their intention of returning to work. The workers' grievances will be discussed now that work has been resumed.

Boy Scouts. "The two recent visits to the colony of Mr. F. H. J. Dahl, travelling commissioner from imperial headquarters in the United Kingdom, have done a great deal to rouse enthusiasm both within and without the scout movement."

BRITISH HONDURAS

Evans Report. Captain M. S. Metzgen, in a letter from Belize, dated August 27th, says: "At a combined meeting of the Executive and the Legislative Councils the Evans Report was considered; and subsequently the Governor appointed the British Honduras Development Board consisting of the Governor, the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary and six others. The Board have recommended to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the following preliminary schemes:—

- (a) Tobacco experiment, Orange Walk.
- (b) Construction of feeder roads to arable lands.
- (c) Survey of the Stann Creek—Cayo Road.

Trade Dispute. "There has been a dispute between the Workers' Union and the management of the Corozal Sugar Factory; and the Governor has appointed a board of inquiry to investigate the matter.

Drought. "The prolonged drought which has affected the whole of central America as well as almost all tropical countries has seriously affected the economy of British Honduras. Rain, however, has recently fallen and crops and pastures have shown a little revival. All planters have suffered—pastures have dried up and crops failed. Chicle operations are practically paralysed on account of lack of rain. There will be shortage of corn and ground provisions this year.

Unemployment. "Unemployment situation is steadily deteriorating and there was recently a demonstration to Government House headed by the members of the Ex-Service Men's League. The matter is receiving the serious and sympathetic attention of the Government. Relief work has been started.

Rice. "British Honduras has wonderful potentialities for the cultivation of rice along modern lines and investigation is going on at present by the Director of Agriculture and Mr. Gerald Lacey, formerly chief engineer, public works department, India.

Ferry. "A ferry has been established at Santa Elena on the Rio Hondo in the Corozal district linking this colony with Mexico. It is, therefore, now possible to travel by road from Belize to Chetumal and other places in Mexico.

Hawkesworth's Bridge. "The Governor, Mr. Ronald H. Garvey, on August 22nd, in the presence of a large number of people, opened the new bridge which spans the Belize River at El Cayo. It was named Hawkesworth's Bridge in memory of the late Sir Gerald Hawkesworth, who was a short time ago governor of the colony and recently died in London. The bridge is

480 feet long and cost approximately \$200,000. This is one of the schemes made possible by the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund; and the project is the final link between Belize and the western border adjoining the department of Peten in the Republic of Guatemala."

DOMINICA

Banana Exports. Writing from Roseau, on August 31st, a correspondent signing himself "Wintergreen" says: "The Belgian Fruit Line steamers have now lifted bananas to Antwerp, Le Havre and Dublin by three of their fast little steamers and Dominica is feeling the beneficial effects of this revival in the export of fruit. Labour troubles looked like appearing in the loading of the third steamer but happily they were avoided.

Hydro-electric Plant. "Officials of the Colonial Development Corporation (West Indies) Ltd., are here in Roseau getting out the particulars of the new hydro-electric station. The project appears to be still on paper and the Corporation would do well to hurry the work forward. The unit tariff appears a high one but we are assured that the aim of the Corporation will always be to reduce the tariff—if it can.

Export Facilities. "The locally owned and built motor vessel *Goodwill* has been subsidized to make a periodical round of the island collecting bananas and also maintain a weekly service to Barbados, which is our principal outlet for fruit and other products. The whole export trade of Dominica is somewhat hampered by the scarcity of shipping. Merchants have at times to ship via Barbados to United Kingdom and with the carrying-past Dominica of cargo for the island, great inconvenience is caused to the commercial community; drafts for payment arrive before the goods and cargo disappears en route or in Trinidad."

GRENADA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *September 8th.*

A Jamaica goodwill mission of 21 businessmen, lawyers and editors, headed by Mr. G. M. Da Costa, arrived on September 5th via Trinidad and was met at the airport by representatives of the Grenada Chamber of Commerce. A special general meeting of the Chamber was convened yesterday at which a formal welcome was extended to them. The delegation was entertained at a cocktail party yesterday afternoon, which was attended by the acting Governor, Mr. G. C. Green, Mrs. Green and the Chief Justice.

TRINIDAD

Sir John Shaw made his last formal appearance as Governor of the colony at an investiture ceremony held at Government House on September 2nd. This was the first occasion during his term of office that the ceremony had been held at Government House, but Sir John explained that he wished to make as many presentations as possible before his departure later in the month.

After congratulating the recipients of awards Sir John said "good-bye and good fortune" to the rest of the assembly.

High tribute has been paid to Sir John from all quarters in Trinidad. Mr. Eric Grell has testified to his

"almost embarrassing" co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce on matters affecting trade and commerce. Other compliments have been that he is the greatest governor Trinidad has ever had, that his retirement at this time is an almost irreparable loss to the colony, and that he lived to govern and not merely governed to live.

Lady Shaw, who always played an important role in social activities, was highly praised by the country folk. She was described as a perfect woman nobly planned.

At the fifth annual Youth Congress on September 11th the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Council unanimously adopted a resolution recording the Council's appreciation of the services rendered to the youth of the colony by Sir John and Lady Shaw.

Hurricane Hits Tobago. Damage estimated to be in the vicinity of \$250,000 was caused when the tail-end of a storm struck Tobago on September 1st. There was extensive damage to crops, houses, roads and bridges, two bridges in the Windward district being swept away by the swollen rivers.

Members of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council visited Tobago on September 9th, and the Financial Secretary, the Hon. A. R. W. Robertson, stated that government was considering the question of rendering assistance.

The Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago has obtained a loan of \$300,000 from Government, to be repaid within ten years.

This sum is to be spent, stated Mr. Frank Allan, manager, on September 12th, on improving the plant and buildings. One \$50,000 packing unit, which will increase by 100 per cent the capacity of the packing shed, has already been purchased, and \$28,000 has been spent on two automatic juicing machines and various items of equipment.

Youth Council. At the fifth annual Youth Congress held on September 11th, Miss Doreen Hamilton, Social Welfare Officer, was elected chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Council.

Increase in Rice Ration. Mr. L. Spence, Controller of Imports and Exports, disclosed on September 7th that the weekly rice ration in the colony was to be increased from three-quarters of a lb. to one lb. from September 11th, as a temporary measure, which it was anticipated would be discontinued in the middle of December.

Visit of Jamaica Businessmen. Twenty-one Jamaica businessmen, who are on a goodwill tour of the Caribbean, arrived in Trinidad on September 2nd. They were welcomed at a meeting on the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce on September 5th by Mr. Eric Grell, president.

Coco-nuts for U.K.

With effect from September 6th, 1949, fresh coco-nuts in shell may be imported into the United Kingdom from Ceylon and the British West African colonies under open general licence, subject to the condition that a claim to imperial preference is established in respect of any duty of Customs to which the goods as a whole may be liable on importation into the United Kingdom.

Company Reports and Meetings

Booker Bros. McConnell and Co., Ltd.

The directors, in their report for the year ended December 31st, 1948, state that the profit, after making provision for taxation, amounts to £157,162, which, less the expenses of issue of 3½ per cent 10-year notes, amounting to £7,825, leaves £149,337. From this is deducted £18,334 for preference dividends, less tax, and £14,816 for an interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 2½ per cent, free of tax. The proposed final dividend on the ordinary shares (including a dividend on £115,000 of ordinary capital issued since the date of the accounts) of 5 per cent, with a bonus of 3½ per cent, both free of tax, absorbs £55,568 and leaves a balance of £60,619. From this a sum of £60,000 is transferred to general and contingencies reserve, leaving £619, to which is added the amount brought forward of £48,775, making a total of £49,394 to be carried forward.

Mr. A. F. V. McCONNELL, the chairman, in a statement which accompanies the report, deals at length with the accounts and the capital structure of the company. Explaining a net advance to subsidiary companies of nearly £650,000, the chairman states that the increase is due principally to the greater quantity of produce on hand at the end of the year; to the extensive programme of exceptional work being carried out on the sugar estates; and to expenditure upon the new ship *Amakura*.

The company, adds the chairman, is operating on overdrafts larger than the board think altogether desirable and that, coupled with a comparatively small programme of capital expansion which it wishes to undertake in the company's central African business, might justify an increase in permanent capital when market conditions allow.

Mr. McConnell continues:—

"The year 1948 has been a difficult one, both on the sugar estates and in our general commercial undertakings. Taking our sugar estates first, output of sugar was 120,000 tons, as against 117,500 tons during the previous 12 months—a not unsatisfactory result considering unfavourable weather conditions for the spring crop and the six months' strike on the east coast which caused the loss of some 6,000 tons of sugar. This strike, as you know, led to the appointment of a commission of inquiry under the chairmanship of Dr. Venn, of Queens' College, Cambridge, to inquire into and report on the organization of the sugar industry in British Guiana, with particular reference to means of production, wages and working conditions, and any other relevant matters; and to make recommendations. I understand that the commission's report is now in the hands of the printers, and it may well be published at about the same time as these accounts. Your directors can have nothing to fear from it; indeed, they believe that a full and impartial statement of the position of the sugar industry in British Guiana will do great good.

"The sugar industry is, as you know, the social and economic foundation of the colony. Its prosperity, and thus the prosperity of British Guiana and its peoples, depends upon three main factors: first, the efficiency of the industry; secondly, the price paid for its products; and, thirdly, the human relationships within the industry and within the colony.

"You already know that we are doing everything within our power to achieve maximum efficiency for the industry and to expand production.

SUGAR PRICES

"As regards the second factor—the price paid for our products—the position is that in 1948 the price of export sugar was increased by a net figure of about £2 16s. per ton over what we received in 1947. In 1949, however, a sound case for a further increase was rejected by the British Ministry of Food, the buyer. Production costs, however, continued to rise owing to ever-increasing prices of imports from the United Kingdom. Moreover the value of and demand for our by-products has decreased very sharply.

"You may have seen in the Press that British West Indian sugar producers have been representing to his Majesty's Government the need to secure the future. During July and August two delegations visited this country to give powerful support to these representations, one with the mandate of the Jamaica Government, led by the Attorney-General, supported by Mr. Bustamante, Mr. Henriques, and Mr. Barker; the other from the British West Indies Sugar Association, under the chairman-

slip of Mr. Harold Robinson, chairman of that association. Two trades union leaders from British Guiana, Mr. Thorne and Mr. Edun, also came over and did valuable work in the same cause.

H.M. GOVERNMENT'S DECLARATION

"The West India Committee have participated actively throughout all these prolonged negotiations—negotiations which culminated in the publication on August 10th of a communiqué which is so important a declaration that I quote it in full.*

SECURITY OF THE SUGAR PRODUCER

"It is true that this is essentially a declaration of principle, but if, as we are sure, it has been made in good faith, the final negotiations when they take place in the autumn should be conducted in an atmosphere and against a background which will ensure to British West Indian sugar producers the real security which they justifiably seek and without which the colonies where they operate will be devastated by social and economic disintegration. It is also true that His Majesty's Government have at this stage not found themselves in a position to discuss the length of term which the proposed arrangements should cover. I am satisfied, however, that producers will be able to convince those concerned that 10 years is the shortest period to be of real value.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS—EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE HARMONY

"The third factor is the all-important question of human relationships in British Guiana and in the sugar industry and they present probably the most difficult problem which we have to face. There are three parties directly involved—Government, labour and the sugar industry.

"On the part of the industry much has been done, is being done and will continue to be done to improve the conditions of our workers. I must confess, however, that there exists in the colony an atmosphere of suspicion of our motives and even of hostility which often depreciates if it does not actually thwart our efforts and our aspirations. This atmosphere is generated not by our own employees but by certain sections of the general community, including, I regret to have to say, some Government officials. For the good of British Guiana it is essential that this atmosphere be dispelled and towards this end it has been decided to appoint for the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association a full-time manager of high calibre. This important post was offered to and has been accepted by Mr. W. A. Macnie, colonial secretary of the Leeward Islands. Mr. Macnie, who was born in British Guiana, is a colonial officer of wide experience who has served with distinction in his motherland and elsewhere.

"The working population have for their part made further welcome strides towards organizing themselves. The recent visit to this country on their own initiative of two leading trades unionists in connexion with sugar negotiations was an impressive and significant event.

"Government by means of legislation and at times exhortation have striven to achieve a happier relationship.

"None of these endeavours, however, can independently achieve that relationship without which the colony can never prosper. We all wish to make British Guiana a place fit for all its people to live and work in, in the greatest attainable degree of prosperity, happiness, and freedom, but we shall surely fail unless we all strive in concert to that goal—unless every one concerned believes that 'we are all in the same boat'; unless, in short, we all of us realize the identity of our interests.

REPLACEMENT COSTS

"Finally, on the subject of sugar I must tell you that our sugar companies did not as a whole show profits in 1948—their expenditure in fact exceeded their revenue.

"Turning to our general commercial undertakings, here again, as I have told you, we have had a difficult year and our difficulties have arisen largely from a decrease in gross profit margins forced upon us as a result of Government action. I can only say that traders generally in Georgetown are considering putting before Government, and if necessary the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a full case supporting revision of these profit margins.

"Since the beginning of this year we have agreed with the Colonial Development Corporation to sell them our timber company. The price obtained was fair to both buyer and seller and we are satisfied that the sale is in the best interests of British Guiana and of Bookers. The acquisition of Bookers Timber

Company by the Colonial Development Corporation will enable them to integrate their interests in the timber undertakings of the colony and will facilitate the plans they envisage for the ordered expansion of the timber industry. We, for our part, enjoy the most cordial relations with the Corporation and have undertaken to step back into the industry when the time is ripe and provided any proposition put up by them to us is in our view a sound commercial undertaking. In Trinidad, Stephens, Ltd., have once more proved a most valuable unit in the group.

AFRICA

"Our Central African Subsidiary Group, of which Campbell Bros., Carter & Co. (Central Africa) Limited is the parent, had a very satisfactory trading year in 1948. This group of companies, under the most able and energetic leadership of a magnificent team, continues to make good progress and we are more than ever pleased with the success of our large-scale incursion into the wholesale and retail trading business in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland. Indeed, the trading results achieved not only by our recent Central African Group but also by their old and well-established progenitor, Campbell Bros., Carter & Co. Limited, London, have been responsible for the fact that the trading profits of Bookers as a whole are as satisfactory as they are in the light of the difficult conditions in British Guiana during 1948.

UNITED KINGDOM

"Our London and Liverpool branches, together with our Steamship Company, have made an encouraging showing during 1948. Our new ship, the *Amakura*, was launched on March 2 this year and we are proud once more to have two vessels running on the only direct service between the United Kingdom and British Guiana, particularly at a time when shortage of British passenger services is causing such intense anxiety throughout the West Indies.

"It is too early to tell you more than you already know about our latest subsidiary, United Rum Shippers, Limited, although we hope that their acquisition will make a substantial contribution towards solving the problems created by the very greatly reduced demand for the by-products of the sugar industry.

CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE

"The future undoubtedly holds great difficulties for our company, as it holds difficulties for everybody else in the world as it is today. Profits will be harder to earn and I am certainly not going to indulge in optimism. Nevertheless, we face the future with confidence for the diversity of our interests and the wide spread of our operations give breadth and strength to the foundation of our structure, as indeed the results of 1948 have proved.

"Before thanking the management and staff of our companies for the fine contribution they have made to our working during 1948, your board would like to pay tribute to the Colonial Office, with whom the nature of our business brings us inevitably into regular contact.

"Much criticism is levelled nowadays at Government departments and their so-called bureaucrats. I and my colleagues can say in all sincerity that in the Colonial Office we find men of great ability and vision who are prepared at all times to discuss our many problems with us and to give invaluable assistance and advice where it is possible and proper for them to do so. Mr. Creech Jones as head of the Colonial Office is a true friend of colonial peoples."

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of August production of crude oil and casing head gasoline amounted to 254,723 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the five weeks ended August 1st was 416,493 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for August was 253,575 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of August crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 532,303 barrels.

*[Not quoted here—See the CIRCULAR for August, p. 202.—Ed.]

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions, transfers and new appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

ARCHER, V. A. A. (Lecturer, Department of Science and Agriculture, Barbados), Headmaster, Dominica Grammar School.

BRAITHWAITE, J. A. M. (Labour Officer, Trinidad), Deputy Commissioner of Labour, Trinidad.

BROWNE, H. R. E. (Deputy Colonial Secretary, Jamaica), Administrative Officer, Class I.

CARTMELL, J. (Senior Assistant Auditor, Trinidad), Principal Auditor, Mauritius.

DUKE, E. M. (Solicitor General, British Guiana), Fifth Puisne Judge, Trinidad.

FITZWILLIAM, G. C. H. (Assessor Grade 1, Inland Revenue Department, Trinidad), Second Assistant Secretary, Inland Revenue Department, Trinidad.

FRAMPTON, A. de K. (State Agricultural Officer, Federation of Malaya), Agricultural Adviser, Development and Welfare Organization, West Indies.

GRELL, E. H. A. (Assistant Superintendent of Police, Leeward Islands), Assistant Federal Labour Officer, Leeward Islands.

HANSCHALL, D. M. (Botanist, Barbados), Sugar Agronomist, Trinidad.

HENDERSON, G. (Deputy Director of Works and Hydraulics, Trinidad), Engineering Specialist (Water and Sewage), Tanganyika.

HOCIOV, S. (Deputy Industrial Adviser, Trinidad), Commissioner of Labour, Trinidad.

NEISH, D. G. (Superintendent of Police, Jamaica), Superintendent of Police, Trinidad.

ROVES, O. M. (Assistant Statistician, Jamaica), Island Statistician, Jamaica.

New Appointments

LOW, K. N. H., M.B., Medical Officer, British Guiana.

PRICE, P. J., Chief Architect, Works and Hydraulics Department, Trinidad.

Sea Island Cotton

Attached to the report of the administrative council of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation for 1949 are the following figures of production of cotton in the West Indies from 1938 to 1948 inclusive.

Year	Bales of 400 lb.	Year	Bales of 400 lb.
1938	6,196	1944	4,099
1939	5,636	1945	4,525
1940	8,492	1946	3,762
1941	9,312	1947	2,573
1942	7,450	1948	3,963
1943	4,555		

Bahamas Sponges

Prior to 1940 the Bahamas sponge industry gave employment to more than 6,000 persons, but early in that year the gathering of sponges was prohibited on account of a fungus disease.

The beds were reopened on a reduced scale during the periods November, 1946 to July, 1947 and April to July, 1948. During the latter period of four months approximately 9,800 lb. of sponges were harvested, of which 6,000 lb. were reef and glove, 1,600 lb. sheeps-wool, and 1,200 lb. grass sponges. The remainder were hardhead and yellow sponges, the velvet species being reported to be extinct.

West Indian Passenger List

Booker Line

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. Arakaka (Captain J. McIntyre), at Liverpool, September 9th:—

Mr. J. D. Adamson	Dr. & Mrs. J. Clavina	Mr. C. H. Norton
Mr. & Mrs. D. Faishawe	Dr. & Mrs. J. Jewell	Mr. R. C. Outridge
Miss W. Faishawe	Mr. A. Morrison	Mrs. A. M. Potts

Sailings to British Guiana, in s.s. Arakaka (Captain J. McIntyre), from Liverpool, September 22nd:—

Miss A. P. Ashbee	Miss P. G. Grant	Mr. A. H. Mattock
Mr. H. R. Harwell	Miss A. Hope	Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Scargall
Mr. C. A. Burton	Ms. M. Hope	Re. Rev. G. J. Weld
Mr. G. A. Dove	Mr. G. W. Keulo	

Fyffes Line

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Eros (Captain R. C. Vigurs), at London, September 5th:—

Hon. H. R. Browne	Miss I. Jackson	Mr. G. Palmer
Mrs. P. Browne	Rev. E. L. Langston	Dr. L. E. Wynter
Mrs. N. Collier	Mr. & Mrs. H. McLaren	Wedderburn
Mr. E. A. Eberlin	Major C. Minardi	Mr. G. A. Wollerstan
Mr. D. Henriques		

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), at Avonmouth, September 13th:—

Mr. J. C. Amor	Mr. J. A. Isaacs	Mr. & Mrs. B. Robinson
Mr. G. R. Andrews	Mr. H. G. Jacks	Mr. F. Robinson
Mr. W. H. Bailey	Mr. J. Jaues	Miss C. E. Robothom
Mr. K. Barton	Mr. & Mrs. C. Johnston	Miss W. Sadler
Mr. H. C. Cleaver	Mr. C. W. King	Mr. E. J. Selick
Mr. A. P. Clerk	Mr. R. Kings	Mr. & Mrs. R. Sherliker
Mr. J. H. Chatterback	Mr. C. C. Langford	Miss V. Sherliker
Mr. K. Cooksley	Mr. & Mrs. J. Laurie	Mr. U. Smart
Miss V. M. Cumming	Mr. T. P. Lawes	Mr. A. D. Smith
Miss S. Cunningham	Mr. T. Lecky	Mr. H. B. Stephenson
Mr. & Mrs. H. Dale	Miss B. Lloyd	Miss G. H. Swaby
Capt. G. Devine	Mr. D. E. Mason	Miss C. P. Tamer
Mr. K. J. Enderley	Miss O. McGuire	Mr. D. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. W. Fender	Mr. S. Mercer	Miss M. L. Thompson
Mr. A. J. Francisco	Mr. J. E. Mills	Mr. F. R. Tucker
Mr. R. A. Hutch	Miss R. Muirhead	Miss K. Vernon
Mrs. R. K. Hulme	Mr. G. Primes	Mr. W. J. West
Mr. & Mrs. F. Hunter	Mr. G. H. Pulman	Mr. J. S. Westcott
Mr. F. Hunter	Mr. M. L. Richardson	Mr. A. G. Wight

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Manistee (Captain H. J. Robinson), at London, September 23rd:—

Mrs. O. Bowen	Miss S. Douglas	Miss L. Sheriff
Mr. R. Burke	Mr. D. Ferguson	Mr. K. Williams
Mr. L. Coke	Miss M. Green	Miss K. Wint
Mr. & Mrs. DeLisser	Miss A. Oswin	

Jamaica Banana Producers' Steamship Co.

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Jamaica Producer (Captain G. E. Jenkins), from London, September 1st:—

Mr. & Mrs. J. Aitken	Mr. J. Hall	Miss V. Maslen
Miss L. Aitken	Miss C. Harvey	Mr. & Mrs. R. Murray
Miss E. Allan	Mr. & Mrs. R. Harvey	Mr. Parnell
Miss D. Door	Mr. C. Lamb	Miss Parnell
Mr. & Mrs. Da Costa	Miss H. O. Lawson	Mr. & Mrs. L. Ramson
Mrs. D. Dupely	Mrs. M. Lermite	Mr. K. Sparkes
Mr. D. Duquesnay	Mr. G. Thompson	Rev. Ward
Miss C. Fray	Luuisden	Miss B. Weatherall
Mr. H. Grant	Mrs. J. McCaban	Mr. C. Weller
Mr. J. Gritton	Miss J. McNaught	Mr. E. A. Williams

Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

Home arrivals from the West Indies, in s.s. Stuyvesant (Captain B. A. Molenaar), at Plymouth, August 31st:—

Mr. W. H. Allan	Miss J. M. Crowley	Mrs. M. McWilliam
Mr. A. Beatty	Miss Z. Crowley	Mr. & Mrs. A. Miller
Miss F. Beatty	Miss J. Farnaba	Mr. J. Perez
Miss J. Beauchemin	Mr. & Mrs. A. Gomes	Mr. & Mrs. L. Rodgers
Mr. & Mrs. P. Beauchemin	Mr. G. Gomes	Dr. A. Keccc
Mrs. C. Brauer	Mrs. V. Hunter	Mr. C. Saywood
Mr. A. G. Carrington	Mr. C. Lewis	Mr. & Mrs. J. Sumners
Mr. E. G. Carter	Mr. & Mrs. F. Lewis	Miss J. Sumners
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Carter	Mr. J. MacKay	Mr. H. Syed
Miss L. M. Creswell	Mr. M. I. MacKay	Miss S. Williams
Miss P. J. Creswell	Miss J. McWilliam	

Home arrivals from the West Indies, in s.s. Cottica (Captain N. F. Van Deum), at Plymouth, September 6th:—

Miss N. A. Abdellhour	Miss I. O. Marhoo	Miss C. E. Peterkin
Mr. B. C. Bessey	Mrs. M. E. McLean	Miss & Mrs. R. S. Reed
Mr. T. Bolitho	Miss A. O. McWatt	Miss L. Roper
Mr. J. P. Brein	Mr. C. E. Moore	Miss P. M. Sandiford
Mr. A. B. Felix	Miss P. E. Nunes	Miss B. T. Vieira
Mr. D. R. Gunraj		

The Markets

October, 1st, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below:—

Dividend for Latest Year		Latest Quotation		Price Year Ago	
		72	74	77	78
2½	Consols	95½	96½	103½	104½
3½	War Loan	—	—	—	—
20	Angostura Bitters	80/-	85/-	80/-	90/-
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	33/9	38/9	42/6	47/6
—	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/6	12/6	14/-	15/-
• 30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	35/-	37/6	42/3	43/4
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	47/-	52/-	51/-	55/-
11½	Booker Bros. McConnell 10/-	37/6	40/-	88/9†	93/9†
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	28/3	28/9	29/4‡	31/10‡
5	British Guiana Cons. Gold 3/9	1/8	2/-	1/6	2/-
8½	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	3/-	3/9	3/-	4/-
6	Caroni Ltd., 6% Pref.	20/-	22/6	22/6	25/-
• 7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6...	4/-	5/-	5/8	6/6
12½	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	10/9	11/9	12/-	13/-
10	Luxmer & Trinidad Asphalt. Ord.	43/1½	45/7½	46/3	48/9
8	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	-/9	1/9	1/-	2/-
• 17½	Royal Bank of Canada 8/0	170/-	190/-	145/-	165/-
• 13	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	59/-	61/-	60/-	70/-
• 3	Stc. Madeleine Sugar	18/-	19/-	16/10‡	19/4‡
10	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	17/9	18/9	18/-	19/6
• 14	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	-/6	1/6	2/6	3/6
6	Trinidad Leaseholds 5/-	25/9	27/9	28/6	30/-
• 16½	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	26/3	28/3	31/-	32/6
7	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 6% Pref.	21/3	22/6	22/-	24/-
6	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/9	5/9	5/6	6/6
8½	United British Oilfields 6/8	21/-	23/-	21/6	23/-
5	West Indies Sugar	18/9	20/-	18/1½	20/7½
6	West Indies Sugar 6% Pref.	22/6	23/-	24/-	26/-

† Prec of Income Tax. ‡ 1 Shares.

Honey. The controlled price of 72/6 per cwt. is still being obtained for West Indian honeys.

Pimento. There has been more demand from the Continent and most of the available spot stocks have been absorbed at 1/2 per lb. ex wharf. The price for shipment remains at 119/- c.i.f. U.K., and fair sales have been made both to London and the Continent on this basis.

Ginger. Sellers are now asking 300/- for the few remaining parcels of Jamaica No. 3 on the spot in London. African is quoted at about the same price. These high quotations are due to the extreme shortage of supplies.

Nutmegs. During September there was a fairly active market, especially after devaluation was announced, and business was done in sound unassorted at 1/8, and in 80's and defectives, when obtainable, at 2/2 and 1/3½ per lb. respectively. Germany has been a good buyer of sound unassorted and spot stocks are almost exhausted. At the end of September the Grenada Co-operative Association increased its rates and the nominal prices are now: 80's 2/5, sound unassorted 1/9 and defectives 1/4½.

Mace. Sales have been made at 5/- per lb. c.i.f. London for whole pale. The Association has increased its price to 5/3 c.i.f. but no business at this figure has been reported. Broken grades have been in better demand and are quoted at 1/- to 4/6 according to quality.

Sugar. The Board of Trade Returns for August are as follows:—

Imports of Unrefined	Month of August		January-August	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Mauritius	7,321	—	61,122	103,826
Australia	23,716	18,476	38,615	177,156
Fiji	—	—	—	4,432
British West Indies	38,723	50,354	223,193	247,353
British Guiana	1,872	2,970	47,056	65,994
Other British Countries	—	7,965	—	15,315
Dutch East Indies	—	—	—	—
Cuba	85,531	137,922	593,551	941,778
Haiti	—	1,008	18,665	16,422
Dominican Republic	—	—	190,697	331,492
Mexico	6,638	14,122	96,318	74,349
Peru	2,972	—	28,327	12,569
Other Foreign Countries	—	—	—	9,877
Total	169,779	232,817	1,297,564	1,400,563
Consumption	Month of July		January-July	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Refined	201,931	183,576	1,343,312	1,287,449
Unrefined	—	—	—	—
Total	201,931	183,576	1,343,312	1,287,449
Stocks (end of July)	1948		1949	
	Home Grown Beet	Imported Refined	Home Grown Beet	Imported Refined
Home Grown Beet	31,950	68,700	—	—
Imported Refined	—	—	343,800	264,700
Imported Unrefined	—	—	—	—
Total	31,950	68,700	343,800	264,700

Rum. The Board of Trade Returns for August are as follows:—

Imports	Month of August		January-August	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Union of South Africa	112,803	81,436	734,026	753,755
Mauritius	428,463	221,852	1,929,924	1,602,145
British West Indies	160,508	413,459	1,763,909	2,744,663
British Guiana	135,794	269,277	1,155,454	1,883,318
Other British Countries	21,703	3,766	130,799	22,641
Foreign Countries	224	—	5,474	6,115
Total	859,495	989,790	5,719,368	6,992,637
Exports	Month of August		January-August	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Exports	13,403	23,912	136,920	262,635
Consumption	Month of July		January-July	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Consumption	211,075	92,367	2,131,094	996,186
Stocks (end of July)	5,958,000	11,732,000	5,958,000	11,732,000

Cocoa. The Board of Trade Returns for August are as follows:—

Imports	Month of August		January-August	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
British West Africa	116,560	105,846	1,749,924	2,503,830
British West Indies	3,531	1,947	61,580	57,466
Other British Countries	2,217	2,417	5,593	8,018
Foreign	—	29,211	18,854	88,983
Total	120,091	139,221	1,835,951	2,658,297
Exports	Month of July		January-July	
	1948	1949	1948	1949
Exports	55,413	253,595	1,756,956	2,400,583
Stocks (end of July)	7,000	81,000	7,000	81,000

Visitors from Overseas

It would greatly facilitate the forwarding of correspondence if members of the West India Committee visiting this country would inform the Secretary of the date of the arrival and the address or addresses to which they would like THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and correspondence despatched.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Mr. W. R. Alefounder. | Mr. C. E. Hamshere, M.A. |
| Mr. Francis R. Anjo. | Mr. C. J. Haes. |
| His Honour The Hon. E. P. Arrowsmith. | Mr. R. S. Haughton. |
| Major H. Barker-Hahlo. | Mr. F. B. Henderson. |
| His Honour Mr. Justice E. P. S. Bell. | Mr. L. A. Henriques. |
| Mr. C. J. Bettencourt-Gomes, B.E.M. | Mr. E. T. Hopkin. |
| Mr. N. Peyton Birch. | Captain R. Landry. |
| Mr. L. S. Birkett. | Mr. W. S. Jones. |
| Mr. A. G. P. Blair. | Cmdr. R. Langton-Jones, D.S.O., R.N. |
| Mr. John Burslem. | Mr. Aubrey Leacock, M.Chir., F.R.C.S. |
| His Hon. Chief Justice Sir Allan Collymore. | Mr. H. T. Lissone. |
| Mr. Cyril B. B. Connell. | Captain H. V. M. Metivier, O.B.E., M.R.C.V.S. |
| Hon. H. H. Croucher. | Captain C. M. G. Purchas, M.C. |
| Hon. George de Nobriga. | Mr. Arthur Ridehalgh. |
| Mr. G. M. Eccles. | Mr. C. Saywood. |
| Mr. E. M. Eldridge. | Mr. G. F. Sharp. |
| Mrs. Elsie Gamble. | Prof. C. Y. Shephard, C.B.E. |
| Mr. Vincent L. George. | Mr. H. L. Smith. |
| Hon. W. W. E. Giles, M.A., F.R.G.S. | Mr. T. E. Noble Smith. |
| Mr. H. L. Goddard. | Mr. N. V. Stafford Solomon, M.B.E. |
| Mr. W. Grason. | Hon. Alan Storey, D.F.C. |
| Mr. Harvey Hadden. | H.E. Sir Edward Twing, K.C.M.G., M.B.E. |

West African Cocoa

The reduced prices to West African cocoa producers [announced in the September issue of the CIRCULAR, page 212] have resulted in protest meetings held by all sections of cocoa farmers throughout the Gold Coast.

It is reported that among the resolutions adopted at these meetings and submitted to official quarters is one demanding the formation of a special body to investigate the accounts of the Cocoa Marketing Board and to take over control of the Board's functions.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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November, 1949

G.A.T.T. and Annecy

AT Geneva in 1947 representatives of all parts of the British Commonwealth—the United Kingdom acting on behalf of and in consultation with the non-self-governing territories—and of the U.S.A., Cuba, the Benelux and certain other countries, numbering 23 in all, drew up an instrument known as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (G.A.T.T.). In schedules attached to the Agreement were set out the results of 123 sets of negotiations, between pairs of the contracting parties, whereby effect was to be given to their intentions to reduce certain customs tariffs and preferences and to bind others at their existing levels. By this Agreement, also, the contracting parties undertook that any concessions made by one at the request of a second should be extended to all other contracting parties. As most of the parties to the parallel O.E.E.C. negotiations are also contracting parties under the Agreement, the importance of this new application of the old most-favoured-nation clause in previous bilateral Trade Agreements is obvious. A further important provision of the Agreement is that it ensures that contracting parties will not resort to quotas or other restrictions except for balance of payments reasons, or except for development purposes if the concurrence of the contracting parties is secured.

This necessarily brief and incomplete summary must include a reference to the question as to how far the Agreement is really binding. In this connexion we cannot do better than quote from the report entitled "The Attack on Trade Barriers" published by the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization at the request of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade:—

"When a score of governments agree upon the bringing into force of many thousands of maximum customs duties, it is to be expected that some of them will find that full observance causes grave difficulties or embarrassment either because there was some miscalculation of effects or through unforeseen developments. The General Agreement makes no provision for modification of bound rates before January 1951, but the Contracting Parties can nevertheless make changes in the schedules provided they are unanimous in their desire to do so. The rigidity of the bound rate can be relaxed in practice. Moreover, there is in the Agreement an 'escape clause' under which a contracting party may remove a concession from its schedule, if as a result of that concession imports increase to an extent that threatens

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serious injury to domestic production. Parties affected by such action will be free to suspend equivalent concessions extended to that contracting party. This clause has not been invoked."

Pending ratification of the Agreement the contracting parties entered into a Protocol of Provisional Application. Each of His Majesty's non-self-governing territories was given the opportunity of agreeing to accept provisional application of the Agreement or declining to do so. In the result, the only non-self-governing territory which declined to adhere was Jamaica.

At Annecy this year, ten more countries, including Haiti, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, joined the circle, raising the proportion of world trade in merchandise represented to four-fifths. Apart from tidying up certain uncompleted matters left over from Geneva, there were no negotiations at Annecy between any two of the original 23 parties to G.A.T.T. The ten new parties completed 147 sets of negotiations, either among themselves or with one or other of the original 23. The results of the negotiations at Annecy must now be approved by the national legislatures of most countries concerned. The ten acceding countries will have until April 30th, 1950, to sign the Annecy Protocol of Terms of Accession.

The schedules agreed at Annecy are not yet generally available for the detailed scrutiny they require. As at Geneva, these schedules contain the new duty rates only, so that it is extremely difficult to ascertain what reductions in tariffs and preferences have been made. It is, however, reasonably certain that, although some preferences have been reduced, none of the agreed items will appreciably affect the trade of the British Caribbean colonies.

Perhaps the outstanding merit of G.A.T.T., apart from the fact that for the first time an international instrument has achieved a real measure of success in reducing trade barriers, is that although its members negotiate in pairs, no negotiations are completed without the knowledge of all other members with which any contracting party has negotiations, who are thus afforded the opportunity, denied under the old secret bilateral system, of protecting their own interests if any danger to those interests is threatened by the course of any of the negotiations in progress. Thus when the United Kingdom in the course of negotiations with Norway proposed to eliminate the duty, and with it the preference, enjoyed in this country by Canada on unwrought aluminium, Canada was able to obtain compensation by direct negotiation with Norway on other products.

(Continued on page 260)

From a Londoner's Notebook

ALL public events throughout the month have been completely overshadowed by the one topic of the Government's measures for coping with the emergency following the devaluation of the pound. Parliament reassembled on Tuesday, October 18th to hear the new proposals, but were told that the Government were still not ready and they must wait till the beginning of the next week. Meanwhile there had been an intense official propaganda to prepare the country for the severest possible measures of austerity, and everyone was keyed up to meet extreme demands on his fortitude and powers of self-denial. It was generally assumed that there would be heavy new taxation, or a restoration of rationing on clothes or other goods recently released from control; and at the week-end the shops were besieged by urgent crowds, determined to replenish their household stocks while yet there was time.

* * *

When at last the plans of the Government were revealed by Mr. Attlee in the House of Commons and in a broadcast, the sense of anti-climax would have been almost comic had not the situation been so grave. It is true that the economics proposed would on paper save some £270,000,000 a year, which even on an annual expenditure of over £3,000,000,000 is a substantial sum. But on examination it was apparent that only a small part of this saving would become effective within the next six months, whereas the emergency is right upon us, and the most obvious need is for an immediate grappling with it by all the energies of the nation. There are administrative economies in the lighting services. The patients who have been swamping the national health service by queuing up in their thousands for free medicines will henceforth be charged up to a shilling for each prescription—though free wigs, spectacles and false teeth are not to be touched. There is an increase of profits tax, ostensibly directed to neutralizing any advantage that may come to certain private hands by the increased sterling value of the dollar, but in practice mainly effective—so the City maintains—in further damping down the incentives to productive effort. The programme of capital expenditure is curtailed, and the building of houses slowed down—though in such a way that the whole reduction is to be borne by private builders, and not by the municipal schemes. The subsidies are to be withdrawn from animal feeding stuffs, and at the New Year from fish, which will at the same time be freed from price control.

* * *

It is scarcely surprising that this half-hearted set of proposals has had the worst Press of any Government policy since the Labour Party came into power in 1945. Only the *Daily Herald*, the official organ of the party, has done its loyal best to maintain that the Government is keeping abreast of the demands of the moment. All those judicial organs which have tried for four years to hold the balance even have come out heavily

in condemnation, headed by *The Times* with a leading article on "Half Measures" and *The Economist* on "Salvation by Fleabite." It is not merely that the financial experts see in the scheme no real prospect of permanently stopping the drain on our gold and dollar reserves and of providing against the threat of inflation. What is felt to be far more dangerous is that the opportunity has been missed of really awakening the people to a realization of the imminent peril to their whole standard of life, which is still regarded by the vast majority as something remote and theoretical. There is here no stimulus to that great and sustained effort to improve production in which alone salvation can be found.

* * *

The programme of economics is, of course, related to the decision of the Government, announced shortly before the reassembly of Parliament, that there shall be no dissolution before the end of the year. The terms of ministerial references imply that there was at least some opposition in the Cabinet to this decision, and it is generally supposed that Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr. Aneurin Bevan were in favour of an immediate appeal to the country, the former no doubt feeling the need for a fresh mandate after his recent *volte-face* on devaluation, the latter credited with the desire to snatch a majority at the polls before the coming increase in the cost of living can make itself felt. The majority, however, are thought to have argued that the Government economy scheme was so contrived that it would not hit the ordinary household severely till well on in the new year, and that meanwhile there was time to force through the Parliament Bill to limit the powers of the House of Lords and the Bill to nationalize iron and steel. No doubt many Ministers are moved by these tactical considerations; but the decision rests with the Prime Minister alone and it is not easy to associate these rather sordid calculations of party advantage in a national emergency with the personality of Mr. Attlee, who is not indeed one of the more inspiring leaders, but is at any rate an upright statesman and a patriot. It is far more likely that he has held it his duty to lay his plans before the people and abide their judgment after a proper period for consideration.

As to the date of the election it must be either before the new register comes into force in March, or after an interval for its complete establishment, which will then carry us on to budget time and make a dissolution impracticable for a further month. So the most probable dates are thought to be February or June.

* * *

A bright interlude in these grey political events is supplied by the preparations to entertain the crew of H.M.S. *Amethyst*, who after their dashing escape down the Yangtse under the guns of the Chinese Communists, have been feted in every British port on the long voyage home, and entered Plymouth Sound on Novem-

(Continued on page 256)

International Sugar Council

The Agreement Under Discussion

THE following communiqué was issued by the International Sugar Council on October 20th:—

The International Sugar Council held a meeting on October 20th at Brettenham House, London. It was attended by representatives of 17 governments, by observers from seven other governments, and by an observer for the Food and Agriculture Organization.

One of the items on the Council's agenda was the report of its statistical committee giving estimates of the world sugar position. The figures, all of which are given in metric tons, raw value, are as follows: the estimate for the crop year ended August 31st, 1949, showed that estimated supplies for the free market were 4,344,000 to meet estimated requirements of 4,041,000. The figures for the crop year ending August 31st, 1950, showed that estimated supplies for the free market were 4,389,000 to meet estimated requirements of 4,050,000.

Detailed figures for each of the years mentioned above will be available in a few days as a supplement to the *Statistical Bulletin* of the International Sugar Council.

The other main item on the agenda was a report from the special committee which the Council set up on August 24th, 1948, to:

- (i) study the changing sugar situation as it relates to the need or desirability for negotiating a new agreement; and
- (ii) to report to the Council, as occasion arises, its findings and recommendations as to the possible bases for a new agreement in the future.

The special committee, at meetings held on October 17th, 18th and 19th, had considered the estimates prepared by the statistical committee and draft bases for a new international sugar agreement prepared by the Cuban delegation.

The special committee considered that it was obvious that there was not at the present moment any serious world surplus of sugar and that it was improbable that any burdensome surplus would develop in the crop year ending August 31st, 1950. They felt, however, that there were elements which might tend to produce such surpluses in the future and that a proper international instrument should be ready before any emergency occurs.

They therefore recommended the Council to agree that the committee should continue its investigations with the object of making recommendations on possible bases for a new international sugar agreement, taking into consideration the draft bases for such an agreement prepared by the Cuban delegation, any other proposals that might be formulated, and the views of the various governments on the Cuban draft bases and other proposals. They further recommended that they should be asked to submit a report to the Council, including recommendations on the bases for a new international agreement, in sufficient time to enable another meeting of the Council to be held, not later than July, 1950, to consider the report.

The International Sugar Council adopted the recommendations of its special committee.

West India Committee

AT recent meetings of the Executive of the West India Committee, the following five candidates were elected to membership:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MRS. SYBIL SHINGLETON-SMITH (St. Lucia)	{ Mr. Alex. Elder Gillespie Bros. & Co., Ltd.
MR. COLIN MIDDLETON CAMPRELL (Country)	{ Mr. J. M. Campbell Sir Frederick Seaford, C.B.E.
MR. GEFFRARD WELLESLEY BOURKE (Jamaica)	{ Hon. G. Seymour Seymour, O.B.E. Hon. H. Alexander, C.B.E.
MR. H. D. HUGGINS, D.Sc. (Jamaica)	{ Lt.-Col. H. M. Davson, C.M.G., D.S.O.
MR. CHARLES LYALL LAURIE SEALY (Barbados)	{ Mr. J. M. Campbell Mr. D. M. O'Neale Mr. R. D. C. O'Neale

The Obituary List

The chairman referred with great regret to the death of Mr. C. Lyon Hall (Jamaica), Mr. G. C. Hampton (London), Mr. J. A. Kay (London), Sir Norman Lamont (Trinidad), Mr. Otto Oppenheimer, a life member (London), and Mr. Justice O'Reilly (St. Vincent).

Members of the West India Committee are invited to further the work of the Committee by introducing suitable candidates for election.

Minister of State's Tour

The itinerary arranged for the Earl of Listowel, whose departure for the British West Indies was reported in the October issue of the CIRCULAR, was as follows: October 2nd, Bahamas; October 5th, Jamaica; October 11th, British Honduras; October 18th, Jamaica; October 20th, Trinidad; October 27th, British Guiana; November 5th, Barbados, to preside over the conference of Governors to take place from November 7th to 11th.

Mr. G. F. Seel, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, will also attend the conference, leaving London by air for Barbados on November 3rd.

After the conference the Minister of State was to proceed to St. Lucia, but his further movements had not been disclosed at the time of going to press. Mr. Seel's itinerary after the conference was as follows: November 13th, Trinidad; November 15th, Jamaica; November 17th, Bahamas; November 19th, Bermuda; November 22nd, New York, for the United Kingdom by s.s. *Queen Elizabeth*.

Sugar Discussions

Delegates Return to London

The members of the British West Indies Sugar Association delegation, who were in London in July and August to put the case for a long-term agreement with the British Government on British West Indies sugar, have returned to this country to attend the further negotiations which representatives of Commonwealth countries are also to attend.

It was announced that these negotiations are due to start on November 21st, in a circular telegram despatched by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on October 29th.

Mr. Robert Gavin

AFTER serving the West India Committee as its secretary for five years, Mr. Robert Gavin has gone to Geneva. There, as head of the Non-Metropolitan Territories section of the International Labour Office, he will be engaged in work of ever increasing importance to the British Caribbean colonies. His departure is not therefore all loss. Moreover, his new duties apart, we know how sincere are the assurances he has given of his continued interest in all things that concern the colonies he has served so well and which hold so high a place in his affections.

As secretary he was most widely known for the ready help he gave to the thousands who besieged the West India Committee each year with their inquiries. To all who called he endeavoured to make himself available. Yet these personal contacts, which he regarded as so important, and which occupied so much of his time, were relatively a small part of his work. Among the Committee's members few, except from the Executive, had the means of knowing how devotedly he applied himself to the larger problems on which so much depended. On rare occasions only, such as the recent sugar negotiations, were his sound judgment, great knowledge and capacity to organize a campaign made apparent to a wider circle of members. Outside of the Committee, however, his worth was recognized by those of His Majesty's Ministries, Members of Parliament and members of the public and private organizations whose assistance he sought and to whom he, in turn, gave effective help continually.

Thus Robert Gavin has left to the West India Committee a legacy of goodwill and a reputation for service of the highest value. Farewell ceremonies have left him in no doubt of the Committee's gratitude. It remains only for the CIRCULAR formally to record the thanks of all and to wish him well for the future, and especially success in his new post. Our good wishes go also to Mrs. Gavin who joined him in welcoming so many West Indians to their home.

The farewells included a luncheon given to Mr. Gavin by the Executive of the West India Committee on October 20th, a dinner given by the West Indian Club on October 24th, and a pleasant little informal party given by Mr. Gavin to the members of the staff in the rooms of the West India Committee on October 24th.

Mr. J. M. du Buisson, chairman of the West India Committee, presided at the luncheon, and after giving expression to the committee's appreciation of Mr. Gavin's services, and regret at his departure, presented him, on behalf of the committee, with an antique silver coffee pot as a token of their esteem.

Mr. A. L. Jupp, chairman of the West Indian Club, presided at the dinner which, like the luncheon, was held at the Savoy Hotel. He referred to Mr. Gavin's career in London and the West Indies, and to the good work he had done for the oil and sugar industries before coming to the West India Committee. He extended good wishes from all members to Mr. and Mrs. Gavin for success and happiness in their new sphere, and concluded by wishing Mr. A. E. V. Barton, who has taken over the reins from Mr. Gavin, a most successful term of office. Mr. Jupp was followed by Sir John Forbes

Watson, who said that colonial questions would bulk largely on the agenda at future meetings of the International Labour Organization, which was to be congratulated on the acquisition of one so competent to handle such questions as Mr. Gavin.

Mr. Gavin, who described the time spent in the West Indies and with the West India Committee as the happiest of his life, left no doubt of his continued interest in the West Indies and the many friends he had made there.

Sir Frederick Seaford proposed the toast to the chairman.

Caribbean Commission

Venue of Next Meeting

At the invitation of the Governor of the Virgin Islands (U.S.A.) the ninth meeting of the Caribbean Commission will be held in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, from December 5th to 10th.

This will be the second meeting held in St. Thomas, the former meeting having taken place there on the occasion of the second West Indian Conference in February, 1946.

Under the terms of its establishment the Commission meets twice in each year, and other places at which meetings have been held are Curacao, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Trinidad (two) and Washington, D.C.

Mr. Charles Johnson Burgess, until recently attached to the Trade Administrator's Office, Jamaica, has been appointed executive secretary (economics) on the staff of the central secretariat of the Commission.

U.K. Trade Commissioner in Trinidad

The address of the United Kingdom Trade Commissioner in Trinidad is now Airways House, 17, Chacon Street, Port-of-Spain. The P.O. Box number, 225, and the telegraphic address "Trincom, Port-of-Spain," remain as before.

(Continued from page 254)

ber 1st. Their welcome in England began with a luncheon given them by the Lord Mayor of Plymouth—under rationing restrictions that the authorities declared themselves without legal power to waive—and, after a march through London to a mid-day banquet at the Mansion House, culminates in a reception by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 17th. Some people, including not a few naval officers, have their misgivings about thus celebrating an escape from disaster as if it were a positive victory; and indeed the question of why the *Amethyst* was ever placed in such a humiliating position has yet to be adequately answered. But these doubts will in no way detract from the enthusiasm of the popular welcome to these gallant men, who are felt to have lived up to the finest traditions of the Navy for skill, courage and resource, and to have given a fillip to the national morale at a time when temptations to despondency are painfully obvious.



THE ALAMEIN REUNION AT EMPRESS HALL, LONDON.
INSET. MR. CHURCHILL AND FIELD-MARSHAL MONTGOMERY.



WATER FOR LONDON. A NEW RESERVOIR AT CHINGFORD.



NATIONAL SAVINGS. LAUNCHING OF A NEW APPEAL.

The Economy of Trinidad and Tobago

Recommendations of Economics Committee

ON September 23rd, 1947, Sir John Shaw, Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, appointed a committee, to sit under his own chairmanship, with the following terms of reference: "To review the whole broad field of finance, economics, production and development in the colony of Trinidad and Tobago and to make recommendations."

The report* of this committee has recently appeared, in a folio volume of 260 pages.

To facilitate and expedite its work the committee, at its first meeting, formed three sub-committees to deal severally with the following matters:—

(i) To review and make recommendations regarding the financial, budgetary and general economic position and prospects of the colony, with special emphasis on imports and exports; and to include a review of the report of the special committee which was considering the five year development plan of works and services.

(ii) To consider and make recommendations regarding the development of agriculture, with special reference to increased food production and to include a review of the possibilities for the development of fisheries.

(iii) To consider and make recommendations regarding the development of industries.

Sub-committee (i), the Economics Sub-Committee, sat under the chairmanship of Sir Errol dos Santos; Sub-Committee (ii), the Agricultural Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship of Professor C. Y. Shephard; and Sub-Committee (iii), the Industries Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. R. B. Skinner. Each sub-committee submitted a separate report and made recommendations. The general report and recommendations of the Economics Committee as a whole were formulated after consideration of the sub-committee reports. Among the recommendations adopted by the committee were the following:—

Finance

Efforts at increasing total productivity should be measured at regular intervals as a test of policy. An attempt should be made to assess the values of invisible exports and invisible imports. Conditions under which a claim for a greater share of hard currency can be made are worthy of investigation. Protective measures to support industries were approved in principle where the grant of such protection would be of advantage to the colony. Effort should be made to secure such an all round reduction in government expenditure as would make it possible to repeal existing emergency taxation. An attempt should be made to isolate ordinary revenue and ordinary expenditure from extraordinary items in the colony's accounts, and in presenting departmental estimates, capital expenditure should be separated from recurrent expenditure. If ordinary revenue is in excess of ordinary expenditure government can either

extend its programme of expenditure or reduce taxation but surplus balances equal to about one-third of the colony's annual revenue should be accumulated before either course is adopted.

As regards extraordinary revenue and extraordinary expenditure, deficits should be made good out of surpluses in the ordinary accounts, and surpluses should be accumulated in a special fund to offset the burden of loans. In determining fiscal policy the government should bear continually in mind the fact that high rates of direct taxation are a deterrent to economic and industrial expansion. Vacancies in government departments should not be filled until the need for doing so is established beyond any doubt. Final allocations from loans for development works should be submitted to the Legislative Council and no departure from the programme should be made except by transfer from one item to the other with the approval of that council. Charges on the Public Debt should be limited to approximately five per cent of the ordinary revenue of the colony. As a matter of policy, government should raise loans on behalf of statutory bodies which reimburse general revenue with the debt charges involved, and for development works which can be shown to be revenue producing and capable of meeting debt charges, depreciation and annual recurrent maintenance charges.

Agriculture

In connexion with the rehabilitation of the cocoa industry the Economics Committee recommends that any planter who has already replanted 10 per cent of his cocoa area should be entitled to apply for further assistance; that planters not applying for assistance but willing to replant with clonal cuttings at their own expense should be permitted to purchase these cuttings at cost price; that assistance should be available on certain conditions to those willing to invest in planting cocoa on suitable lands not previously used for cocoa; and that, since the present system whereby a preliminary grant of \$10 is made when land is cleared, and the balance of the grant payable after three years, is not encouraging, the grant should be payable by annual instalments over the three years.

Every facility should be extended to the sugar companies to obtain their essential requirements of mechanical equipment even if the only sources of supply are within the hard currency areas. Mechanical equipment should (as an experiment) be purchased by government for use by cane farmers on a co-operative basis. The efforts of the sugar industry to secure a long-term agreement with the British Government for the purchase of sugar made locally should be supported by the local government, who should also endeavour to secure additional imports of artificial fertilizers. A committee composed of representatives of government, the sugar companies and the cane farmers should be appointed to review the immediate scope and total requirements of mechanical field equipment in the sugar industry.

*Report of the Economics Committee, Trinidad and Tobago. Published by the Government Printer, Port-of-Spain, 1949. Reference: Trinidad-M.15/49. Price \$2.

Government should support the citrus industry's endeavour to obtain a long-term contract with the United Kingdom for the purchase of all available fruit, and assist the industry in its efforts to secure a site on the waterfront for the installation of cold storage facilities.

Consideration should be given to a scheme for the improvement of 2,000 acres of rice land in the Fishing Pond area, and 500 acres in the Mon Jaloux area; the Madras Settlement should be drained and improved; research on the scientific aspects of rice production should be continued; and, as a temporary measure, the committee recommends extension of the cultivation of hill rice.

Land settlement policy should be modified to insist on a system of mixed farming or crop diversification more suited to the present resources of the Trinidad peasantry. The "grow-more-food" campaign should be revived, and in addition to providing guarantees of a market and minimum prices for certain commodities, government should undertake to purchase at any time up to June, 1950 the more durable food products at minimum prices related to a specific period of time and reviewed at the end of each period.

Industry

The question of dollar supplies to the oil industry should be kept continually before the United Kingdom owing to the serious adverse repercussions which any further cuts in these allocations would have on local economy generally. Assistance to expansion of the refining industry should be given by issuing licences to oil companies permitting the duty-free importation of crude oil from Venezuela for refining locally and for export, subject to certain safeguards. The income-tax law should be amended to provide certain concessions including the provision of amortization for income-tax purposes of the cost of exploratory drilling. Government should pursue with the United Kingdom government the question of granting preference to Trinidad oil throughout the United Kingdom and Empire.

In respect of the lumber industry the council recommends the establishment of curing sheds capable of storing one million board feet of narrow flooring strips; that the Forest Department be given funds to carry out experiments on air-drying of lumber on a commercial scale; and that the Forest Department should investigate the cost of the erection and operation of a kiln drying apparatus of sufficient capacity to turn out up to three million board feet per annum.

The government should be prepared to offer some form of encouragement to any economic proposals for the development of a rubber industry which would make use of the colony's potential annual output of approximately 500,000 lb. of raw rubber. It is imperative that the establishment of a cement industry be undertaken without delay, and any company prepared to set up a cement factory should be given certain facilities and concessions which were submitted to the government in an interim report and appear in one of the appendices to the report under review.

For industry in general, the following aids are recommended: release of hard currency where such release would either materially assist in the development of an industry or might provide hard currency in excess of the amounts required within two years; extension

of the benefits of duty-free importation of plant and machinery to established and approved new industries on certain conditions; alterations of the customs schedules in the light of changed modern conditions and the grant of protective tariffs in exceptional cases when economic conditions warrant it; income tax reliefs for desirable industries at least equal to those now granted to the hotel industry; and renewal of efforts to obtain the removal of the 30 per cent surtax imposed by the government of Venezuela on commodities exported to that country.

Finally, the Economics Committee recommends the establishment of an Industrial Board with the following terms of reference:—

(i) To explore the possibility of establishing new industries.

(ii) To examine applications for assistance, financial and otherwise, from private enterprise wishing to expand or establish new industries.

(iii) To advance monies to approved applicants.

This recommendation had already been submitted to government in an interim report, and government has established an Economic Advisory Board under the chairmanship of the Financial Secretary, but the Economics Committee points out that this is not the machinery it had in mind, and recommends that now that an Economic Adviser is available he should be asked to re-examine the committee's proposals for an Industrial Board.

Trinidad Tourist Trade

THE Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board, in an information bulletin issued on August 31st, 1949, give statistics of the tourist trade of the colony.

Under the heading of "tourists" the Board include stop-over visitors and business visitors; in transit visitors, who leave by another ship or plane; and "temporary halt" visitors, who continue their journey in the same *ship*. The number of "tourists" arriving in the colony were as follows: 1946, 35,905; 1947, 42,735; 1948, 56,452.

"Temporary halt" visitors who continue their journey in the same *airplane* are not classed as tourists, but are recorded as a tourist trade potential.

The nationality groupings of visitors to the colony (i.e. total "tourists" plus "temporary halt" visitors who continue their journey in the same airplane) in 1948 were as follows:—

	Total visitors	Per- centage
United States of America	22,188	26.4
British Caribbean	12,356	14.7
South America (except Venezuela)	11,942	14.2
Europe	11,548	13.7
Foreign Caribbean	8,732	10.4
Venezuela	7,508	8.9
United Kingdom	4,270	5.1
Canada	2,476	2.9
India	235	.3
Other British	1,764	2.1
Other non-British	1,060	1.3
Total	84,079	100.0

Higher Education in the Colonies

Report of the Inter-University Council

THE first report* of the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies covered the period from the Council's establishment in March, 1946 to July, 1947. The second report,† recently published, covers the next two years.

The institutions of higher education in the British colonies and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan with which the council is now concerned, in addition to the existing universities of Malta and Hong Kong, are the University College, Ibadan, Nigeria; the University College of the Gold Coast; Makerere College, Kampala; Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum; the University College of the West Indies; Raffles College, Singapore and King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore.

The established policy provides for an interim stage of University College status during which the colleges train their students for the degrees of the University of London and for local diplomas. To cover this provision the London University, when fully satisfied, admits the college to special relationship. This privilege of special relationship was extended to the University College of the West Indies in July, 1947.

In general, the colonial university institutions have been established by ordinance, but to avoid the difficulty of simultaneous ordinances in several legislatures the University College of the West Indies was incorporated by Royal Charter which passed under the Great Seal on January 5th, 1949. The King accepted the office of Visitor and appointed the Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, as Chancellor.

The college, under its principal, Dr. T. W. J. Taylor, commenced teaching in the Faculty of Medicine in October, 1948. Teaching in the Faculty of Natural Science was due to begin in October, 1949, and in Arts probably in 1950. The college is housed in temporary buildings on a site of about 700 acres, presented by the Government of Jamaica, at Mona, about seven miles out of Kingston. Student numbers are being kept small until the permanent buildings are available. Thirty-two were admitted in the session 1948-49 and an additional 42 for the session 1949-50. Academic staff is being recruited progressively as new teaching departments are established. At the time of drawing up the report seven professors, one senior lecturer, four lecturers and three assistant lecturers had been appointed.

Sir James Irvine and Sir Raymond Priestley, representatives of the Inter-University Council on the governing body of the University College, attended its meetings in January, 1948, and January, 1949, accompanied on the first occasion by the secretary of the council, and on the second occasion by Professor R. G. Baskett, Professor of Agricultural Chemistry at Belfast University.

The report expresses appreciation of the decision of

the Secretary of State in 1947 to increase from £4½ millions to £6 millions the funds available for university development under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, and of the lead given by him, in a despatch in September, 1948 [noted in the CIRCULAR, November, 1948, page 241], to the establishment of a system of direct grants to the university institutions with a wide measure of discretion in their use and control by the individual institution. Appreciation of the sympathetic understanding shown by colonial governments of the importance of ensuring the autonomy of the university institutions by such means as block grants, is likewise expressed in the report, tribute being paid to the seven contributing governments in the West Indies, who have made grants totalling £160,000 for the first three years and have accepted the principle of making their future grants at the rate of £150,000 per annum from 1950, on the basis of a period of years and without internal earmarking. The hope is expressed that there will be an active response to appeals by the university colleges for funds. The development of the colonial universities, the Council states, "offers historic opportunities for the imaginative and constructive philanthropy of another Carnegie or Nuffield or Rockefeller."

The rising costs of building in the colonies have necessitated revision of certain of the building schemes, and involved considerable difficulty in allocating grants from central funds on a fair and reasonable basis. The contract for the main building scheme for the college and teaching hospital in the West Indies was placed in May, 1949.

The report expresses appreciation of the valuable gift of books to the library of the University College of the West Indies by Mr. Noel Deerr.

The success of colonial higher education depends directly on the quality of the staff appointed in the formative years, and the report discloses that the Inter-University Council has been at great pains to assist in this regard. Competition for posts on the staff, however, has been weaker than the Council would wish, and many important posts remain unfilled, but confidence is expressed in the staff who have so far been appointed. Certain of the home universities have helped by co-operation in arrangements for the secondment of staff, and the Ministry of Health has arranged for sympathetic consideration to be given to requests for temporary secondment from the National Health service to teaching posts at the colonial medical schools.

Institutes of Economic and Social Research have been approved for the University Colleges of the West Indies and Ibadan, and for Makerere College. That for the University College of the West Indies was the first to be established, under the directorship of Dr. H. D. Huggins of Jamaica.

The council notes the establishment of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies in the University College of the West Indies "even before any of the internal departments." The report goes on to say: "The work of the

*Cmd. 7331.

†Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies. Second Report, 1947-49. Cmd. 7801. October, 1949. H.M.S.O., 6d. net.

extra-mural departments of the university institutions can, and ought, directly to cover only a small area of the need for further education outside the school system, although they may indirectly have great contributions to make, in initiative and guidance in these other fields. The council welcomes, therefore, the appointment by the Colonial Office of an Adult Education Sub-Committee and its further action in calling a conference of adult education representatives to discuss methods of helping the work in the colonies and in sponsoring a summer school in the United Kingdom to interest colonial students in taking part in this work on their return."

Disappointment is expressed by the council at the lack of progress in the establishment of "regional colleges," which is regarded as "embarrassing to the University Colleges, for some of their longer term plans depend on agreement with these complementary institutions about their respective fields of specialization."

B.W.I. Primary Producers

Registration of Federation

THE Federation of Primary Producers of the British Caribbean and British Guiana (Limited) has now been registered in Jamaica as a company limited by guarantee, and the organizations on whose behalf the Memorandum and Articles of Association were signed on September 19th, 1949 are the following: The Central Committee of Primary Producers (Jamaica); the Dominica Planters' Association; the Grenada Board of Agriculture; the St. Lucia Agriculturalists' Association; the St. Vincent Planters' Association; the West Indian Limes Association (Inc.); and the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association.

On page 210 of the September issue of the CIRCULAR the name of the British West Indies Sugar Association was included in the list of the first members of the organization, but the West India Committee has been informed by Mr. D. J. Verity, acting secretary of the federation, that this association has decided not to join for the present.

British Guiana and British Honduras have agreed to enter the federation, but signature to the Memorandum and Articles of Association on their behalf was delayed pending notification of the organizations which will hold membership. On receipt of advices as to the organizations which will take part in the movement, they will be elected to membership by the council of the federation.

Various delays occurred in obtaining the authority of some of the member organizations for the signature of the Memorandum and Articles on their behalf, and the required 30 days' notice could not be given in time for a meeting during the same week as the British West Indies Sugar Association meeting. It has also been thought advisable to defer the inaugural meeting of the federation until more definite information is available in regard to possible negotiations for a new Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, and the implications and consequences of devaluation of the pound.

A copy of the memorandum, in which the objects of the federation are defined in 28 clauses, has been

received by the West India Committee and may be consulted at the offices of the committee by interested members. In general the federation, which will be free from governmental control, will aid and encourage associations of producers in the various territories concerned, and deal with research, marketing, etc.

(Continued from page 253)

This very item, however, illustrates how watchful the representatives of each contracting party must be on behalf of its own interest. One is tempted to ask, for example, whether when Canada lost her preference on unwrought aluminium in the United Kingdom, exports of bauxite from British Guiana and Jamaica to Canada were in any way affected, and indeed, whether the point was considered. Now, the principal guidance available to the negotiators, apart from their personal knowledge of the territories they represent, is the trade statistical information available. Not only may this be incomplete or insufficient in detail; it cannot furnish information in regard to those products of a country which may be on the verge of development or rapid expansion. The difficulties of recognizing danger points in a host of negotiations proceeding simultaneously are particularly great where the local knowledge of those representing any of the parties is inadequate.

The actual representation at Geneva in the case of the non-self-governing territories necessarily covered groups of colonies, of which the British Caribbean group was one, and not each individual part thereof. It is hardly necessary to stress the importance of seeing that the group representatives do actually possess the necessary knowledge of every part of the group they represent and in fact the British Caribbean representation at Geneva was reasonably comprehensive. Moreover, in order that as little as possible should be left to chance, His Majesty's Government, as a preliminary to the actual negotiations, held a conference in London to which representatives of every individual territory within the Commonwealth were invited with the object of examining and discussing the proposals that were to be laid before the contracting parties.

Again at Annecy the West India Committee were consulted on certain matters about which further information was desired. It remains only to be added that the Colonial Office member of the United Kingdom delegation was very watchful of the interests of the British Caribbean colonies throughout the course of the negotiations and these colonies have reason to be grateful for his vigilance.

In any case, in an effort of this magnitude it is evident that improvements in methods of preparation and negotiation will follow with experience. The fact remains that G.A.T.T. has provided a most valuable step forward in international negotiations. Here at least is the preparatory instrument of an organization, the International Trade Organization, widely representative of world trade, meeting in friendly conclave to discuss and provide for one of the most pressing needs of the times—the freeing of world trade. For the first time effective presentation is influencing many countries to think again about plans for self-sufficiency. The real progress achieved in the lowering of U.S.A. tariffs is in itself a great tribute to the value of the new League spirit.

Witches' Broom in Grenada

Eradication Not a Practical Possibility

WHEN the witches' broom disease of cocoa was discovered in Grenada in October, 1948 [see CIRCULAR, November, 1948, page 235] Mr. W. T. Dale, lecturer in mycology at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, was at once called in to investigate the matter.

Mr. Dale confirmed the presence of the disease, and has now published, in the issue of *Tropical Agriculture* for January-June, 1949, a description of the nature of the damage and the control policy adopted. The statement is as follows:—

The presence of witches' broom disease of cacao (*Marasmius perniciosus* Stahel) in Grenada was confirmed in October, 1948. A subsequent survey showed the disease to be widespread in all parishes, being severe in small areas at high or medium altitudes and scattered throughout the main cacao-growing districts as patches of medium and light infection or isolated affected trees. In severely diseased areas the incidence equals anything to be seen in Trinidad and the fungus shows an alarming tendency to produce sporophores all the year round. Other areas, at present uninfected, also appear suitable for rapid multiplication of the disease, which is already too well established for eradication to be a practical possibility.

Control, by the elimination of infective material, is based on the knowledge that a period of 3-6 months must elapse between the appearance of "brooms" and their initial development of sporophores. In theory, if all diseased material could be destroyed before sporulation the disease would be eradicated; in practice, this is impossible, though much can be done to reduce its incidence and check spread to new areas. The following control policy, covered where necessary by appropriate proclamations under the Plant Protection Ordinance, has been adopted by the Grenada government:—

(1) Felling of groups of trees with high average infection, and destruction of all infected material, in areas particularly favourable to the disease, where its continuous rapid multiplication is to be expected. Replanting of cacao in such areas is prohibited.

(2) Pollarding of medium or heavily-infected trees, with destruction of infected material, in areas suitable for cacao cultivation, but for the necessary replanting of which no plants are immediately available. This involves cutting back the trees to their primary branches. It is the only feasible means of eliminating infections when at all numerous in old closely-planted fields like many in Grenada, where height of trees and closeness of canopy render removal of individual "brooms" a practical impossibility.

(3) Removal and destruction of "brooms" and infected pods in areas of light infection.

(4) Elimination of all cacao above the 1,200 ft. contour, with compensation for uninfected trees, and prohibition of cacao planting at over 1,000 ft.; provided that this shall not apply to any government-controlled organization engaged in propagation or research.

(5) Encouragement for replanting old fields with high-yielding clonal material as quickly as possible.

Geology and Mineral Resources

Advisory Committee Appointed

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed an advisory committee on colonial geology and mineral resources to advise him on matters relating to the geological survey of the colonial Empire and the investigation of its mineral resources.

The membership of the committee is as follows:—

- MR. C. G. EASTWOOD, Colonial Office (chairman).
 - MR. N. L. MAYLE, Colonial Office.
 - DR. P. DIXEY, Geological Adviser to the Secretary of State.
 - MR. E. S. WILLBOURN, Directorate of Colonial Geological Surveys.
 - MR. G. E. HOWLING, Principal, Mineral Resources Division of the Colonial Geological Surveys.
 - SIR EDMUND TEALE, formerly Mining Consultant to the Tanganyika Government and Director of the Geological Survey, Tanganyika.
 - SIR LEVIS FERMOR, formerly Director of the Geological Survey of India.
 - MR. R. ANNAN, chairman of various gold mining companies operating in Africa.
 - MR. S. H. BOILEAU, chairman of the Chrome Co., Ltd., and the African Manganese Co., Ltd.
 - DR. C. H. DESCH, director of the Iron and Steel Institute.
 - DR. J. G. KING, Director of the Gas Research Board.
 - MR. F. B. HOWARD WHITE, Mond Nickel Co., Ltd.
 - DR. W. F. P. McLINTOCK, Director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain.
 - SIR ANDREW McCANCE, President of the Iron and Steel Institute.
 - MR. B. LIGHTFOOT, formerly Director of the Geological Survey of Southern Rhodesia.
 - PROFESSOR A. E. TRUEMAN, Chairman, University Grants Committee.
 - PROFESSOR H. H. READ, Professor of Geology, Imperial College of Science and Technology.
 - DR. G. M. LEES, Chief Geologist, Anglo-Iranian Oil Co.
 - PROFESSOR J. A. S. RITSON, Professor of Mining, Royal School of Mines.
 - MR. I. C. HILL, Rio Tinto Co., Ltd.
 - SIR WILLIAM OGG, Director of Rothamsted Experimental Station.
- Joint secretaries:—
- MR. E. H. BEARD, Mineral Resources Division of the Colonial Geological Surveys.
 - MR. R. H. HOBDEN, Production and Marketing Department "B," Colonial Office.

Fire at B.G. Sugar Estate

A serious outbreak of fire occurred early in the morning of Sunday, October 16th, at Plantation Blairmont, West Bank, Berbice, British Guiana, owned by S. Davson & Co., Ltd.

The fire completely destroyed five buildings containing stores, and badly damaged an engineering workshop. It is reported that there was fortunately little wind at the time, and thus, plus the good work of two stalwart labourers who climbed to the boiler house roof with hoses, enabled the staff, the local police, and the New Amsterdam Fire Brigade (who took a trailer pump across the river) to bring the fire under control and save the factory.

Up to late on Monday afternoon the debris was still smouldering, but the factory was able to resume grinding operations at 5.30 p.m. on that day.

The damage, estimated to be about \$250,000, is understood to be covered by insurance.

Bulk Handling of Raw Sugar

A BULK raw sugar storage warehouse capable of storing more than 40,000 long tons is in course of erection in Montreal, states the *Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal*, at the refinery of Canada and Dominion Sugar Company (Redpath).

The bags of raw sugar will be received over the ship's side in the customary way, and after weighing, cutting and dumping bags, the sugar in loose form will be distributed over the full length of the warehouse by means of an endless belt conveyor.

For reclaiming the sugar a discharge conveyor runs below floor level the full length of the warehouse. Access to this is given through openings in the floor placed at convenient intervals and sugar will be fed into the conveyor at ground level by means of a rubber-tired bulldozer. From the conveyor below the floor, sugar will be elevated to an overhead belt conveyor which will deliver it direct to the mingler of the wash house.

With outside temperatures in Montreal frequently falling to 20 degrees below zero, raw sugar stored in bags becomes like concrete blocks and there are grave hazards to the warehouse staff in handling frozen bags from high piles out of storage. These hazards will be entirely eliminated by the new method of handling loose sugar. The warehouse is due to be completed early in 1950.

Raw Sugar in Bags

New Weighing and Sampling Procedure

It has been agreed that, with a view to establishing a new procedure for weighing and sampling of raw sugar in bags, the following proposals shall be given a trial for a period of one year, and will apply to cargoes and parcels of British West Indian raw sugar arriving in the United Kingdom on and after January 1st, 1950:—

That buyers should have the option of weighing and sampling not less than 10 per cent of each mark separately and that the balance of the cargo or shipment should be weighted and sampled irrespective of mark. The 10 per cent weigh would determine the proportion of the total weight that should be apportioned to each mark, and the invoice would be settled on the outturn commercial polarizations established on the samples drawn from the 10 per cent weigh, adjusted by the average polarization of the whole cargo or parcel.

Rum Cocktail Competition

The 1949 Jamaica rum cocktail competition of Great Britain was held at the Hungaria Restaurant on October 26th. The first prize, a silver cup and a cheque for 25 guineas, was won by Mr. A. C. Davidge, barman at the Ritz Hotel, with "Palm Breeze," concocted as follows: one-half rum; juice of half a fresh lime; two-sixths yellow chartreuse; one-sixth creme de cacao; dash of grenadine; shake.

There were 155 entries in this competition which was sponsored by the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica), Ltd.

Prospects in Molasses Market

An American View

Willet & Gray, in the issue of their *Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal* of September 8th, quote the following assessment of prospects in the molasses market by a New York consulting chemical engineer returned from a tour of Central America and the Caribbean:—

Inspecting many of the sugar mills in Cuba, Dr. Arics stated that the sugar bowl of the world will probably produce over 300 million gallons of molasses during the next harvest, of which about 50 millions will be begging for a market. Despite the high demand of the United States' industrial alcohol and anti-freeze markets, as well as the Cuban alcohol and spirits markets, the total world molasses consumption is still below the production figure, resulting in low prices. From a high of 37c per gallon in 1948, the price of molasses to large industrial users has slid to less than four cents per gallon. The pre-war price gravitated around five cents per gallon, while a price of 12c was maintained during most of the war.

The reason for the low demand has been the lack of new large-scale markets for molasses. Three decades ago, fermentation supplied about half of our chemicals, while at present its relative position has slid to 15 per cent. Synthetic chemicals, especially from petroleum and natural gas, now supply over a third of our chemicals, whereas after World War I they were virtually unknown.

The situation is changing slowly. The world and Cuban chemical industries are realizing the value of such a cheap source of carbo-hydrates. The Cuban sugar industry which has made excellent profits during the last decade is seriously considering entering the fermentation field. Several plants are now under construction and ultimately they may consume the "surplus" molasses. Among the more interesting chemicals from molasses are lactic acid and lactates (usable in plastics of the acrylic or "lucite" or "Plexiglass" type), glycerine, citric acid, butanol, acetic acid and anhydride, dry ice and fodder yeast. The manufacture of yeast is not only an important large-scale use of molasses, but converts carbohydrates into valuable proteins and fats which are scarce in the Caribbean area. Fodder yeast appears to be the solution of the molasses problems for a number of sugar mills.

Cuba now uses, by law, 14 per cent of absolute alcohol to raise the octane number of gasoline, but this is hardly enough to utilize the molasses supply, in view of the drop in the manufacture of beverage and industrial alcohol. From a high of close to 200,000,000 litres of alcohol made in Cuba in 1946, production has slid to 150,000,000 litres in 1947, 90,000,000 in 1948, and is not expected to exceed 60,000,000 litres in 1949.

Other factors which may effect the long-term price of molasses may include agreements between various Caribbean producers to maintain prices, due to their dissatisfaction with the prices offered by overseas customers.

The first post-war dinner of the sugar trade of the United Kingdom will take place at the Savoy Hotel, London, on Wednesday, December 14th. Lord Lyle of Westbourne will preside.

Rum Imports into Canada

Age Certificate Regulations

By Order-in-Council P.C. 3475 dated July 13th, 1949, revised regulations were substituted relating to age certificates for whisky, brandy or rum imported into Canada.

These regulations were issued by the Canadian Department of National Revenue in a Memorandum Series D No. 75, Third Revision, and have since been modified by a Fourth Revision of the Memorandum which was notified in the *Board of Trade Journal* of October 22nd (page 787).

The regulations now read as follows:—

(a) No intoxicating liquors, commonly known as whisky, brandy or rum, may be imported or admitted to entry into Canada for consumption, unless such whisky, brandy or rum has been aged and held for a period of not less than two years in small wood in accordance with the provisions of the regulations issued under the Food and Drugs Act and has been fully certificated respecting the date of manufacture by authorized officers of the government of the country in which produced, except as provided for in (d) hereunder; provided that rum which has not been aged for two years may be imported or admitted to entry into Canada for consumption up to and until January 1st, 1950, but not after, and provided also that the requirement that imported whisky, brandy or rum be held for a period of two years in small wood shall not become effective until May 1st, 1951.

(b) Whisky, brandy or rum which has not been aged and held as above stated, may be admitted to entry into Canada on condition that the goods will be stored and warehoused:—

(i) by a provincial liquor control board or commission, or

(ii) in a Canadian distillery under Excise supervision until the legal age has been reached and the requirements have been met as to consumption in Canada.

(c) No intoxicating liquors, commonly known as whisky, brandy or rum, bearing on the bottles or other containers thereof statements as to age of the whisky, brandy or rum, may be imported or admitted to entry into Canada, unless such statement as to date of manufacture has been certificated by authorized officers of the government of the country in which produced, except as provided for in (d) hereunder.

(d) In any case where the certificate of duly authorized officers of the government of the country in which the goods were manufactured cannot be produced, the Minister of National Revenue may accept such other evidence as will establish to his satisfaction that:—

(i) imported whisky, brandy or rum has been manufactured for at least two years; or

(ii) the age thereof, as represented on the containers, is correctly stated.

Mr. C. J. Lewin, Civil Air Attaché, Middle East, has been appointed to the new post of Civil Air Attaché, Central American and Caribbean Republics, with headquarters in Jamaica.

Some Books Reviewed

A Colonial Anthology

To outline the history, geography, topography, flora, fauna and anthropology of the British Colonial Empire would seem to require several large volumes. To seek to accomplish this task in a work of some 380 pages is to produce what must be only an introduction, and the author of this work* is emphatic in his preface that it is no more than an introduction.

It consists almost entirely of extracts from well-known works on the Empire written by sailors and soldiers, traders, explorers, missionaries and administrators. As it was decided not to draw on works published since the early years of this century, the anthology is not an attempt to show the colonies as they are but an attempt to show the nature of the legacy left by the empire-builders.

It has five parts each dealing with a geographical region and each containing a potted history and biographical notes regarding the selected authors. There are 33 illustrations.

Some 70 pages form the West Indian section and they are devoted to the writings of Kingsley, Trollope, Froude, Coleridge, im Thurn, Esquemeling, Schomburgk and a dozen other well-known authors.

Mr. Harold Evans, of the Information Department of the Colonial Office, prepared this anthology during spare time at week-ends and holidays, and during 18 months combed some 250 authors. He has worked hard and his labour has not been in vain.

Georgian Buildings in B.W.I.

Towards the end of 1946 Mr. A. W. Acworth, hon. treasurer and hon. acting secretary of the Georgian Group, left this country for the British West Indies to examine buildings of architectural interest and report to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. A note on his report was published on page 268 of the December, 1947 issue of the CIRCULAR.

Mr. Acworth has now published the result of his researches on Georgian architecture in the British West Indies in book form.† Herein the reader will find not only the architectural descriptions of the Georgian treasures which remain, but historical notes on the conditions prevailing at the time of their building; notes on the influence of situation, and the local choice of building material, on the structural and architectural detail; and particulars of the manner in which the buildings have been affected by earthquakes, hurricanes, and the passage of time.

The text is very readable, and 60 excellent photographs, all taken by Mr. Acworth, illustrate the buildings which are described.

**Men in the Tropics*. A Colonial Anthology. Compiled and edited by Harold Evans, London: William Hodge & Co., Ltd., 18s. net.

†*Treasure in the Caribbean*. A first study of Georgian buildings in the British West Indies. By A. W. Acworth. The Georgian Handbooks. Pleiades Books Limited, London, 1949. Price, 12s. 6d. net.

First Colonial City

It was announced on October 26th that Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, is to be raised to the status of a city on the occasion of the celebration next year of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of local government in the town.

The Royal Charter will be presented to the Mayor and Council of Nairobi by the Duke of Gloucester at a ceremony to be held there on March 30th, 1950. The Duke will be accompanied by the Duchess.

Nairobi will be the first town in the Colonial Empire to be granted city status by Royal Charter. The town has been greatly developed in post-war years and the population continues to increase rapidly as new industries are established there and as the pace of economic and commercial activity increases. It is an important centre of road, rail and air communications and the principal marketing and distributing centre for the whole of East Africa.

Besides being the seat of government, Nairobi is the headquarters of the East Africa High Commission.

The Pictorial Pages

MANY of our readers at home and in the West Indies will have heard the stirring speeches of Mr. Churchill and Field-Marshal Montgomery which were broadcast from the Empress Hall, London, on October 22nd, on the occasion of the Alamein reunion. The photograph which forms the first of the pictorial pages gives some idea of the size and importance of the occasion. In the inset the two great war leaders are seen in conversation.

The illustration in the top half of the second page shows part of the giant reservoir now under construction at Chingford by the Metropolitan Water Board. The building on the right is the outlet control tower. The basin of the reservoir is a mile-and-a-half in length and graduates from a width of over half-a-mile to about a quarter of a mile. It covers an area of 334 acres and will hold 3,400 million gallons.

The photograph reproduced in the lower half was taken in Trafalgar Square at the launching of the new drive for National Savings. The mayors and civic heads of 55 boroughs were present—but the weather refused to co-operate!



This ambulance has been presented to the Montserrat branch of the British Red Cross Society by the London Headquarters.

Golf in Trinidad

The St. Andrew's Golf Club, Trinidad, was founded about 1870 by some of the early Scottish settlers, as the name implies. In those days golf was played on the 199-acre Queen's Park Savannah on the northern boundary of Port-of-Spain. In 1920 the Savannah became overcrowded through the increasing popularity of cricket and football, and the golf club then moved to grounds east of St. James's barracks. In 1934 a company known as Maraval Lands, Ltd. was formed and acquired 130 acres of Champs Elysées estate, in the Maraval Valley, for the purpose of providing a new and settled home for the St. Andrew's Club.

The course was designed by H. S. Colt, the famous

English golf course architect, and he made an excellent job with the limited ground available. In 1936 the first nine holes were opened and four years later the second nine were completed and brought into play. The greens are planted with Bermuda grass. St. Andrew's is admittedly the best course in the Caribbean area. Every hole is different so there is no monotony such as exists on a flat course. The course is short, approximately 5,300 yards, but it requires very accurate play to make the par of the course, which is 68 for the 18 holes. It is picturesquely situated on undulating ground in

the Maraval Valley with mountains towering on the east and west. The comfortable club house is well constructed and from the front terrace a spectator can look down upon the players and follow the play at about twelve holes.

Dominica's Financial Secretary

By the Dominica Order in Council, 1949, made on September 29th, 1949, the title of the Treasurer of Dominica has been changed to that of Financial Secretary. The holder of the post is an *ex-officio* member of the Legislative Council and this order makes the necessary consequential amendment of the principal order so far as it relates to the *ex-officio* membership of the council.

A shipment of 360 tons of corn to the United Kingdom left Jamaica on October 20th.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"**B**ETTA fe ride ass what carry you dan harse dat trow you."

* * *

THE RT. REV. FABIAN JACKSON, Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago since 1946, has resigned on medical advice. He expects to leave Trinidad about the middle of November.

* * *

As we go to press we learn with great regret of the sudden death, on October 30th, of Mr. Donald Jones, manager of the Grenada branch of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

* * *

SIR CHARLES WOOLLEY, the Governor, announced on October 29th that the Secretary of State for the Colonies will appoint a special commission next year to consider constitutional reforms in British Guiana.

* * *

THE REV. RONALD NORMAN SHAPLEY, M.C., chaplain of the Gordon Boys' School, was consecrated as Bishop of the Windward Islands at Southwark Cathedral, on October 18th. He was presented by the Bishop of Bath and Wells and Archbishop Hardie.

* * *

RECENT visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have included the following: Hon. H. H. Croucher, Mr. G. M. Eccles, Captain H. V. M. Metivier, Mr. D. M. O'Neale, Mr. C. W. Reece, Hon. Arthur Ridelhalgh, Mr. C. Lyall Sealy, Mr. T. H. Scott, Mr. A. B. O'N. Skinner and Captain R. Landry.

* * *

K.I.M. ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES celebrated their 30th anniversary on October 7th. Among the messages of congratulation received by the company was one from the Lord Mayor of London, sent through the Burgomaster of Amsterdam, and conveyed by Mr. H. B. Rhodes, of Kingston, Surrey, the first K.I.M. passenger on the Croydon-Amsterdam service.

* * *

MRS. SMITH, wife of Mr. J. Michael Smith, who gave birth to a daughter at Bramhall, Cheshire, on October 24th, is the only daughter of Mr. Alexander Elder, a treasurer of the West India Committee, and Mrs. Elder, one of the voluntary workers for some time of the Ladies War Services Committee at 40, Norfolk Street. This is the first grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. Elder.

* * *

MR. JOHN W. H. O'REGAN, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, has been appointed Deputy Colonial Secretary in Jamaica. Mr. O'Regan was educated at Marlborough College, and Balliol College, Oxford, and joined the Colonial Service 14 years ago, all his service being spent in Ceylon. He was a district officer until 1944, when he became Controller of Internal Purchase Scheme, and two years later was Assistant Government Agent.

* * *

SIR REGINALD ST.-JOHNSTON, who was Governor of the Leeward Islands from 1929 to 1935, is the author of a

dozen or more works, several of which have been reviewed in the CIRCULAR. He now has three more in production—a novel, a book about dogs, and *Something New from Africa*, which will deal with his recent tour through the Union, the two Rhodesias and other parts of that continent.

* * *

THE EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION announce that the post of director of the Corporation has been filled by the promotion of Mr. J. C. May, previously executive secretary, who has been a member of the staff since the Corporation was established under Royal Charter in 1921. Mr. D. F. Ruston succeeds him as secretary and Mr. M. H. White becomes assistant secretary.

* * *

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD., according to the Trinidad correspondent of *The Times*, have announced plans, which are awaiting the British Government's final approval, for extending and modernizing the company's refinery at a cost of about \$17,500,000 over the next two years. The company recently secured a 25-year concession for the duty-free importation into Trinidad of Venezuelan crude oil for refining.

* * *

CABLE & WIRELESS, LTD. has opened radiotelephone service between its stations in Bermuda and Trinidad, and Bermuda and Barbados. The Bermuda-Barbados service offers extensions to Georgetown, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Both Bermuda and Barbados are already linked with Britain and the U.S.A., and service is open between Barbados and Canada. The company hopes shortly to open radiotelephone service between its stations in Bermuda and Jamaica, the latter of which already operates service with the U.S.A.

Cocoa Conference

Useful Report

The report* of the cocoa conference held in London at the end of August has appeared with the promptitude to which members of the conference are becoming accustomed. The papers are published in full, the discussions recorded *verbatim*, and illustrations, diagrams and statistical tables well reproduced.

An account of the proceedings has already appeared in the September issue of the CIRCULAR (page 209). Though it gave an idea of the ground which was covered in conference, it could convey no impression of the large amount of detailed information provided for members of the conference to digest. This will be realized by those who consult the report, which is a most useful book of reference and compendium of information on the problems facing the cocoa industry.

*Cocoa Conference, 1949. The Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, Ltd., 25-28, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1.

Obituary

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of the following:—

Mr. H. A. Trotter

Mr. Henry Alexander Trotter, who died in London on October 21st, had been closely connected with the West Indies since the end of last century when he entered the firm of Thomson Hankey & Co., West India merchants. He became a partner in 1900 and later head of the firm and was actively concerned with its direction up to the time of his death.

Born in 1869, he was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1891. He then read law and was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1894.

After spending a few years in South America he returned to London to join the firm. His wide knowledge of commerce and finance was soon recognized in the city and he received invitations to join the boards of several companies and institutions. In 1905 he became a director of the Alliance Assurance Co., Ltd., remaining on the board for 40 years, the last 11 as deputy-chairman. In 1909 he was appointed a director of the Bank of England, and remained as such until 1934, serving as Deputy Governor for the three years 1920-22 and again in 1926. He was also chairman of several trust companies.

Mr. Trotter was one of the oldest members of the West India Committee and served on the Executive from 1903-38 and as a treasurer for several years. He was deputy chairman from 1917 until 1920 when he retired owing to pressure of other duties. During his younger days he paid several visits to the West Indies, and again visited Jamaica in 1948.

Mr. Trotter, who was married in 1914, is survived by his widow, two daughters and a son, Mr. William A. Trotter, a resident director of Thomson Hankey & Co. in Jamaica, for whom much sympathy will be felt in their great loss.

Mr. W. G. Freeman

Mr. William George Freeman, B.Sc., who died at Beckenham, Kent, on October 28th, at the age of 75 had, like Mr. H. A. Trotter, been closely connected with the West Indies for half a century. His services to those colonies—Trinidad in particular—to the Royal Empire Society, of which he was a Fellow and for some time a Council member, and to the West India Committee, on whose Executive he had served since 1929, were so varied and numerous that merely to catalogue them would require considerable space.

Although of a quiet, almost shy disposition, and the most gentle of men he was a hard worker and a regular attendant at the meetings of the many organizations with which he was connected.

While studying at the Royal College of Science, London, Mr. Freeman secured first-class honours in Botany, the Edward Forbes medal and prize for Biology, and was University Exhibitioner in Botany. During 1896-7 he was private assistant to Dr. Henry Trimen, F.R.S., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Ceylon, and for the next three years Demonstrator in Botany at the Royal College of Science.

His first direct contact with the West Indies was in 1900 when he went out to Barbados as scientific assistant to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies becoming also editor of *Agricultural News* and of *West Indian Bulletin*. Three years later he returned to London to be Superintendent of the Colonial Economic Collections at the Imperial Institute.

In 1911 he was appointed Assistant Director of Agriculture and Government Botanist, Trinidad, and in 1917, on the retirement of Professor Carmody, Director of Agriculture and Registrar of the Agricultural Credit Societies. In Trinidad he is remembered chiefly for the important cocoa experiments carried out under his direction at River Estate and for the part which he played in the establishment of agricultural credit societies in both Trinidad and Tobago.

He served on numerous committees and was for some years a governor of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, and chairman of the Froghopper Investigation Committee.

On his retirement in 1929 he returned to London and for several years was in the Intelligence Section of the Plant and Animal Products Department at the Imperial Institute.

Mr. Freeman was a prolific writer and had several volumes to his credit including *The World's Commercial Products*, of which he was joint author with Dr. S. E. Chandler, and an edition of *Nature Teaching* prepared in collaboration with Dr. (afterwards Sir) Francis Watts.

He rendered great assistance from 1939 to 1945 in the preparation of the CIRCULAR in spite of advancing years and the strain of the war.

Raw Cotton Prices

The Raw Cotton Commission announced adjustments in selling prices of raw cotton to take effect on Monday, September 26th. These adjustments are to be applied to the price list instituted on September 20th, and summarized on page 242 of the October issue of the CIRCULAR.

Adjustments to cover quotations:—

Increased by 300 points per lb.

Giza 30 (NS); Giza 7.

Increased by 150 points per lb.

East Indian—American Seed (IL); Zagora (UG); Ashmouni (UM).

Increased by 100 points per lb.

American (AM); Brazilian—Sao Paulo (BS); North Brazilian—Serido style (NB); West African (WA); East African (EA); Argentine (AR); Russian (GE); East Indian—Short Staple (IS); Sundry American (OT); Giza 23 (NG); Menoufi (MN); Peruvian—Tanguis (PT); Sudan "L" types 3 and above (SL); Sudan "L" types X4 and below (HL); Zeidab—Irr. American Seed (HO).

Increased by 50 points per lb.

Haitian (HT); Tokar (SK).

Unchanged.

West Indian Sea Island.

There were changes in differential adjustments of many types, but none in the case of West Indian Sea Island types.

The University College

Extra-Mural Activities

THE Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies has issued the first number of the *Caribbean Quarterly*,* a publication which "offers to West Indians reliable reading on their own history and culture, and on social developments in the Caribbean. It seeks to enable West Indians to keep in touch with significant cultural and social events elsewhere. It aims at fostering contact between persons and institutions active in the field of culture in the Caribbean area. It presents information concerning the University College of the West Indies, reports on the progress of the extra-mural work of the University College and provides study material for that work."

The aims of the publication, as thus defined, are admirable and comprehensive, and the editors will earn high praise if they succeed in achieving them. It will be necessary, however, to tread warily. The University College has not yet got into its stride. According to the second report of the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies, which is reviewed elsewhere in this issue, the Faculty of Medicine commenced teaching in October, 1948; the Faculty of Natural Science was due to commence teaching last month; and teaching in the faculty of Arts will commence "probably in 1950."

It will thus be some time before there can be any consolidation of cultural aims in the University College itself, and it would be a major tragedy if the extra-mural department were to promulgate aims which should prove to be at variance with those which evolve within the University College later.

There are signs in this first number of the *Caribbean Quarterly* of a tendency to pre-judge what the cultural aims of the University College are to be, which spoil what might otherwise have been an excellent compilation.

An interesting article, reprinted from *The American Historical Review*, deals with conditions on a Jamaica sugar plantation from 1792 to 1796, and this is to be followed in the next issue by an account of the Lucky Hill Community Project to mark the changes which have taken place in 150 years. Another contribution of a historical nature deals with the aboriginal remains of Trinidad and the West Indies. Professor Asprey deals simply and informatively with some aspects of botany. Professor R. G. Baskett describes the provisions for agricultural education in Northern Ireland. Dr. H. D. Huggins contributes an account of his activities in connexion with the formation of the Social and Economic Research Institute of the University College. The Resident Tutors contribute notes on their local activities.

These factual items are all of good standard and highly suitable for a periodical of this type, but under the heading of Literary Contributions is reproduced a poem of so "advanced" a nature that one of the editors has been impelled to add a lengthy, and almost equally "advanced," explanation of its meaning. Should the Faculty of Arts, when established in the

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University College, encourage its students to perpetrate "deliberate ambiguities," "unintentional obscurities," and "grammatical distortions," the extra-mural department will presumably be expected to follow suit, but meantime it might be well to stick more closely to forms of literature more generally accepted and more readily comprehensible.

West Indian Club

Dinner to Mr. W. L. Savage

MR. W. L. SAVAGE, Governor-Designate of Barbados, was entertained at dinner by the West Indian Club, in the Savoy Hotel, London, on October 12th.

Sir Alan Collymore, Chief Justice of Barbados, presided and Mr. A. E. V. Barton, secretary of the West India Committee, said by Sir Alan to be acting in a single capacity for the first time in his experience, was called upon to propose the toast of the principal guest.

In welcoming Mr. Savage and extending to him the good wishes of the club and its members, Mr. Barton described the peoples and conditions he would find in Barbados, adding the suggestion that a few tips on cricket from Sir Pelham Warner, who was present, might be useful.

Mr. Savage, in returning thanks for the manner in which the toast of his health had been acclaimed, said that the general purpose of colonial administration was to produce the conditions which would enable the people to find happiness. He believed happiness to be a by-product of honesty and of hard work in all our activities. He also believed the moral forces behind any government to be of more importance than the forms of government. Given the pre-requisite of hard work, Barbados and the entire British Commonwealth could wring success and happiness from their present difficulties. He would go to Barbados as the country of his adoption.

The formal proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair by Mr. H. L. O. Henriques.

Among those also present were:—

Brigadier R. H. D. Arundell, Governor of the Windward Islands, Mr. F. Aldous, Mr. C. Archibald, Mr. G. Baddeley, Mr. F. J. Bellechamber, Mr. E. A. Benjamin, Mr. K. W. Blackburne, Mr. L. C. Burnell, Mr. J. F. Cade, Mr. J. M. Campbell, Mr. D. Carter, Mr. B. Conduit, Mr. Alex. Elder, Mr. Ian Gale, Mr. J. Gallagher, Mr. C. W. W. Greenidge, Mr. W. C. Ingleton, Mr. S. D. Jupp, Sir Thomas Lloyd, Mr. G. McAlister, Mr. H. Mann, Mr. F. Mayhew, Mr. N. S. Murray, Mr. D. M. O'Neale, Mr. J. W. Pearl, Mr. Roger A. Ranlin, Mr. George R. Reid, Mr. G. C. Rhodes, Sir Kenneth Roberts-Wray, Mr. Noel J. B. Sabine, Mr. C. Lyall Sealy, Mr. G. F. Seel, Mr. N. P. Sherlock, Mr. A. B. O'N. Skinner, Mr. R. D. Smith, Brigadier A. E. Stokes-Roberts, Mr. L. Stokes-Roberts, Mr. H. Wakeford, Sir Pelham Warner, Mr. H. E. Williams, Mr. C. Ernest Woodhouse, Mr. A. I. Zaitzeff, and Mr. G. J. Dent, hon. secretary.

Loan for Trinidad Citrus Growers

The Co-operative Citrus Growers Association of Trinidad and Tobago has obtained a loan of £60,000 from the Trinidad Government. The money will be spent on improving plant and buildings.

A packing unit has already been purchased which will increase the output of one packing centre by 100 per cent. Two automatic juicing units have also been purchased.

The loan is to be repaid within 10 years.

Correspondence

Caribbean Development

SIR,

In the article entitled "New Deal for British Guiana" published by *The Times* on September 13th, it is stated that the present population of the West Indian islands is insufficient to support further development. On the contrary, all of the West Indian islands are over-populated and many of them are fully developed. It is the population of the two continental colonies—British Guiana and British Honduras—which is insufficient for further development, and they are under-developed. These two colonies could be developed if population was transferred to them from the islands and the necessary equipment, capital and skilled guidance were supplied. To investigate how that could be done was the object of the Evans Commission, of which I was a member.

The writer of the article says that the transfer of 100,000 people, recommended by the commission "hardly matches the rate of increase of the populations concerned," but omits to say that 100,000 is only the number who would be directly employed in the industries recommended by the Commission and their families, and does not take into reckoning the greater number who could be employed in secondary ways, ministering to the needs of the workers in the primary industries and of each other.

Barbados has 200,000 inhabitants, of whom only 27,621 are employed in its sole industry, the sugar industry, yet the rest of the population makes a living in secondary ways off the fruits of the labour of the primary workers, and so it is in all countries. Moreover, the Evans Commission recommended no more development than it was thought that the United Kingdom Government could finance in the next ten years, but, certainly as regards British Honduras, only a small part of the cultivable land would be utilized in implementing their recommendations, and there would be ample room for multiplying manifold development in that colony and absorbing a larger number of immigrants.

The development corporation recommended for each of the two colonies was intended to include participation by private enterprise as well as by any West Indian government which desired to participate and to send emigrants to the two continental colonies. Up to the present it has not been publicly stated that any of the West Indian governments has been offered the opportunity of participating in the proposed development, although it is known that leaders of thought in some of the West Indian colonies desire it.

Yours, etc.

Denison House,
Vauxhall Bridge Road,
London, S.W.1.

C. W. W. GREENIDGE.

October 11th, 1949.

Mr. Patrick Donald MacDonald, Assistant Colonial Secretary, Fiji, has been appointed Colonial Secretary, Leeward Islands, in succession to Mr. W. A. MacNie who has retired. Mr. MacDonald was seconded to Trinidad in 1942 as Assistant Colonial Secretary and returned to Fiji in 1946.

Publications Received

London Calling, September 8th, 1949. This issue contains the text of a broadcast given by Mr. Kenneth Bradley, editor of the *Colonial Service Journal*, in the "Commonwealth and Empire" series of talks. The subject of the broadcast was Some Outstanding Developments of the Year in the British Colonies, and West Indian developments which found mention were the control of malaria in British Guiana by the use of D.D.T. and the constitutional progress made in Trinidad and Barbados.

Mr. Bradley had this to say in regard to land shortage: "I do not want to prophesy or to raise bogies, but when we think of populations we automatically think of land shortage. This problem is probably most acute in the West Indies (though not in British Guiana) and in Kenya. The Evans Commission has produced a plan for the West Indies, and this has been adopted as the basis of development policy. It includes proposals gradually to transfer 100,000 people from the overcrowded islands to British Guiana and British Honduras."

Gordian, September 25th, 1949. The market report, in discussing the probable effect of devaluation of the pound sterling on English cocoa economics, concludes that it should have no influence. "Even if corrections are made, resulting in a higher price, there will be enough elbow room left so that a price increase for the finished product need not be effected." The English government, the writer considers, is "using raw cocoa as an extra source of income which is then being used to lower the price of other products."

World Crops, Vol. I, No. 2, October, 1949. The second issue of a new periodical edited by Sir Harold Tempany, the aims of which were described in the previous issue of the CIRCULAR. Includes Sir John Russell's presidential address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science on the world problem of increasing food supplies, and articles on pastures and forage crops in the tropics, mechanization in agriculture, water-stabilized earth roads, and selective weed-killers.

The Ambassador, Number 10, 1949. The British Export Journal for Textiles and Fashions. Producers of Sea Island cotton will be interested to see this publication, copies of which, the CIRCULAR is informed, have been sent to all overseas Trade Commissioners. It is a beautifully produced illustrated list of fabrics and fashions for export from the United Kingdom, and exhibits the high standard of craftsmanship available to make the most of superfine material such as Sea Island cotton.

The Advertising, Labelling and Composition of Food, A Report by the Ministry of Food. London: H.M.S.O., 1949. Price, 1s. 6d. net. This publication gives an account of four years' administration of the Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, 1943, by the Food Standards and Labelling Division of the Ministry of Food, and brings together the regulations about labelling, advertising and the composition of foods. The report and its

(Continued on page 269)

The World's Sugar Crops

THE latest estimates of Willett & Gray, as published in their *Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal*, show that they expect the world sugar crop for 1948-49 to total 31,949,830 long tons. Should this figure be reached, it will be the largest ever recorded, and will exceed the outturn for 1947-48 by over 2,730,000 tons. Their estimates in detail are as follows:—

CANE CROPS				
	1948-49	1947-48	1946-47	1945-46
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
United States—				
Louisiana ...	354,726	265,118	295,650	329,998
Florida ...	78,000	70,536	83,928	94,643
Puerto Rico ...	1,140,609	989,518	971,322	811,686
Hawaiian Isl. ...	875,000	745,631	778,738	607,208
Virgin Islands ...	5,000	5,499	5,000	4,332
Cuba ...	5,145,644	5,959,775	5,757,436	3,996,391
B.W.I.—				
Trinidad ...	159,032	115,941	110,069	109,602
Barbados ...	132,731	57,758	88,024	113,880
Jamaica ...	237,825	192,814	170,255	177,886
Antigua ...	18,000	12,174	22,736	26,023
St. Kitts ...	35,667	31,393	34,357	33,513
Other B.W.I. ...	11,200	12,494	6,164	5,950
F.W.I.—				
Martinique ...	40,000	45,000	34,430	23,530
Guadeloupe ...	35,000	40,000	31,091	29,526
Dominican Republic	457,000	414,974	458,077	451,671
Haiti ...	45,000	41,628	44,019	39,121
Mexico ...	660,000	600,000	499,541	423,600
Central America—				
Guatemala ...	67,000	71,000	68,571	58,447
Salvador ...	24,000	24,898	26,998	18,164
Other Cen. Am.	37,000	32,000	33,929	30,357
South America—				
Demerara ...	184,690	172,991	165,148	172,051
Colombia ...	110,000	108,580	83,242	79,816
Surinam ...	7,000	10,000	3,617	4,952
Venezuela ...	32,000	34,200	31,060	28,076
Ecuador ...	37,000	43,004	33,895	33,928
Peru ...	470,000	477,800	411,723	404,081
Argentine ...	565,471	606,129	634,729	449,147
Brazil ...	1,648,000	1,529,410	1,470,588	1,269,420
Total America ...	12,612,595	12,710,265	12,354,337	9,826,999
Br. India (Gur) ...	3,375,520	3,569,000	3,327,000	3,672,680
„ „ (White) ...	1,165,000	1,229,800	1,075,000	1,084,457
Java ...	239,702	80,000	25,000	20,000
Japanese Empire	30,000	50,000	30,000	63,785
Taiwan (Formosa)	450,000	263,289	57,000	84,820
Philippine Isl. ...	625,000	355,280	75,458	12,837
Total Asia ...	5,885,222	5,547,369	4,589,458	4,938,579
Australia ...	942,561	605,054	552,158	665,844
Fiji Islands ...	136,000	142,857	115,324	64,992
Total Australia and Polynesia ...	1,078,561	747,911	667,482	730,836
Egypt ...	207,000	222,505	195,818	177,835
Mauritius ...	395,067	348,531	291,060	139,050
Reunion ...	85,000	85,000	52,400	22,371
Natal and Zululand	542,719	457,147	423,900	493,839
Mozambique ...	84,000	72,761	79,539	70,294
Angola ...	50,000	50,000	49,654	45,620
Br. East Africa* ...	82,600	83,110	74,050	58,710
Total Africa ...	1,446,386	1,319,054	1,166,421	1,007,719
Europe Spain ...	19,000	16,000	10,000	10,554
Total Cane Sugar Crops ...	21,041,764	20,340,599	18,787,698	16,514,687

BEET CROPS				
	1948-49	1947-48	1946-47	1945-46
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Europe—				
Germany ...	1,303,544	781,673	998,141	772,164
Czechoslovakia ...	628,083	351,301	590,890	447,845
Hungary ...	242,856	153,400	68,300	7,319
France ...	960,157	664,420	765,218	461,111
Belgium ...	259,735	137,189	234,454	140,895
Holland ...	284,996	220,763	247,800	66,670
Russia & Ukraine	3,000,000	2,700,000	2,600,000	830,000
Poland ...	690,000	550,131	427,076	191,827
Sweden ...	291,592	243,330	250,500	294,300
Denmark ...	265,041	225,222	214,715	183,712
Italy ...	375,000	216,328	239,670	19,450
Spain ...	265,144	133,500	158,670	108,869
Switzerland ...	24,000	21,350	24,972	27,469
Bulgaria ...	60,000	18,685	33,115	19,241
Roumania ...	100,000	81,800	34,963	25,807
Great Britain* ...	566,964	429,160	556,731	503,475
Ireland* ...	85,492	65,237	61,174	95,912
Jugoslavia ...	90,000	80,000	40,000	35,000
Turkey* ...	118,102	96,635	96,587	89,803
Other countries	116,000	82,000	72,000	40,219
Total Europe ...	9,726,706	7,252,124	7,754,976	4,361,088
U.S.—Beet* ...	1,102,075	1,555,529	1,306,505	1,067,848
Canada—Beet* ...	79,285	69,947	91,965	73,237
Total Beet Sugar Crops ...	10,908,066	8,877,600	9,153,446	5,502,173
GRAND TOTAL—				
CANE AND BEET	31,949,830	29,218,199	27,941,144	22,016,860
Estimated Increase in production ...	2,731,631	1,277,055	5,924,284	†923,699
* Refined Sugar.			† Decrease.	

It will be noted that compared with last year beet is expected to produce an increase of 2,030,466 tons, while the additional cane is put at only 701,165 tons.

The figure for Cuba shows a decrease of over 800,000 tons. The industry in the Philippine Islands has made a rapid recovery during the last four crops, the current outturn being estimated at 625,000 tons against only 12,837 tons in 1945-46.

(Continued from page 268)

appendices together form, as the Minister of Food rightly observes in a foreword, a reference manual on developments of the law relating to food composition and food labelling.

British Empire Trades Index, 1948-49. Business Dictionaries Ltd., London. This is the 18th edition of this useful publication which gives the names and addresses and trade or profession of Empire firms whose business it is to buy and to sell or to provide transport facilities, insurance, financial, or other necessary services in connexion with trade and commerce.

These are arranged under the usual five headings: alphabetically by trade; alphabetically by name; trade marks and brands; overseas cable addresses; firms in United Nations countries, by trade class and alphabetically by name.

West Indies at Westminster

THE House of Commons, which adjourned on July 30th for the Summer Recess, and met on September 27-29th to debate the devaluation policy of the Government, reassembled on October 18th.

Belize Hospital. In a written reply dated October 20th. Mr. Creech Jones informed Mr. Cooper that in the year ended September 30th, 1949, 81 cases of appendectomy had been undertaken at Belize Hospital. Death had occurred in three of the cases.

Jamaica Reservoir. Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he would make a statement on the present condition of the reservoir at Mount Moreland, Jamaica; and what had been the results of the tests which he had undertaken to carry out.

Mr. Creech Jones, in a written reply of October 19th, said that the tank had been tested and had been found to be leaky. The necessary repairs would be carried out forthwith by the Jamaica Public Works Department.

Jamaica Press Bill. Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he had considered the undesirable nature of the new Press Bill which the Jamaican Government had passed; and if he would advise His Majesty to disallow this measure.

In a written answer of October 26th, Mr. Creech Jones said that notice had been given in Jamaica of a Bill entitled "The Disclosure of Confidential Information (Restriction) Law." The Bill had not yet received its first reading. He had made certain inquiries of the Governor as a result of Press reports, and would prefer to defer comment until he had received the Governor's reply. [The Bill has now been withdrawn. Ed.]

German Exports to Colonies. Sir Ian Fraser asked the President of the Board of Trade what the Government's policy was with regard to exports of manufactured goods from Western Germany to the colonial Empire where such exports came into competition with British manufactured goods.

In a written reply, dated October 18th, the Secretary for Overseas Trade, Mr. A. G. Bottomley, stated that there was a strong demand in the colonies for manufactured goods of many kinds from this country and from Western Germany, and under the arrangements for trade between Western Germany and the sterling area Britain had agreed to as high a level of German exports to the colonial markets as possible without increasing her liability to pay dollars to Western Germany.

The Evans Report. Mr. H. Hynd asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on October 26th if he was in a position to make a statement on what action he was prepared to take to implement the recommendations of the Evans Report regarding British Honduras and British Guiana.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that he had made such a statement in reply to his hon. Friend the Member for Dagenham (Mr. Parker) in December last. The recommendations had been further studied both here and in the colony. Some of the preliminary investigational work which was announced had already been done by the Government and by the Colonial Development Corporation, and plans were well advanced for more. This work was recommended as the first essential stage.

Air Mail to West Indies. Mr. Cooper asked the Postmaster-General what the cause was of the delay in postal services between this country and British Honduras, which, up till recently, had taken four days, and were now taking anything up to eight days; and what steps it was proposed to take to improve the postal services to the West Indies.

In a written reply, of October 19th, Mr. Wilfred Paling said that during recent months the average transmission time of air mails from the United Kingdom to British Honduras had been four and a half days, but he regretted that, on occasions, it had been up to eight days owing to aircraft delays *en route*. It was hoped that the revised air services just introduced by the British Air Corporations, which were being used to the fullest possible extent for mails, would result in an improvement in the air mail service to British Honduras and to parts of the West Indies.

Tuberculosis in British Guiana. Mr. Harold Davies asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on October 26th if he was aware of the growing death rate from tuberculosis in British Guiana; and whether he was prepared to grant funds to the

British Guiana Society for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis to purchase an X-ray plant for their dispensary.

Mr. Creech Jones said that he was aware of the seriousness of this problem. The Government of British Guiana had made provision for improving tuberculosis services in its 10-year development plan.

Asked by the same Member if he had arrived at any definite answer whether a small grant could be given to the society, Mr. Creech Jones said: "We have made a very substantial grant under the Colonial Development Welfare Act, and part of the 10-year programme makes provision in regard to this particular disease."

Caribbean Airlines. Mr. Cooper asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation on October 19th what steps were being taken to stimulate the development of airline services in the Caribbean and to commence operations in addition to the one service between Nassau and Miami, in order to earn United States dollars and to implement the American agreement entered into in 1946.

Mr. Lindgren said in reply that within the limits of the capacity at present available, frequencies on the existing routes were being increased. With the introduction of the newer aircraft types with which the Corporation was being re-equipped, there would be progressive extension of services to other routes in the Caribbean area.

Mr. Beswick then asked what types of aircraft were being introduced in that area. Mr. Lindgren replied that the Stratocruisers would replace the Constellations for other services, and the Hermes, when it arrived, was planned to operate in the area.

Cost-of-living Index. Asked by Mr. Pickthorn on October 26th what was the expected rise in the cost-of-living index in each West Indian colony, or generally, consequent on devaluation; and what was being done to minimize the effect on the real incomes of the masses, Mr. Creech Jones said: "The cost of living in the West Indian colonies will inevitably be affected by the increase in the sterling prices of necessary food and other imports from dollar sources, and also by any price increases in sterling goods which may occur. It is not yet possible to make any precise assessment. The problem is naturally receiving urgent consideration by the Governments concerned, but I cannot yet make any statement as to what measures they may consider necessary."

Mr. Pickthorn: "Is it not possible to make some statement, not perhaps extremely precise; and cannot the right hon. Gentleman at least be so precise as to be sure that the rise will be greater in the West Indies than the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised it would be here?"

Mr. Creech Jones: "Well, that is just possible, but I must wait until the discussions with the colonial Governments have been concluded."

Development Values in the Colonies. Mr. Geoffrey Cooper on October 26th asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in view of the developments being sponsored in many colonies, what steps he proposed to take to ensure that the increase in development values accrued to the colonial Governments and not to private interests.

Mr. Creech Jones said that the principal way in which colonial Governments benefited from the increased values due to development activity was through the taxation system, and as the hon. Member would be aware, there had been a substantial increase in the incidence of the principal taxes in recent years.

Mr. Cooper then asked that if Mr. Creech Jones accepted the principle that any increase in land values resulting from private enterprise did not benefit the public or the community, would he consider using his influence to get the colonial Governments to introduce legislation where necessary so that this could occur.

Mr. Creech Jones replied: "That is, of course, a matter for the colonial Government, but obviously the system of land tenure in the territories is very complex, and one cannot easily apply a system which is suitable here to conditions of land-holdings in the colonies."

The *Empress of Australia* sailed from Liverpool on November 3rd with over 1,700 military and civilian passengers. There were 552 for Bermuda, 951 for Jamaica, 202 for Trinidad and 12 for Belize, British Honduras. She first left Liverpool on the preceding day but was towed back with engine trouble.



The Homeward Mail



BARBADOS

Shipping. Miss Joan Kysh, secretary of the Barbados Publicity Committee, in a letter dated October 1st, says: "The s.s. *Bonaire*, of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., called at Barbados on September 5th bringing passengers from Dover. This marked the commencement of a monthly service between the United Kingdom and Barbados by ships of this line. The announcement that Furness Withy & Co. Ltd. are resuming their West Indies freight and passenger service is very welcome, especially as this service will offer connexion with the Virgin Islands and Venezuela. Sailing every three weeks from New York, the itinerary will be: St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Kitts, Guirra, Venezuela, Trinidad, Grenada, Barbados, Martinique, Antigua, St. Croix, St. Thomas, New York.

"**Trans-Canada Airlines** have been granted landing rights at Barbados. The inclusion of Barbados as a port of call in the Montreal-Bermuda-Trinidad route should greatly benefit the tourist traffic to Barbados.

"**The Goodwill Mission** from the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce visited Barbados during the month.

Devaluation. "A marked increase in the number of visitors from Canada and the U.S.A. is expected in the coming season, due to the devaluation of the pound. At the new rate of exchange the Canadian dollar is worth \$1.53, and the U.S. dollar \$1.69, in Barbados.

Greek Pottery "An exhibition of Greek pottery was held at the Barbados Museum during the month. This museum is now open to the public every day."

BRITISH GUIANA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *October 27th*

The Governor made a broadcast speech on his return to the colony from leave in England. He made the following points:—

Hydro-electric development investigations were well under way; British Guiana might not have the physical characteristics for cheap and easy hydro-electric power but no effort should be spared to develop it if possible.

Bananas: discussions had been held with experts from Jamaica who had pledged all possible help, the immediate objective being to discover whether palatable disease-resistant bananas could be grown in British Guiana. Plans were being made for the necessary investigational work.

Cocoa: preliminary investigations had been completed. The Evans Report recommended areas believed to be suitable for growing cocoa and soil surveys were to be carried out as soon as qualified soil chemists were obtainable. The Governor emphasized that as both bananas and cocoa were long-term projects no quick results were to be expected.

Forestry: hopes of definite proposals from the Colonial Development Corporation were expected shortly, possibly involving a capital expenditure of \$5,000,000.

Telecommunications: Government negotiations with Cable and Wireless Ltd. to take over and rehabilitate the colony's telecommunications were fairly well advanced.

Extension of Price Controls. Writing from Georgetown on October 24th our correspondent says: "As a result of the devaluation of the pound, Government has reintroduced control measures limiting the prices of certain essential goods, and wide powers have been conferred on the Controller of Prices and Supplies in order to meet the situation.

Air Services. "K.L.M. inaugurated an air line service connecting British Guiana with Dutch Guiana and Curacao on September 25th. This is the fourth air line now connecting the colony with other parts of the world.

"**Dr. G. Giglioli**, the Medical Adviser to the Sugar Producers' Association and Honorary Government Malariologist, is on a lecture tour of Mexico on behalf of the World Health Organization of United Nations.

Rice Prices. "The price of whole grain rice has been increased by the Rice Marketing Board by 90c per bag and the price of padi has been increased by 45c per bag; as a consequence the selling price to the local consumer has gone up 1c per pound."

DOMINICA

Storm. Writing from Roseau on September 30th, a correspondent, signing himself "Wintergreen", says: "On August 31st we awaited a small revolving storm from about 160 miles south-east of Barbados, travelling north-west at 35 miles an hour. The storm broke on Barbados, did some damage, picked up Martinique in its course and spent itself in the Caribbean after veering to the north.

Financial Secretary. "The resignation of our new financial secretary, Mr. Puckridge, after about a month's occupancy of the post, has excited considerable comment. It is said that he did not find the milieu of the island sympathetic. A former administrator took us severely to task and condemned us for warring among ourselves. Happily there is no religious question here as we are 95 per cent Roman Catholic, and catholic action is correspondingly strong.

Crown Lands. "The increased agricultural activity has provoked the holders and managers of lands adjacent to Crown lands to offer these Crown lands in sale or rent, but our chief forest officer, Mr. L. L. de Verteuil, has issued a warning that ownership must be proved to the buyer before negotiating.

"**Antilles Products Ltd.**, the banana exporting firm to Dublin, Le Havre and Antwerp, continue their beneficent work and are changing the face of the island economically. There is a more forward spirit everywhere and the distribution of banana money is showing

everywhere in improvements. This is one up for private enterprise.

Devaluation. "On the 17th, in the evening, radio announced that the British pound had broken to U.S. \$2.80. Monday following was the feast of La Salette at Pointe Michele, a coast village about a mile to the south of Roseau. The faithful were on foot to the village as early as 2 a.m. But during the day of Monday, Roseau was very quiet. The banks were open but no exchange transactions were made. The answer was — 'Come back tomorrow.'

"We draw our flour from Canada and with the devaluation of the £ our control body is having a very busy time with the calculations. The merchants are selling at the old price but it is understood that the price to the merchants has not yet been fixed. The penny bread looks as if it had lost a little of its 2½ ozs.

"A rather curious effect has been produced by the devaluation of the £. People are noting the withdrawal of goods from the shop windows which were purchased at the old rate for the U.S.A. dollar. These goods are no doubt going into cold storage and will emerge when their purchase price has been forgotten.

"German goods are being offered here in a quiet way and through British and American monies. The knowing merchants are already after them. In years gone by the Germans on their warships—Prince Rupert's Bay was a favourite anchorage—ingratiated themselves very much with us. The technical excellence of their manufactures, although now only a memory, stands them in good stead."

JAMAICA

Devaluation. Our correspondent, Mr. H. P. Jacobs, writing from Kingston on October 12th, says: "Devaluation has caused a good deal of uneasiness, as certain staple supplies are obtained from North America. Government proposes to subsidize dried salted codfish out of the balance in hand from trading in rice. It is stated that the cost of this subsidy will amount to £12,000 a month, and even so the price rises to 1s. 2d. from 1s. 1d. Without subsidy the price would be 1s. 6d.

"Counter flour is likely to rise at the end of the year, and Government is attempting to obtain milling plant and storage for corn, the present government corn mill being unable to cope with the existing supply. The Government has accordingly applied to the Secretary of State for 400,000 dollars for this purpose from the funds at the disposal of the American Economic Co-operative Administration of Overseas Development.

"Already producers are concerned about the increase in cost of some of their supplies, and Hon. W. A. Bustamante has stated that he expects Britain to increase the price of all imports from Jamaica.

"The P.N.P. and T.U.C. have issued statements in which they call for increase of wages and rigid controls.

"The Jamaica Imperial Association, in a memorandum to Government, warned of the danger of subsidizing dollar imports and of tampering with existing cost structures by increase in wage rates. The memorandum urged strict review of spending programmes and a policy aimed at encouraging local production to replace imports and the expansion of production for export.

"Hotel proprietors recently met and agreed to reduce

rates in terms of dollars as a result of devaluation. A considerable expansion of the tourist trade is evidently expected.

"**Lord Listowel**, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, arrived on October 5th, and left on October 11th, for British Honduras. He is expected to return to Jamaica about the 19th, after which he will proceed to Trinidad, and to Barbados, where he is to preside at the Governors' Conference. During his stay in the island Lord Listowel visited Montego Bay, opened the health centre at Duncans in Trelawny, and visited many places in the country, including New Yarmouth sugar Factory.

"**Sir Hubert Rance** arrived on October 9th for what is expected to be the final meeting of the Standing Committee on Closer Association. On the following day cables announced his appointment as Governor of Trinidad.

"**Sir Charles Woolley**, Governor of British Guiana, former Colonial Secretary of Jamaica (acting Governor in 1938 after the death of Sir Edward Denham) arrived here on October 11th and stayed a few days.

Election. "Nomination Day has been fixed for November 28th. A Public Order Bill has been passed tightening up the law with regard to election offences, and increasing penalties.

Larceny Law Amendment. "Legislative Council took a strong line over a bill amending the Larceny Law to tighten up the provisions of that law with regard to praedial larceny. Declaring that the amendments did not go far enough, members made out such a strong case that Executive Council decided to reconsider the bill.

Transport. "Jamaica Utilities Ltd. have taken over the remaining bus routes in the Corporate Area.

"**Mr. G. J. Goble**, who has been appointed manager of the agricultural branch of C.D.C. in British Honduras, is well known as former agricultural superintendent and assistant manager of the United Fruit Co., and as assistant manager of the West Indies Sugar Co. in Jamaica."

TRINIDAD

Trinidad Trade Fair. The Acting Governor, Mr. P. M. Renison, formally opened the Trinidad Trade Fair at Docksite on October 1st. The Fair, which was the second of its kind to be held in Trinidad since the end of the war, was organized by Mr. Conrad Gonzales. It lasted for two weeks and proved a real revelation of the trade possibilities of the colony.

Future of Oil Industry. Government's Economic Adviser, Mr. A. A. Shenfield, has expressed the view that Trinidad is at one of the critical points in the development of the oil industry, as the known reserves of oil will, at the present rate of production, only last another ten to twelve years. Mr. Shenfield warned that if we are to remain an oil country for long we must find deep oil or perhaps under the sea oil off the coast. In this direction, the oil companies are moving rapidly, he said, and it is Government's policy to help them in their endeavours.

New Hotel Projected. It is reported that Mr.

Libro, owner of the Robert Clay Hotel in Miami and the Panama International Hotel in Panama, plans to erect a \$1,000,000 hotel on Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain in the near future. Mr. Libro visited Trinidad recently and discussed the matter with prominent businessmen. He has since returned to Miami where he will consult with executives of his company.

Mr. J. H. Nicol, newly appointed Education Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare, in an interview with pressmen on October 7th, advised West India students to evolve a system which will be most suitable to them. He added that the British West Indian colonies should not strive to copy slavishly educational policies of other countries and the sooner we can emphasize the value of technical education the sooner we will have achieved our end. Mr. Nicol was en route to his headquarters at Barbados. He left here on October 7th.

Statistician Appointed. Mr. Horace J. Steer, B.Sc., has been appointed Government Statistician in Trinidad. Mr. Steer was formerly Chief of the Statistics Department of the Food and Agricultural Division of the Control Commission in Germany and served on various agricultural bodies in the United Kingdom. He is expected to arrive in November.

Railways Manager Transferred. It was officially announced on October 14th, 1949, that Mr. W. T. Perkins, general manager of Trinidad Government Railways, has been transferred to British Guiana as general manager, transport and harbour department. Mr. Perkins was on secondment to his new post for six months. Effective date of his transfer is October 1st, 1949.

Co-operatives Chief Returns. Mr. Noel P. Bowen, LL.B., newly appointed Registrar of Co-operatives, returned here recently after completing a seven month tour of study in Canada, Cyprus and the United Kingdom. In an interview with pressmen on October 11th, Mr. Bowen expressed anxiety to begin his latest job which, he said, is full of promise for the people of this colony provided he gets sufficient co-operation from the public. He added that he was sanguine that co-operatives will mean a new and advantageous orientation in the mode of living to the people of Trinidad.

Dental Scheme for Rural Areas. Residents in rural areas of north-eastern districts of Trinidad will receive free dental treatment from October 31st. Toco will be the first district to receive this facility and a private practitioner has been selected by the health department to perform duties there for a fortnight. If this scheme works successfully, it is proposed to carry out the work on a larger scale.

Sugar Confectionery—U.K. Imports

The Ministry of Food, in agreement with the Board of Trade, has announced that a limited quantity of sugar confectionery will be imported from Turkey and Cyprus during 1949 under specific licence.

Any individual member of the West India Committee is eligible for Life Membership on compounding his, or her, annual subscription by a single payment of £18 18s.

Import Licensing

Effect of New Exchange Rates

As a result of devaluation some import licences, expressed in terms of a sterling value, will not be sufficient to cover the full quantity of goods to which they were originally intended to relate.

Arrangements have been made, states the *Board of Trade Journal*, to enable importers to meet their foreign currency commitments in respect of commercial contracts entered into on a foreign currency basis for the import of goods under valid import licences issued before October 5th, 1949. The effect of these arrangements is that authorized banks may approve applications for foreign currency to the full amount of currency contracts, when the foreign currency applied for does not exceed the outstanding value of the relative import licence, converted at the rate of exchange ruling on September 17th, 1949.

It has also been arranged that H.M. Customs and Excise will charge against import licences issued before October 5th, 1949, the sterling equivalent of currency invoices, calculated at the rate of exchange ruling on September 17th, 1949. For duty purposes the current rate of exchange will apply. Where consignments have been cleared by Customs since September 17th, 1949, and the sterling value calculated at the new rate has been set against the import licence, the importer should approach H.M. Customs and Excise for an adjustment of the figures.

It is emphasized that these special arrangements relate only to cases where the sterling cost of imports is increased because contracts have been placed in terms of foreign currency. They will not in general therefore relate to imports from the British Caribbean except to those from British Honduras, where the dollar has appreciated against sterling by the same percentage as the United States dollar.

Any queries in this regard which arise on imports of goods from the British Caribbean should be submitted to the Import Licensing Department, Board of Trade, Romney House, Tufton Street, London, S.W.1.

U.K. Imports of Fresh Fruit

The Ministry of Food, in agreement with the Board of Trade, has announced the following additions to the list of items which may be imported as from September 26th, under the block licensing arrangements announced in June and subsequently:—

Lemons	+++	++	+++	} The British colonies and dependencies
Limes...	+++	++	+++	
Mandarines, Tangerines and Clementines	+++	++	+++	
Mangoes	...	...	...
Pineapples	...	...	...
Pomegranates	} The British colonies and dependencies, Spain and Spanish possessions

Company Reports and Meetings

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

AT the annual general meeting to be held on December 6th, the directors will recommend the payment of a final dividend of 6d. per 5s. stock unit, free of income tax, in respect of the year ended June 30th, 1949, to members on the register at the close of business on November 1st, 1949.

Subject to final audit, the profit for the year ended June 30th, 1949, is £548,134 (as compared with £653,510 for the preceding year) after charging depreciation £681,387 (as against £641,979), providing £1,485,000 for taxation (as compared with £1,750,000) and adding £139,836 to internal reserves (as against £304,274). £300,000 has been appropriated to other reserves (as compared with £400,000) and, after allowing for the interim dividend of 2 1/4d. per 5s. stock unit, free of income tax, paid June 17th, 1949, and for the above-mentioned final dividend, there will remain £223,159 (as against £204,548) to be carried forward.

British Overseas Stores, Ltd.

In the course of his annual statement, which accompanies the report and accounts, the chairman, Mr. R. J. BLACKADDER, says, "I referred in my last report (see CIRCULAR for December, 1948) to the possibility of extending the company's premises in Jamaica to cope with increasing trade and to introduce economies which could not be put into effect in the existing buildings. I had hoped to inform you that a start had been made on the new buildings, but there have been unforeseen complications due to the possibility of town planning activities, and to the necessity of balancing the contemplated savings to be effected against the undoubtedly inflated cost of building under present conditions. This has necessitated a good deal of investigation and consideration. The whole problem is engaging the close attention of the board in Jamaica and of your directors in London with a view to ensuring that when the plans are finally settled the new buildings shall be such as will render satisfactory service for many years, with a maximum of advantage to our trade.

"In Jamaica we have suffered a falling off in business, but having regard to the large amount of rebuilding and reconstruction work in view and the increase in the population of the island, it seems that the demand for lumber, building materials and house fittings, which constitute a considerable part of our trade, must continue on a substantial scale, whatever temporary fluctuations may be experienced.

"The island has not escaped the economic difficulties with which you are all familiar, and the stock position is very much in our minds. There has been some serious over-stocking in the island, and we have still to see what the effects will be now that purchases from dollar and other hard currency areas are severely controlled, and the £ sterling has been devalued.

"The economy of Jamaica is linked up with the sugar, banana and citrus industries. The Colonial Office has announced that His Majesty's Government is prepared to enter into long-term contracts with the sugar industry and that efficient producers will be assured of reasonable prices. If satisfactory prices are agreed for the three main exports from the island, the result will be to improve the purchasing power of the community and aid to the volume of local trade."

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd.

In their report for the year ended July 31st, 1949, the directors state that the profit amounted to £419,673, to which is added the balance brought forward of £186,249 making a total of £605,922. From this is deducted the dividend paid on 6 per cent preference capital (net), absorbing £6,600; an interim dividend of 3 1/2 per cent tax free on the ordinary capital, £37,500; provision for profits tax, £85,602; and provision for future taxation and contingencies, £112,400. The balance available amounts to £363,820 less £50,000 which has been transferred to general reserve account. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend on the ordinary capital of 12 1/2 per cent tax free, making 16 1/2 per cent tax free for the year which will absorb £127,500, and leave £186,320 to be carried forward.

The sanction of the Capital Issues Committee having been granted to an application to raise additional capital, to which reference was made by the chairman at the last annual general meeting, an extraordinary general meeting was held on June 9th last at which a resolution to increase the authorized capital

of the company by £800,000 to a total of £2,000,000 was duly passed.

An issue of 700,000 5 1/2 per cent redeemable cumulative preference shares of £1 each at 22s. per share to produce £770,000 was made forthwith. From the proceeds £220,000 was required for the redemption of 200,000 6 per cent redeemable cumulative preference shares of £1 each at 22s. per share, leaving a net sum of £525,600, after deducting the expenses of issue, available for additional working capital. At July 31st, 144,704 of these shares had been redeemed, the remaining 55,296 shares being under notice of redemption on December 31st next.

Agreement has been reached with the Inland Revenue as to the company's liability for taxation (including National Defence Contribution, Excess Profits Tax, Profits Tax and both Dominion and United Kingdom Income Tax), on profits earned up to and including the financial year ended July 31st, 1948.

The provision made in the balance sheet of July 31st, 1948 amply covered the liability to that date as now ascertained and with the further provision now made the directors are satisfied that all known taxation on profits down to July 31st, 1949 is provided for in the present balance sheet.

The total output of crude oil amounted to 2,795,922 barrels as compared with 2,662,170 barrels in the previous year. During the first six months the average weekly production was 50,188 barrels but for the rest of the year it increased to slightly over 57,100 barrels. Sales of crude oil amounted to 2,796,865 barrels.

In spite of the increased quantity of oil produced and sold during the past financial year, the company's receipts from that source fell short of those for the financial year ended July 31st, 1948, owing to the decline in the Gulf Coast export price of heavy fuel oil towards the end of 1948. This decline continued during the latter months of the financial year but, since July, 1949, the trend has been reversed and the Gulf Coast export price of heavy fuel oil has shown a rising tendency.

As the company's production is sold in terms of U.S. dollars the effective sterling price received will show a substantial increase following the recent devaluation of sterling. It must be borne in mind, however, state the directors, that certain of the company's expenditure is in, or related to, U.S. dollars and will therefore be increased.

Five drilling rigs were in full-time operation, a total of 130,184 ft. being drilled as compared with 125,132 ft. with the same number of rigs last year. A new diesel drilling rig, type "100," was brought into commission in August, 1948, and a still heavier diesel rig, type "125," capable of lower depths is on order from U.S.A.

As against 27 wells last year, 26 new wells were completed in the year under review, all of which were producers except an exploratory well which was drilled down to 11,538 ft. to the west of the Palo Seco field. No production was obtained at this depth but valuable geological information was disclosed and the shallower oil horizons encountered in this well are now being tested for production.

The area on the mainland over which the company holds oil rights amounted to 55,780 acres at July 31st, an addition of 3,815 acres in the course of the year.

The scheme for the provision of housing for employees was continued and a further 17 houses were under construction at July 31st, 1949.

Relations with labour, the directors conclude, were satisfactory throughout the year.

Among the commodities in respect of which Dutch quantitative import restrictions have been removed are the following: natural honey; sponges, (a) unworked, (b) prepared; ambergris; rootstocks of cassava and arrowroot; coffee, not roasted; copra; dyewood and tanning barks; cocoa in the bean, also if broken; cocoa shells, husks and skins; midribs of tobacco leaves, and tobacco waste; chewing tobacco; snuff; tobacco extract or sauce; tobacco dust, other than for agricultural and horticultural use; aluminium ore (bauxite); natural asphalts; crude petroleum; resins and pitch of mineral origin obtained from petroleum; reclaimed rubber, gutta-percha and balata; raw cotton; yarns of coco-nut fibre.

West Indian Passenger List

Booker Line

Sailings to British Guiana, in s.s. Amakura (Captain J. A. Carter), from Liverpool, October 21st :-

Mrs. N. Hamwell	Miss E. M. Gonsalves	Miss P. A. Kingston
Miss C. M. Bell	Mrs. W. M. Gonsalves	Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Laver
Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Bell	Mr. & Mrs. C. K. Jardine	Mrs. E. L. Stoby
Mrs. J. Bennett	Mrs. O. R. Kingston	Lady I. M. Woolley

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. Amakura (Captain J. Carter), at Liverpool, October 7th :-

Mrs. E. E. Chamberlain	Mr. G. R. Rawlings	Mr. R. Teunisse
Mr. C. N. Moffett	Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Roberts	Mr. & Mrs. H. Wakefield
Miss M. P. Muir	Rev. & Mrs. C. G. Smith	

Fyffes Line

Sailings to Bermuda and Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain R. A. Thorburn), from Bristol, October 6th :-

Mr. W. E. Barratt	Mrs. V. E. Gilbert	Mrs. D. B. Oldfield
Mrs. A. H. Beckh	Mrs. J. Gosling	Mrs. L. R. Peniston
Mr. & Mrs. P. Caro	Mrs. W. R. Greenwood	Miss D. C. Poinfret
Mrs. M. J. Carter	Mr. H. Haesler	Miss J. L. Poinfret
Mrs. S. Caton	Major & Mrs. T. Hallman	Mr. M. A. Kennalls
Mrs. K. M. Chadwick	Mr. & Mrs. A. Henderson	Mrs. M. L. Spence
Mrs. M. T. Cooley	Mr. D. K. Hodgson	Mr. D. O. Swane
Dr. W. Cooper	Mr. G. G. Iver	Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Tannock
Mr. & Mrs. H. Crichton	Mrs. D. K. Jenkins	Mr. & Mrs. S. A. Thomas
Miss B. C. Crook	Mrs. E. Kelly	Mrs. F. E. Thornton
Miss I. E. Deakin	Mrs. E. V. Loveard	Mrs. G. P. Thornton
Mr. G. Few-Brown	Brig. H. D. Macnochie	Major & Mrs. J. S. Thompson
Mrs. J. Flannery	Mrs. G. M. Macnochie	Mr. & Mrs. H. Thompson
Mrs. E. Gallagher	Mr. & Mrs. A. Muschett	

Sailings to Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Ariguani (Captain G. S. Gracie), from Bristol, October 20th :-

Miss P. P. Alefounder	Mrs. P. Herkes	Miss E. B. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. K. Alefounder	Mrs. E. M. Horn	Miss M. M. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. W. Alefounder	Mr. & Mrs. C. V. Hunter	Mr. & Mrs. S. J. Smith
Mrs. J. Arundel	Mrs. L. M. Hutchinson	Mr. E. A. Sole
Mrs. L. D. Boulloosingh	Miss L. B. Kerr-Pearce	Mr. & Mrs. J. Sutherland
Mr. K. A. Calvert	Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Mackie	Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Tane
Sir E. & Lady Collymore	Mr. F. Macrae	Mr. W. A. Tildesley
Mrs. M. D. Connell	Miss W. Malot	Lt.-Col. & Mrs. H. C. Toogood
Mr. & Mrs. J. Findlay	Mrs. H. M. Martin	
Mrs. E. Gibson	Mrs. C. I. Morel	Miss B. Tullock
Miss H. A. Gilbert	Rev. J. A. Parker	Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Tullock
Mr. & Mrs. K. Gilbert	Mrs. G. Y. Patterson	Sister P. Turley
Mr. & Mrs. J. Glendinning	Miss D. E. Peacock	Mr. A. C. Watson
Mr. H. S. Gordon	Miss A. M. Pringle	Dr. & Mrs. A. S. Westmoreland
Sister K. Hanlon	Mrs. A. Roach	Mr. & Mrs. F. Wilde
Mrs. D. Harris	Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Savage	Mrs. G. M. Yard
Mrs. M. S. Harris	Miss A. P. Smith	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain R. A. Thorburn), at Avonmouth, September 26th :-

Mr. F. C. Alexander	Mr. & Mrs. Evans-Smith	Mr. R. K. McLaughlin
Mr. J. D. Barker	Miss C. A. Evans	Mr. & Mrs. E. Montgomery
Miss A. P. Bell	Miss H. H. Field	Mrs. H. E. Mwanjala
Mr. D. H. Bicknell	Mr. F. W. Fleming	Mrs. E. D. Payton
Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Bowen	Mr. R. W. Gooding	Mr. H. H. Powell
Miss J. D. Bowman	Mrs. J. W. Gordon	Miss B. L. Pryce
Mr. D. C. Breakspere	Mr. & Mrs. R. Hamblay	Mrs. V. M. Reel
Mr. C. G. Buchanan	Mrs. E. C. James	Mr. S. H. Seott
Miss C. M. Carley	Mrs. P. G. James	Mr. A. Y. Shalom
Mr. W. S. Chang	Mr. H. K. Lawson	Capt. & Mrs. C. Simpson
Mr. C. L. Chen	Lady Isobel Linda	Miss L. G. Thompson
Miss G. E. Constable	Mr. O. Linda	Mr. R. S. Thomson
Miss C. M. Deans	Miss C. M. Lynch	Mr. G. E. Tomlinson
Miss D. de Lisser	Mr. J. T. Mailey	Miss G. D. Webster

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Eros (Captain R. C. Vigers), at London, October 17th :-

Mr. P. Barker	Mrs. A. Hardie	Miss M. Rice
Mrs. E. Bedfordth	Mr. G. Lutyens-Humfrey	Major & Mrs. C. Rowan-Robinson
Miss M. Campbell	Mr. R. J. Martin	
Most Rev. Archbishop W. Hardie		

Home arrivals from Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), at Avonmouth, October 25th :-

Miss S. A. Campbell	JAMAICA	
Mr. & Mrs. N. S. Carey-Jones	Mr. & Mrs. R. Gibson	Mrs. M. Skellington
Miss M. Chin Yee	Mr. J. A. Kirlew	Miss A. V. Smith
Miss M. R. Connell	Miss I. M. Mattis	Mr. F. W. Squire
Mr. J. P. Cox	Miss D. McPherson	Sir N. Strathie
Miss N. Davidson	Mr. A. A. Meiry	Mrs. J. H. Swift
Dr. A. Ellington	Miss I. A. Miller	Miss E. Wilker
Mr. G. B. Ewen	Capt. & Mrs. W. J. Mills	Mr. W. Watson
	Mr. J. A. Milne	Miss L. Wilkous
	Mr. A. E. Mortlock	
	TRINIDAD	
Mr. & Mrs. S. Banks	Miss S. L. Gordon-Smith	Miss E. Morters
Mr. & Mrs. C. Cherie	Mrs. N. Hall	Mr. H. Ramesar
Miss D. Cherie	Miss D. Kahl	Mrs. M. Valere
Mr. R. A. Davison	Mr. & Mrs. D. Maund	Mr. M. R. Woolfenden
Mr. A. J. Fraser	Mr. P. F. Moore	

Home arrivals from Trinidad and Jamaica, in s.s. Ariguani (Captain G. S. Gracie), at Avonmouth, October 11th :-

Mr. & Mrs. L. Alberga	Mr. A. J. MacDonald	Miss M. Silverwood-Cope
Mrs. D. Bennett	Mr. D. L. Meotela	Dr. D. Smith
Miss M. Coates	Mr. J. D. Noel	Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Snelson
Mrs. L. A. Ellen	Mr. H. Owen	Mr. & Mrs. R. S. Spence
Mr. & Mrs. L. Evans	Mrs. A. N. Riezi	Miss M. M. Thavenot
Mr. & Mrs. L. Fielding	Mrs. Robinson	Mrs. M. Ward
Mr. J. L. Gregory	Mr. & Mrs. R. V. Sara	Miss I. Webster
Mrs. F. M. Harkness	Sir John & Lady Shaw	Mr. & Mrs. G. B. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. E. Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. A. Shields	Mr. D. R. Wortman
Col. C. P. Legard		

Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

Sailings to the West Indies, in s.s. Cottica (Captain N. U. van Doorn), from Dover, September 17th :-

Miss V. K. Branch	Mr. & Mrs. H. T. Lissone	Miss A. C. Thaysen
Mr. & Mrs. L. Dare	Mr. & Mrs. Macanley	Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Vanenburg
Miss M. Elliott	Mr. & Mrs. A. McMillan	Mr. G. W. Webb
Capt. G. Howden	Hon. & Mrs. A. Storey	
Mr. & Mrs. Knox	Dr. & Mrs. Thaysen	

Sailings to the West Indies, in m/s. Bonaire, from Dover, October 15th :-

Mrs. R. W. Gordon	Miss F. A. Strang	Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Wellman
Dr. A. G. Leacock	Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Weatherhead	Mr. & Mrs. G. Westwood
Mrs. F. Strang		Miss K. M. Westwood

Home arrivals from the West Indies, in s.s. Stuyvesant (Captain B. A. Molenaar), at Plymouth, October 25th :-

Mr. A. R. Adie	Mr. & Mrs. A. Drayton	Mr. & Mrs. J. Mills
Mr. J. Bcharry	Mr. & Mrs. O. Fih	Mrs. U. M. Nunes
Mr. & Mrs. Birch	Miss C. Gale	Mrs. Overton
Mr. & Mrs. F. Blackburn	Mr. S. Henwood	Mr. G. R. Patterson
Mr. M. Chevalier	Mr. C. R. Hutchinson	Mr. & Mrs. G. Richards
Mr. W. J. Chorley	Mr. K. G. John	Mr. D. Sayers
Miss A. Clarke	Mrs. V. Kraai	Mr. & Mrs. B. Steidman
Mr. M. Clarke	Mr. H. Loeffler Riemer	Mr. C. St. Louis
Mr. C. Clinton	Mr. L. McKinstry	Mr. A. Wire
Mr. G. E. Des Des	Mrs. C. E. Meadway	Mr. & Mrs. L. Woodland

The BEAMA Catalogue

The first (1949-50) edition of the BEAMA Catalogue was launched by the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association, Inc., at a luncheon held in London on October 19th, at which Mr. Thomas Souness represented the West India Committee.

The catalogue, to which Mr. Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, has contributed a foreword, is an impressive volume of 868 pages. Its various sections deal with the whole range of the industry's products, including electrical power plant, electrical equipment for industry and transport undertakings, and domestic and commercial electrical appliances, and lighting installations. There is a classified Buyers' Guide, and a directory of BEAMA members with particulars of each firm.

Ten thousand copies of the catalogue are being despatched overseas to trade commissioners, municipal undertakings, distributors, etc.

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of September production of crude oil and casing head gasoline amounted to 251,321 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the five weeks ended October 3rd was 540,968 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for September was 247,462 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of September crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 524,380 barrels.

The Markets

November 1st, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below:—

Dividend for Latest Year	Consols	War Loan	Latest Quotation		Price Year Ago	
			67	69	78	79
2½	Consols	...	67	69	78	79
3½	War Loan	...	89	90xd	102½	103½xd
20	Angostura Bitters	...	78/9	83/9	80/-	90/-
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	...	33/9	38/9	42/6	47/6
—	Antigua Sugar Factory	...	11/6	12/6	14/-	15/-
30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	...	31/3	33/9	44/3	45/9
8	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/- "A"	...	47/-	52/-	59/-	63/-
11½	Barelays Bank (I.C. & O.)	...	36/3	38/9	87/6†	92/6†
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 10/-	...	25/-	27/6	29/4½	31/10½
5	British Guiana Cons. Gold 3/9	...	1/9	2/3	1/9	2/3
8½	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	...	3/-	3/9	3/-	4/-
6	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	...	20/-	22/6xd	22/6	25/-
7	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	...	4/-	5/-	5/6	6/6
12½	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	...	11/-	12/-	12/-	13/-
10	Lumber & Trinidad Asphalt. Ord.	...	40/7½	43/14	47/6	50/-
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	...	-9	1/9	1/3	2/3
8½	Royal Bank of Canada \$10	...	190/-	210/-	155/-	175/-
17½	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	...	59/-	61/-	80/-	79/-
3	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	...	17/-	18/6	17/6	18/9
10	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	...	18/...	19/-	19/6	21/-
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	...	-/6	1/6	2/3	3/3
14	Trinidad Leaseholds 5/-	...	22/6	24/6	30/9	32/3
16½	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	...	23/6	25/6	30/3	31/9xd
8	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 6% Pref.	...	21/3	22/6	22/-	24/-
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	...	4/9	5/9	5/6	6/6
8½	United British Oilfields 6/8	...	21/6	23/-	21/9	23/3
5	West Indies Sugar	...	18/6	19/6	17/6	20/-
6	West Indies Sugar 6% Pref.	...	22/6	25/-	24/-	26/-

* Free of Income Tax. † £1 Shares.

Honey. The controlled price of 72/6 per cwt. is still being obtained for West Indian honeys.

Pimento. The demand from the Continent has not been quite so strong during the month. Stocks here have been replenished by arrivals from Jamaica. Sellers are asking 1/2 per lb. ex wharf, and 119/- c.i.f., with sales on this basis to U.K. and the Continent.

Ginger. Holders of the remaining lots of Jamaica No. 3 are asking 350/-; these stocks are mainly in the hands of grinders or users. Stocks of African are small with sales made at 340/- for export. No indications of prices for new crop ginger have been received.

Nutmegs. There was less activity during October. Sound unassorted is quoted at 1/9 per lb. c.i.f., 80's at 2/5 and defective at 1/5. Licences in Germany have been exhausted for the time being, but it is hoped that further licences may be issued shortly.

Mace. As reported in this column last issue, the Grenada Association has increased its price of whole pale to 5/3 c.i.f.; only a small business has been reported in this quality during the fortnight. The better demand for broken descriptions reported last month has fallen off, but prices are unchanged at 1/- to 4/6 according to quality.

Tropical Agriculture, Vol. XXVI, Nos. 1-6, January-June, 1949. Papers by Dr. J. Duckworth and Mr. A. P. McWilliam indicate that elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpurcum*) shows a small reduction in feeding value when ensiled, and is in any case an unsatisfactory roughage for dairy cattle in milk. Dr. J. W. Howe contributes a paper on the effects of varying amounts of Zebu blood on the adaptability of dairy cattle to conditions in Jamaica.

Professor Hardy deals with the phosphate status of some British Guiana sugar-cane soils as assessed by a simple pot test, and recommends the inauguration of such tests in British Guiana on a wide and comprehensive scale.

Other technical papers deal with a laboratory test for the diagnosis of swollen shoot disease of cocoa, diseases of tomato and coco-nut palm, and the germination of malvaceous seeds, and Mr. G. C. Stevenson contributes historical notes on the cultivation of cotton in British Guiana.

Colonial Appointments

RECENT promotions, transfers and new appointments in the Colonial Service include the following:—

ALBERGA, A. M. (Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Jamaica), Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, Jamaica.

BARNES, C. (Inspector of Police, Trinidad), Assistant Superintendent of Police, Trinidad.

BARROW, C. E. (Inspector of Police, Trinidad), Assistant Superintendent of Police, Trinidad.

BERNARD, F. E. (Sub-Inspector of Police, Trinidad), Assistant Superintendent of Police, Trinidad.

GLAISHER, E. C. P. (Assistant Superintendent of Police, Trinidad), Superintendent of Police, Trinidad.

GREAVES, E. P. D. (Assistant Superintendent of Police, Leeward Islands), Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jamaica.

HOLMES à COURT, R. D. H. (Deputy Commissioner of Police, Barbados), Superintendent of Police, Nyasaland.

JOHNSTON, H. M., M.B., M.P.H. (Malaria Officer, Jamaica), Malariaologist, Jamaica.

MACPHERSON, L. J. (Examiner of Accounts, Agricultural Loan Societies Board, Jamaica), Currency Officer, Currency Board, Jamaica.

PHOENIX, J. (Police Warrant Officer, British Guiana), Assistant Superintendent of Police, British Guiana.

SKEETE, C. C. (Director of Agriculture, Windward Islands), Director of Agriculture, Barbados.

SMITH, J. W. (Assistant Engineer, Grade I, Public Works Department, Jamaica), Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Jamaica.

SMITH, R. W. LUCIE- (Assistant Superintendent of Police, Trinidad), Superintendent of Police, Trinidad.

WINT, J. M. (Assistant Engineer, Grade I, Public Works Department, Jamaica), Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Jamaica.

New Appointments

BAGSHAW, W. M., Assistant Conservator of Forests, British Guiana.

HAMILTON, J., Geologist, British Guiana.

HENDERSON, G., Geologist, British Guiana.

JARMAN, R. T., Meteorological Forecaster, Bermuda.

WALKO, Z. S., M.D., Assistant Medical Officer, St. Lucia, Windward Islands.

Vitamin C in Barbados Dietary

Mr. J. B. D. Robinson of the Barbados Department of Science and Agriculture and Miss Joan M. Parry of the Education Department contribute a note to the issue of *Nature* of September 24th on the content of L-ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) in various local Barbados foods.

Their findings confirm the low content of ascorbic acid in locally grown roots and fruit, but show that tinned fruit juices retain a high content of the vitamin. Thus a 6 oz. glass of Trinidad grapefruit juice is found to contain 45 milligrams of ascorbic acid, which would be sufficient for the average daily requirement.

Trinidad orange and grapefruit juice, and Jamaican orange juice show a Vitamin C content of a similar order.

Tourist Purchases in U.K.

Visitors to the United Kingdom, during the four months ended September 30th, 1949, made purchases under the Personal Export Scheme amounting to nearly £750,000. Particulars of this scheme were given on page 126 of the June, 1948, issue of the CIRCULAR.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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Telegrams: CARIB, ESTRAWD, LONDON

December, 1949.

To every member of the West India Committee and all readers of the CIRCULAR at home and overseas I send the Season's greetings, and every good wish for the New Year.

JAMES M. DU BUISSON,
Chairman.

Facing the Facts

THE "Memorandum on the Economic Conditions of Jamaica" issued by the council of the Jamaica Imperial Association in October, is an appeal for a realistic treatment of the economic problems that face the colony to-day—the problems that have been accumulating since the war together with the fresh problems created by devaluation. The appeal is courageous. It is based on the fact that through no fault of her own, Jamaica, in common with most other parts of the Commonwealth and Empire, has reached a point where only brave determination to face the facts can lead to recovery. Failure to do so must end in disaster.

The predominant fact to be faced is that devaluation imposes an obligation to restrict imports and encourage exports, and any action that tends to a contrary result must be firmly resisted. In particular, the restriction of imports must involve hardships that all will feel, for the commodities that will bear the brunt of the consequences of devaluation, since they come from dollar sources, include some of the principal necessities of life.

In these circumstances there will doubtless be a wide demand that the increased cost of these necessities, or at least of such as consist of foodstuffs, should be offset by government subsidies. This, the memorandum maintains, would be clearly unwise. Subsidies would remove the incentive to restrict imports and to find local substitutes. Moreover, subsidies can only be provided out of the proceeds of taxation and higher taxation is unthinkable. Incidentally, it is claimed that the government's estimates of next year's revenue are unduly optimistic, for there will be "both higher prices and shortages, so far as goods from the dollar areas are concerned, accompanied by a fall in revenue." The estimates of revenue from customs duties for 1949-50 provide for an increase of some £150,000 on the previous year's revised figure. If, however, sub-

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sidies are to be given at all, then, it is suggested, they should be given only when they serve to encourage the production of local commodities.

Another palliative to receive attention is the provision of relief work. The commendable suggestion here is that if work is to be provided for the relief of unemployment, the greatest care should be taken to ensure that it is of a productive kind—irrigation, reforestation, conservation of soil actually producing crops, drainage of swamp areas of immediate agricultural value and the like; precautions being taken to prevent relief work becoming more attractive than regular employment.

Extravagance everywhere is condemned, whether arising deliberately or from want of thought. Don't build a palace, the memorandum advises in effect, where a serviceable and less costly edifice is possible. No building should proceed where building is unnecessary. No hospital, for example, should be built for the treatment of diseases that can be prevented. Already, may we interject, hospitals in another colony are becoming empty following on the virtual elimination of the once prevalent malaria. As regards schools, an interesting proposal is revived that existing buildings might serve double the number of children at present accommodated by having different children attending morning and afternoon school. Now, it is felt, is the time to test this idea and variations of it by actual experiment. Economic necessity alone should determine whether and where roads are required. As to housing schemes "it is quite impossible for the State to provide everyone with a house, even if economic rents are paid." There is scope for modest housing schemes for such as the tenement dwellers. Education in the use of cheap local materials might provide the best remedy in the country districts, and help where the problem is the inculcation of a desire for something better than an "improvised shack."

The memorandum is not, however, merely a catalogue of warnings. There is a brighter side to the picture. "Devaluation, by restricting imports, tends in itself to stimulate production for home consumption." There is a call for intensified agricultural output, for simplified forms of processing foodstuffs and for industrial expansion so far as supplies of machinery permit. The memorandum draws attention to the hopeful prospects for the island's principal crops and for its new industries. Advice concerning the tourist industry deserves special attention. The suggestion is that efforts should be made to attract tourists with comparatively small incomes, who will compensate by their numbers for smaller individual contributions. The point is rightly

(Continued on page 280)

From a Londoner's Notebook

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL'S 75th birthday, which fell on November 30th, brought in moving messages of congratulation from all over the world. From everywhere, that is, except the other side of the Iron Curtain, where he is still the ape, hyena, fascist beast, or other sinister specimen of the rather ambiguous Red zoology. Even the socialist newspapers of West Germany joined the chorus of praise. The day found the old warrior at the top of his form. He exhibited three pictures in the Royal Academy this year; he is hard at work on more volumes of his war memoirs; and he still leads his party in Parliament with all his accustomed pugnacity. He is the life and soul of all the many convivial gatherings he attends. All parties cheered his entry into the House of Commons on his birthday; Mr. Attlee made a graceful speech of congratulation, and Mr. Churchill made a particularly modest and charming reply. He is looking extremely well and cheerful, and will neither expect nor give quarter when he leads the Conservative campaign next year.

* * *

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has gone to join the Fleet at Malta, and Princess Elizabeth is at present in the island too, on a short visit. They have just celebrated the second anniversary of their wedding and the first birthday of Prince Charles. Everyone must admire the tenacity with which Prince Philip insists on pursuing his sea-going career as a junior officer in spite of all the demands that royal duties make upon him. In these last two years he has already made a great place for himself in England, especially as an energetic supporter of young people's activities and outdoor sports, and as a breezy and humorous after-dinner speaker. He will be distinctly missed while he is at sea. Happily his departure coincides with good news about the King, who has made great progress since his illness. His Majesty has been able to resume his favourite sport of shooting, and is likely now to be more frequently visible on public occasions. His hard work at his desk behind the scenes has of course never been relaxed—except perhaps when he was actually under the anaesthetic.

* * *

The Government's complicated programme over steel nationalization and the House of Lords has tied them up in inextricable knots, which they have been compelled to cut by a partial surrender. It will be remembered that the House of Lords insisted on only one of their amendments to the Steel Nationalization Bill; this was to postpone the "vesting date," on which the industry was actually to be taken over, until after the next general election, so that there would be a chance, should the Labour Party be defeated, to repeal the Act before it came into force. As the Government came gradually face to face with the practical process of transferring the industry to nationalized control, they discovered for themselves that it would be quite impossible to get through the preliminary stages in time;

and consequently they were constrained to accept the proposal of the Lords in a very slightly modified form. Steel nationalization has therefore become law without recourse to the means for coercing the Lords which were to have been provided by the Parliament Bill, curtailing the delaying power of the Second Chamber with retrospective effect. But whether the Steel Act ever comes into force depends, as the Lords demanded, entirely upon the result of the general election.

* * *

The Government is left with the Parliament Bill on its hands, and this measure, which has bored an apathetic country for two long years, was rejected for the third time by the House of Lords at the end of November. It is no longer wanted for the first purpose for which it was designed; but the Government are now entitled, under the Parliament Act of 1911, to present it for the Royal Assent on the authority of the Commons alone. Its effect is to allow future bills passed only by the Commons to become law after two rejections by the Lords instead of three, and after a lapse of one year from their first introduction instead of after two. No change is made in the membership of the Upper House; the Conservatives, if they come back to power, are pledged to reform its composition by the reduction of the hereditary element, and if that is done the question of its powers will inevitably have to be reopened.

* * *

The principal gain to the Government from accepting the Lords' terms on the Steel Bill is that they no longer need the additional session in the New Year which they had planned in order to force the bill through against the opposition of the Lords. They are consequently free to hold the general election whenever they like, with a final limit in July, when the five years' term of the present Parliament comes to an end. The dates most commonly suggested are early March and late May, with the greater probability for the former. April is budget time, and either an incoming or an outgoing Chancellor of the Exchequer must be allowed a month before it to prepare, and at least some weeks after it for its consideration in the House of Commons. Since the utmost ingenuity could scarcely produce a palatable budget in our present economic condition, it is thought that the Government would take a great risk by postponing the election until May or June. On the other hand, the Labour party is looking forward to a great jamboree in February, when the 50th anniversary of its foundation is to be celebrated. On the wave of enthusiasm which they think these celebrations will generate the Government are confident of being floated back to power. The Conservatives seem no less confident of throwing them out. Even Liberals are proposing to put up about 500 candidates, and talk of a great expansion of their parliamentary strength. I have seldom known the two larger parties simultaneously so certain of sweeping the board. Somebody is going to be grievously disappointed.

The Imperial College

SIR RAYMOND PRIESTLEY, M.C., M.A., D.Sc., has been appointed chairman of the governing body of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in succession to the late Sir Frank Stockdale.

Sir Raymond, who has been Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham since 1938, and was Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University from 1935-38, was a member of the Asquith Commission appointed to consider the needs of higher education in the colonies. He has been a member of the Inter-University Council for higher education in the colonies since 1945, being also a member of the executive committee of that council. He is a member of the Colonial University Grants Advisory Committee and in December last was appointed a member of the newly-formed United States Educational Commission in the United Kingdom (Fulbright Commission).

For the last four years Sir Raymond has been a member of the Appeals Tribunal of the Ministry of Labour and National Service which considers grants for training and is vice-chairman of the Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth.

Since 1946 he has been chairman of the Universities Advisory Committee of the British Council and he is also chairman of the recently established Naval Education Advisory Committee.

Sir Raymond took an agricultural diploma at Cambridge and was for many years a member of the Faculty Board of Agriculture and Forestry.

New Governor of the Bahamas

It was announced on November 17th that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir George Ritchie Sandford, K.B.E., C.M.G., Administrator, East Africa High Commission, as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahamas, in succession to Sir William Murphy, K.C.M.G.

Sir George Sandford was born in 1892 at Scarborough, Yorkshire, and was educated at Blencowe Grammar School, Penrith, Christ's Hospital, and Queens' College, Cambridge. He was appointed to the Colonial Administrative Service in Kenya in 1915 but resigned in 1924 to become editor of the *East African Standard*. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in the same year.

In 1926 Sir George was appointed Clerk to the Kenya Legislative Council and was subsequently appointed Deputy Treasurer, Kenya, in 1931. He was transferred to Tanganyika on promotion as Treasurer in 1936 and became Financial Secretary and Treasurer in the following year. He was transferred to Palestine as Financial Secretary in 1940 and returned to Tanganyika as Chief Secretary in 1944. He was appointed Chief Secretary to the Conference of East African Governors in 1946, and when the East Africa High Commission administration was formed in 1948, he became the Administrator.

Sir Frederick Seaford, formerly of British Guiana, was married to Mrs. Noreen Tarrant on December 3rd. The marriage took place quietly in London.

The West India Committee

AT a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee held on November 15th, the following four candidates were elected to membership of the West India Committee:—

Name	Proposer and Seconder
MR. ROBERT GAVIN, M.A. LL.B. (Geneva)	Mr. J. M. du Buisson Mr. J. M. Campbell
MR. SYLVANUS WREFORD (British Guiana)	Mr. A. C. Broughton, M.I. MECH. E., M.I. STRUCT. E. Mr. G. M. Eccles
MRS. L. SHEKELL (Country)	Mr. J. B. Whitaker Mr. O. H. Keeling
MR. WILLIAM ALEXANDER TROTTER (London)	Thomson Hankey & Co., Ltd. Major Stephen T. S. Clarke, M.C.

The Obituary List

The chairman referred with great regret to the death of Mr. H. R. Bradfield (London), Mr. A. de C. Myers (Jamaica), Mr. H. A. Trotter (London) and Mr. W. G. Freeman (Country).

Members of the West India Committee are invited to further the work of the Committee by introducing suitable candidates for election.

Commonwealth Sugar Talks

Talks between H.M. Government and the sugar exporting Dominions and colonies—the British West Indies, Mauritius, Fiji, East Africa, Australia and South Africa—opened in London on November 21st. The object of the talks is to agree on the terms of the long-term sugar purchase guarantee which was promised by H.M. Government last August.

Up to the time of going to press the British West Indies delegation has taken part in several meetings between the official and colonial sides; and in one working-party meeting at which all parties—H.M. Government, the Dominions, and the colonies—were represented. These meetings have been of an exploratory nature only.

The Cocoa Association of London

At a recent meeting of the Cocoa Association of London, Ltd., the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

Chairman: Mr. M. G. Permuy.
Vice-chairman: Mr. Lionel E. Cope.
Hon. treasurer: Mr. Alexander Elder.

Mr. Permuy is the cocoa manager of C. Czarnikow, Ltd., of Mincing Lane. He is the second Trinidadian to become chairman of the Association, the first having been Mr. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C., who held office in 1934-35.

The retiring chairman, Mr. R. W. Bennett, paid tribute to the services rendered to the Association by the late Mr. F. A. Greenaway, a former member of the Executive of the West India Committee.

Mr. Greenaway's place on the board of directors has been filled by the appointment of Mr. G. A. Thompson, of Jonas Browne & Hubbard, Ltd.

Two London Window Displays

West Indian Produce Featured

IN the October issue of the CIRCULAR mention was made of the intention to display a West Indian exhibit in a window of the Colonial Office building in Great Smith Street, Westminster. The exhibit was placed on view on November 1st, and is in two parts, featuring respectively cane sugar and rum.

The theme of the sugar display is the contribution at present made by the British Caribbean sugar industry to United Kingdom consumption, and the extent to which the industry can expand, given an assured market at adequate prices, to provide sugar which has now to be obtained from dollar sources.

Against a painted background depicting a tropical beach is a map of the Caribbean with the British territories picked out in red. Flanking this are photographs framed in sugar cane, showing on the one side a West Indian sugar factory and cane field, and on the other side sugar workers harvesting the cane. The beach is extended to the front of the window by the use of sand, on which are arranged samples of the various types of West India sugar—raws, muscovado, yellow crystals, refined granulated and refined cubes; also jars of fancy molasses, treacle and golden syrup; and specimens of food yeast prepared with the aid of West Indian molasses. Outstanding amongst these exhibits are two large cubes, depicting present and anticipated consumption of sugar in the United Kingdom, and bearing legends denoting the part played by the sugar colonies of the British Caribbean in accordance with the theme of the display.

The rum exhibit features kegs and demi-johns of West Indian rum arranged round a centrepiece which draws attention to the use of rum by the Royal Navy "since Good King Charles's Golden Days." These are backed by a large photograph of a rum still and flanked by photographs showing the fermenting molasses, the distillery, filling and cooping of the barrels, and shipment of the produce.

The display, two photographs of which appear on the second of the pictorial pages (top left and lower half), will remain on view to the end of the year.

The window has aroused much interest, and Mr. J. M. du Buisson, chairman of the West India Committee, has received the following letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. A. Creech Jones:—

"I was very pleased to see the West Indian display arranged by your Committee in the window in Sanctuary Buildings. It struck me as a remarkably attractive and effective presentation of its subject and I would like to thank and congratulate all those concerned."

Display by West India Committee

Since the middle of November there has been on view, in one of the windows at the entrance to the offices of the West India Committee, a display of cheer from the British West Indies appropriate to the coming Christmas season.

The centre of attraction is a hamper, from which are spilling cigars, bottles of rum, and Angostura bitters. At one side a cut-out representing a conventionalized Christmas tree carries cards displaying rum from Bar-

bados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad, cigars from Jamaica and Dominica, and Angostura bitters from Trinidad. Photographs adorning the tree show rum being shipped in casks and a British West Indian cigar factory.

Snow is thick on the ground, and a demi-john of rum, bottles of rum, boxes of cigars, and bottles of bitters are strewn about in the snow. Streamers connect them with the appropriate display cards on the Christmas tree.

The background is an indigo sky, with silver stars and a golden sun. An artificial snowstorm completes the background effect.

The window is especially attractive in these grey November days, and a reminder to all who pass of the British West Indian products available to brighten the festive season. The photograph (top right of picture page) fails to do it justice.

The Colonial Month

A Souvenir

THE Central Office of Information has made No. 24 of *Today* into a souvenir of Colonial Month.

The coloured covers of the issue show, in front, the King and Queen arriving to open the month, and at the back a small boy admiring one of the stalwart Gold Coast policemen who guarded the entrance to the central exhibit.

The first two pages contain a photograph of the opening ceremony and the text of the King's speech. Following these is a series of photographs showing the introduction of each colonial representative to Their Majesties—a most interesting collection, taken, as they are, at various phases of the introduction ceremony and in some cases while the short informal chat was taking place afterwards. British West Indian representatives to be seen in these pictures are Mr. A. K. Solomon, of the Bahamas, Dr. J. B. Singh, of British Guiana, Mr. A. F. Masson, of British Honduras, Mr. Noble-Smith, of Grenada, Mr. Arthur Wint, of Jamaica, and Mr. L. N. Constantine, of Trinidad.

There follows a series of illustrations of a large selection of the exhibits culminating in a double centre page of coloured pictures of which one shows a part of the display featured by the West India Committee at 40, Norfolk Street.

The activities of the colonial visitors while in London, radio links between the colonies and Britain, and colonial art, form the subject of illustrated articles which complete the issue.

(Continued from page 277)

made that "the benefits from a larger volume of business would be spread further in the community, more particularly to the producers of foodstuffs and other commodities valuable to the tourist trade."

In this memorandum the Imperial Association have put forward suggestions which at least merit consideration not only by the government and people of the Isle of Springs, but also throughout the British Caribbean.



OPENING OF THE FREE WORLD LABOUR CONFERENCE IN LONDON



WEST INDIAN DISPLAY WINDOWS IN LONDON

Eastern Caribbean Trade

Trade Commissioner's Review

THE territory covered by the United Kingdom Trade Commissioner in Trinidad includes Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, the Leeward and Windward Islands, British Guiana and Bermuda. Having in a previous issue (September 17th) contributed a special article on Bermuda, the Trade Commissioner limits his review, published on pages 995 and 996 of the *Board of Trade Journal*, November 19th, to the rest of the territories.

He considers it too early to assess the effects of devaluation on the economy of these colonies. One or two will obtain increased sterling prices for their exports—he instances oil and cocoa from Trinidad, diamonds and bauxite from British Guiana, and Sea Island cotton from the Leeward and Windward Islands—but these will be to some extent offset by increases in the cost of imported raw materials, equipment and food. Unless there is some adjustment to offset a rise in prices, the purchasing power of a fairly high proportion of the people will be lowered. Short of subsidization, the only possible action to counter a rise in prices seems to be for the colonies to endeavour to get supplies, or at least greater quantities than hitherto, from within the sterling area.

The area has always looked to North America for the bulk of its foodstuffs, and imports of such items as flour, milk, butter and meat are substantial. While the United Kingdom herself cannot be expected to provide these, Australia, New Zealand and, perhaps, the Union of South Africa might become important sources of supply. Shipping difficulties have hitherto prevented large-scale trade with these Dominions, but within recent times ships with refrigerated space from Australia and New Zealand have called at Trinidad and the service may become more regular and more frequent. Certain items, however, might become available from the United Kingdom. These include salt fish, cured and pickled herrings and mackerel, canned fish such as herrings and sardines, canned soup, fruit and vegetables, oatmeal and animal feed. Imports of foodstuffs into the region represent over 20 per cent by value of the total import trade, and though details are not yet available, the Trade Commissioner estimates their 1948 value at near £10 million.

It is in manufactured goods, however, that the United Kingdom could best assist, and by a careful study of the markets, meet in a greater degree the essential needs of the people of the Caribbean and thus save dollar expenditure.

Increased Export Trade

Final trade returns for the territory are not yet available, but it is certain that the export trade (including re-exports) in 1948 was worth not less than £41½ million compared with £32½ million in 1947 and just over £12½ million in 1938. The following table, which includes trade between the islands themselves, shows a comparison of the Commissioner's estimate of the position

in 1948 with the actual position in 1947 and 1938:—

Country	1938	1947	1948
Trinidad and Tobago...	7,368,284	18,148,989	27,630,653
Barbados	1,353,955	3,715,107	3,048,165
Leeward Islands	501,105	1,646,836	1,413,724
Windward Islands	720,978	1,708,573	1,894,317
British Guiana	2,776,521	7,255,397	7,707,054
Total	12,720,843	32,474,902	41,693,913

Sugar cultivation is of the greatest importance to most of the colonies. Exports from Trinidad in 1948 were nearly 2 million cwt. valued at approximately £2½ million. Barbados shipped just under a million cwt. (£1½ million) and British Guiana nearly 2½ million cwt. (£3½ million). In addition, considerable quantities of molasses were exported, particularly from Barbados and British Guiana and rum was an important item. Shipments of rum from Trinidad last year amounted to 1,100,014 gallons (£650,521), from Barbados 830,948 gallons (£373,926), and from British Guiana 3,211,376 gallons (£756,533).

Trinidad's Oil Industry

The petroleum industry has been of tremendous value to Trinidad. Exports of petroleum products last year amounted to 916 million gallons valued at £19½ million; some 310 million gallons of crude petroleum valued at £5½ million were imported. In addition, the industry is a valuable contributor to the revenue of the colony and its importance as a consumer of material will be obvious.

The grapefruit industry of Trinidad which suffered so badly during the war years is showing a healthy revival, for some 21½ million fruit and nearly 650,000 gallons of juice were exported, boosting the trade of the colony by a little under £350,000, while exports of cocoa had risen in value from £493,601 in 1938 to £1,740,273 in 1948.

In British Guiana exports of rice were 17,540 tons (£427,189). Shipments of bauxite amounted to 1,873,166 tons (£1,982,276). Exports of wood and timber were worth £240,369, whilst 16,025 oz. of raw gold valued at £110,413 and diamonds 33,959 carats valued at £276,047 left the colony.

In the Windward Islands exports of nutmegs rose in value from £74,625 in 1938 to £442,325 in 1947 and £208,027 in 1948, and of mace from £38,995 in 1938 to £155,000 in 1947 and £103,251 in 1948.

So much for visible exports. Tourism can and should be a useful invisible export. The various colonies are alive to its possibilities and serious attention is being given to improving the amenities so that visitors may enjoy the natural attractions with which each colony has been bestowed. However, they still have a long way to go before they become serious rivals to Bermuda. It is estimated that in 1948 the tourist trade was worth in the region of £400,000 to Trinidad. During the present year more large passenger carrying vessels have

called at this colony and if the advertised schedules for 1950 materialize, Trinidad should derive much benefit from this traffic.

Import Trade

Immediately prior to the war, imports into the territory were valued at about £13 million. Heavy buying, fulfilment of outstanding orders and higher prices for goods from all sources brought the value to a little short of £46 million in 1947. Even the most optimistic thought the peak had been reached, but it is certain that this was surpassed in 1948 as preliminary figures put the value in the region of £48½ million. The following comparative table, which includes inter-islands trade, sets out the position as it is seen by the Commissioner:—

Country	1938	1947	1948
Trinidad and Tobago...	7,395,234	24,746,474	27,462,972
Barbados	2,086,901	7,124,930	6,346,230
Leeward Islands	614,789	2,180,452	1,866,788
Windward Islands	788,533	3,112,013	3,037,712
British Guiana	2,253,160	8,652,266	10,037,708
Total	13,138,617	45,816,135	48,751,410

U.K. Share of Imports

Pre-war, the United Kingdom held first place among supplying countries; in 1938 she enjoyed 40 per cent of the total import trade. During the war years her share gradually dwindled. It reached its lowest point in 1944 at 14 per cent, but from then on, her share has increased. In 1947 it stood at 24 per cent, and it is anticipated that when the final figures for 1948 are available, it will be found that Great Britain again heads the list of supplying countries with at least 33 per cent. The following table shows the actual percentages obtained by various countries in 1938 and

1947 and an estimate of the position at the close of 1948:—

Country	1938 per cent	1947 per cent	1948 per cent
United Kingdom	40	24	33
Canada	14	32	21
Rest of Commonwealth	11	9	11
United States	18	23	17
Rest of Foreign Countries	16	12	18
Parcels Post	1	•	•

• Less than 0.5 per cent.

This remarkable recovery by the United Kingdom has come about from three main causes. First, the ability to supply goods in greater quantity, secondly, a desire on the part of importers to return to old sources and thirdly, a policy of import control.

There is considerable nervousness that United Kingdom prices will rise in consequence of the readjustment of the sterling-dollar rate of exchange. Already statements have been made of possible rises, frequently without justification. It is reasonable to anticipate that there will be increases, indeed, increases unavoidable in the case of goods made from materials imported from the dollar area, but United Kingdom exporters must be particularly careful not to prejudice their reputation for fair dealing, built up over the centuries.

Jamaica Citrus

The first of this season's shipments of citrus fruit from Jamaica, consisting of 7,139 boxes of oranges and 17,531 boxes of grapefruit, reached this country early in November. The Ministry of Food's purchases of Jamaican citrus fruit for delivery this season total about 250,000 boxes, and under a ten-year contract the colony is to supply the Ministry of Food with some 2,750 tons of concentrated orange juice annually.

Total deliveries of Jamaican citrus fruit to the United Kingdom last season amounted to 103,000 boxes of oranges and 138,000 boxes of grapefruit.

West Indian Sugar Production

THE West India Committee has received from the Sugar Associations the following statistics regarding the West Indian sugar industry for the quota year 1949-50:—

Colony	Total Production	Local and Neighbouring Consumption	Exportable Surplus	Final Returns Quota Year 1948-49 Total Production
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Barbados	137,500	10,000	(a) 127,500	(a) 153,000
British Guiana	200,877	16,000	184,877	184,690
British Honduras	(b) 2,000	(b) 1,650	(b) 350	2,108
Jamaica	251,500	45,000	206,500	237,744
<i>Leeward Islands</i>				
Antigua	28,000	2,500	25,500	18,149
St. Kitts	37,000	2,500	34,500	35,500
<i>Windward Islands</i>				
St. Lucia	9,600	1,600	8,000	9,128
St. Vincent	2,350	2,100	250	2,084
Trinidad	156,200	20,500	135,700	159,135
TOTALS	825,027	101,850	723,177	801,538

NOTE: Barbados—(a) Includes 20,000 tons Fancy Molasses.

British Honduras—(b) Tentative estimate by West India Committee pending receipt of particulars from Colonial Secretary.

Commonwealth Economic Committee

A Review of Commonwealth Trade

THE Commonwealth Economic Committee, having been concerned primarily since the war with re-establishing its intelligence services and annual reports on commodities of major importance to Commonwealth countries, has now prepared and issued a report* on Commonwealth trade as a whole, preliminary to resumption of the pre-war practice of reporting from time to time on specific problems of Commonwealth production and trade.

Extensive changes in the volume, direction and composition of Commonwealth trade have occurred in recent years. The report examines these changes and makes a factual survey of the pattern of Commonwealth trade, with attention to such underlying factors as changes in the character of production occasioned by the development of agriculture and industry, the main features of development plans for under-developed countries, recent trends in population and the post-war trade plans of Commonwealth countries. Movements in price levels are indicated, and account has been taken of such war-time changes as have proved of continuing importance, but war-time statistics have been omitted and comparisons made are between post-war and pre-war figures. Merchandise trade is dealt with only, and the report is not concerned with invisible items in the balance of payments.

A survey of world trade during the last ten years (1938 to 1948) indicates a large increase in the importance of the United States, especially as an exporter, and a decline in the relative importance of the trade of both Europe and Asia, without, however, any great alteration in the relative position of Commonwealth trade. Colonial trade shows a slight increase, more marked as regards imports than as regards exports, the former having increased from 3.4 per cent of world imports in 1938 to 4.0 per cent in 1948, and the latter from 3.8 per cent to 4.0 per cent over the same period. When the actual values of trade are examined, however, it is seen that while the trade of the colonies showed an adverse balance, in 1938, of £4 millions, that adverse balance had increased to £66 millions in 1948.

Some Trade Changes

The past few years have witnessed some notable changes in the pattern of Commonwealth trade. The exceptional demand occasioned by wartime shortages or new requirements for development purposes, and the large changes in price levels, during the period under review, make it too early to say how far these changes are likely to be permanent. While the United Kingdom continues its importance as the largest market for Commonwealth exports, the Commonwealth countries have developed markets in North America to a striking extent. This section of the report includes a statistical table showing the contribution made in each year by

dollar earning products of the Commonwealth. [It is to be noted that sugar, despite the fact of its regular shipment in quantity from the British West Indies to Canada, is not included as a dollar earner.]

A survey of price changes during the period under review makes it clear that the figures for the recorded value of trade are an imperfect measure of the extent to which changes in the volume of trade have taken place. The records of index numbers of volume of trade show a heavy war-time reduction of exports from the United Kingdom and India and an increase of more than double in those from Canada. The expanded exports from Canada were not maintained when the war ended, but since then there has been recovery of exports in which most Commonwealth countries (except India) have participated. A somewhat similar trend is apparent in the volume of imports, the United Kingdom being an exception in that in 1947 and 1948 it was still importing about 20 per cent less than before the war.

Industrial Development

Various factors have combined over many years past to produce a general tendency towards a higher degree of industrialization in primary producing countries. Wartime conditions accelerated this trend, with resultant changes in the economy of at least some of the countries concerned. Nevertheless, industrial development appears as yet to have had relatively limited effects on the composition of trade, and the committee has been unable to trace any great changes, on either the export or import side, apart from the temporary changes arising directly out of the war.

The execution, as they mature, of development plans and other projects in countries which have hitherto been relatively less advanced, seem likely to alter the pattern of Commonwealth trade. The ten-year development plans of colonial governments have a direct bearing on the production of some of the colonial export commodities, and target figures drawn up for the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (O.E.E.C.) envisage increases in the output of rubber, copper, bauxite and lead, while a very large increase is planned also for sugar. Gross capital investment in the colonies, projected for 1948, is estimated to be in the region of £188 millions, of which £112 millions represents the cost of imported equipment and materials of a capital nature and the remaining £76 millions represents local expenditure. The committee finds it difficult, however, to assess the effect of development plans on Commonwealth trade at this stage.

Population changes are regarded by the committee as a factor of some importance underlying trends in Commonwealth trade during the past few years. The main change has been an upward movement in all Commonwealth countries, ranging from 10 to 25 per cent, except in the United Kingdom. Since the war, migration within the Commonwealth, although restricted by shipping difficulties, has been considerable, and these

* *A Review of Commonwealth Trade*. Thirty-third Report of the Commonwealth Economic Committee. H.M.S.O., London, 1949. Price 1s. 6d. net.

movements carry important implications for the future development of Commonwealth trade.

The report concludes with a review of post-war trade plans of the Commonwealth countries. So far as the colonies are concerned the development programme implies an expansion of external trade. This programme requires large imports of capital goods and expansion of supplies of consumer goods, so that the sterling area will need to maintain a sufficiently high level of exports to the colonies if colonial production is not to fall nor the colonies incur more dollar expenditure on essential imports.

As many countries still maintain direct control of imports for balance of payments reasons the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade has not yet exerted any great influence on Commonwealth trade in general although in particular cases (as with Canada's exports to the United States) the results seem to have been considerable. Commodity agreements and bulk purchase arrangements come under review. The former, as yet, are restricted to the International Wheat Agreement which came into force in August of this year. Bulk purchase has now been discontinued over a wide field of products, but the practice is still retained in many instances though its incidence varies widely from one Commonwealth country to another. In Canada the significance of all bulk purchase arrangements is stated to have declined to negligible proportions.

West Indian Governors

Conference in Barbados

THOSE attending the conference of Governors held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from November 7th to 12th, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Listowel, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, included: Mr. A. W. L. Savage, Governor of Barbados; Sir John Huggins, Governor of Jamaica; Sir Charles Woolley, Governor of British Guiana; Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, Governor of the Leeward Islands; Brigadier R. D. H. Arundell, Governor of the Windward Islands; Mr. R. H. Garvey, Governor of British Honduras; Mr. P. M. Renison, Acting Governor of Trinidad and Tobago; Major-General Sir Hubert Rance, Chief Adviser, Development and Welfare Organization, Chairman of the Standing Closer Association Committee, British Co-Chairman of the Caribbean Commission and Governor Designate of Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. G. F. Seel and Mr. W. L. Gorrell Barnes, Assistant Under Secretaries of State for the Colonies and Mr. S. H. Perowne, Colonial Secretary and until lately Acting Governor of Barbados. Mr. W. D. Sweaney of the Colonial Office acted as Secretary of the Conference.

The discussions covered economic, administrative and regional problems, under thirteen heads. Subjects considered in the first group were economic prospects; the sterling area and revaluation; population; emigration; and the Colonial Development Corporation. Administrative problems discussed were conditions of service in the West Indies; treasury control; public relations; and civil aviation. Headings under the third group were development and welfare organization; defence

and security; constitutional developments; and local government in the West Indies.

The meeting dealing with defence needs was attended by Vice-Admiral R. V. Symmonds Taylor, Commander-in-Chief, America and West Indies Station, and Brigadier E. K. Page, Officer Commanding, Caribbean Area.

Governors were informed in confidence of the recommendations in the Report of the Standing Closer Association Committee and agreed that these recommendations were a matter for consideration by the Legislatures to whom the Report will be presented. The Report will be published at the earliest possible moment.

The Governors raised the question of the effect of the United Kingdom dollar export drive on United Kingdom exports to their territories, particularly of scarce goods. The Minister of State assured them that it was the intention of His Majesty's Government to continue the policy, which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom had applied with increasing success in recent years, of taking steps to ensure so far as lies within their power that the essential import requirements of the colonial territories are met either from the United Kingdom or elsewhere.

Discussion on the economic prospects of the area related particularly to the effects of the change in the dollar/sterling exchange rate. While agreeing that everything possible must be done to help in achieving the object of that change, the Governors felt bound to emphasize its probable effects on the cost of living and the special dependence of the West Indies upon essential imports from dollar countries. In this connexion, they stressed the great importance which they attached to stable and economic prices for the primary products of the area.

The Conference proposed that a meeting of official representatives of the Caribbean Colonies should be held early in the New Year to consider further the economic situation resulting from the new exchange rate of the pound, which by that time should have become clearer, and to recommend what steps might then be necessary to meet it.

Two Jamaica Appointments

The Colonial Office announced on November 17th that Mr. Robert Newton, Principal Assistant Secretary, Palestine, had been appointed Financial Secretary, Jamaica, in succession to Sir D. Norman Strathie, who has retired, and that Mr. John Ebenezer Clare McFarlane, O.B.E., Deputy Financial Secretary, Jamaica, has been appointed to the new post of Accountant General, Jamaica.

Mr. Newton was born in 1908 at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and was educated at Malvern College and Pembroke College, Cambridge. He was appointed to the Colonial Service, Nigeria, in 1931, and later was transferred to Palestine. In 1945 he became an Assistant Secretary of the Palestine Secretariat, and was promoted Principal Assistant Secretary in 1946. Since 1947 he has been working in the finance department of the Colonial Office.

Mr. McFarlane was born at Spanish Town, Jamaica, in 1894, and was educated at Cornwall College, Montego Bay. Entering government service in 1913, he became Assistant Treasurer in 1943, and Deputy Financial Secretary in 1944. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1947.

Trinidad Fighter Squadron

Still in the Lead

THE activities of No. 74 (Trinidad) Squadron, R.A.F. during the time of transition from war to peace were recorded in the January, 1948 issue of the CIRCULAR.

Since then there have been changes in personnel, but not in the tradition or spirit of the squadron, as was well exemplified at the first post-war squadron reunion, held on November 12th, and attended by members representative of all periods of the squadron's history from its formation to the present day.

Invitations to attend the reunion had been extended to the West India Committee, whose representatives received a most hearty and hospitable welcome.

During the evening the Squadron Commander Squadron-Leader A. R. de L. Inniss, D.F.C., a Barbadian well known at the West India Committee War Services Committee during the war, proposed the toast of the colony of Trinidad and Tobago and of its people, to whom the squadron sent their greetings and the assurance that they would do their best to maintain the high standard of which the squadron and the colony could both be proud. Squadron-Leader Inniss extended a hearty invitation to Trinidadians, when in England, to visit the squadron.

Mr. A. E. V. Barton, secretary of the West India Committee and a former Comptroller of Customs in Trinidad, in acknowledging the toast, thanked Squadron-Leader Inniss for the opportunity he had provided for contact between the Committee, as representative of the colony on this side, and the members of the squadron. He could assure the members that their message of greeting would be received with appreciation in the colony. He hoped that members of the squadron, when in London, would call at the offices of the West India Committee and afford himself and others the pleasure of welcoming them in a suitable manner.

The Committee has since received from the squadron an account of recent activities which is as follows:—

We have great pleasure in forwarding the second report which you have received since the end of the war. In our last letter we told you how the squadron was going through the trials of reorganization from its wartime to peacetime role. Those days are over and we are now on a full peacetime footing.

Last August, the Squadron Commander, Squadron-

Leader R. L. W. Baelz, D.F.C., who is well known to you, was posted to Group Headquarters. His place has been ably filled by Squadron-Leader A. R. de L. Inniss, D.F.C., whose home is in Barbados. Most parts of the Commonwealth are in fact represented in the "Tigers."

During the past year you may have read of the important air exercises in which the Royal Air Force has participated, particularly Operations "Foil" and "Bulldog." "Foil" opened with this quotation from a leading newspaper: "New 'Battle of Britain' is in the Air Again." This exercise was designed to test the efficiency of all stations in the R.A.F. Within tests of "enemy

approaching" the Tigers were airborne and climbing to meet the invaders. The success with which they met was epitomized in the statement of Air Marshal Sir Basil Embrey, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., A.O.C.-in-C Fighter Command, "We are still ahead of the world in the fighter aircraft we have in service today."

Following this successful test of Britain's air defences came the proving of her striking force. This took place in Operation "Bulldog" when 74 Squadron co-operated with the bomber force.

It is now tradition that all Royal Air Force squadrons participate in the Battle of Britain fly-past. Considering the excellent work accomplished by the "Tigers" during the battle, this day has great significance for present members. This year it was carried out under adverse conditions of low cloud, poor visibility and considerable bumpiness. It was so bad that the route to

London had to be indicated by ground flares. All squadrons were congratulated on a first-class show in difficult conditions.

It was the honour of 74 Squadron to represent all the squadrons in the Group when they gave a flying display for the Air Officer Commanding. Amongst other events were fly-pasts for the Home Fleet, Royal Observer Corps and Provincial Centres' "Wings" weeks.

The "Tigers" also gain a great deal of prestige from their two aerobatic specialists, Flight-Lieutenant Lynes and Pilot II. Bradley. The former, who is flight commander, has shown the fine performance of our "Meteor" fighters in several brilliant individual aerobatic displays. Perhaps the best of these was at Gutersloh when he gave a display for the British Air Forces of Occupation. Pilot II. Bradley is a member



of the station acrobatic team. In visits to Brussels, Copenhagen, the Middle East, and several places in this country, the team has amazed spectators by its precision flying in formation loops and rolls.

On the sports field, three pilots play for Fighter Command teams and most of the air and ground crews play for one of the station sports teams.

The year ended with a very important occasion in the squadron's history. On Saturday, November 12th, the first post-war squadron reunion was held at the "Cock Tavern" in London. A number of old squadron members attended, including some of 1914-18 vintage.

Prominent amongst these were Group Captain Ira Jones, D.S.O., D.F.C., M.C., M.M., Captain Hunt, D.F.C. and Captain Clements. The squadron had great pleasure in extending a welcome to Mr. Barton and Mr. Andrews of the West India Committee in London.

In conclusion we wish it to be known that we will extend a welcome to all Trinidadians if and when they visit this country. Come and see your squadron aircraft and pilots.

Changes in Timber Control

THE Board of Trade has announced certain changes in the control of timber, which came into effect on November 21st, in the Control of Timber (No. 52) Order, 1949 (S.I. 1949, No. 2093).

In order to conserve scarce supplies and direct them to essential users, it has become necessary to add to the list of hardwoods still subject to control of acquisition, consumption, etc., the items American Oak, and nearly all the previously uncontrolled specifications of teak lumber and logs. The full list of controlled hardwoods is now Ash, Basswood, Canadian and American Birch, American Cypress, Hickory, Honduras Mahogany, Rock Maple, American Oak and American Poplar; and also Teak (*Tectona grandis*) of all specifications (except scantlings and strips 4 in. and under thick, by 5 in. and under wide, other than decks imported as such). All other kinds of hardwood may be bought and used without licence. Price control under the Imported Hardwood Prices Orders remains unaffected.

Supplies of softwood are sufficient only for essential licensed purposes. The permission to acquire, free of licence, £1 worth of home-grown and "recovered-unclassified" timber each month, is, therefore, discontinued, and the acquisition, disposal, use and consumption of all softwood now requires a licence under the Control of Timber (General Provisions) Orders.

Up to £2 worth each month of the kinds of plywood which are now less scarce may now be purchased without a licence from plywood merchants.

Licences are no longer needed for the acquisition, disposal, use and consumption of veneer. Price control and the present arrangements for import licences (where applicable) remain unchanged.

As we go to press we learn with great regret of the death, in a flying accident, of Wing Commander C. G. S. Rowan-Robinson, D.S.O., D.F.C., of Jamaica.

Jamaica's Constitution

End of Session Speeches

WRITING from Kingston, Jamaica, on November 24th, our correspondent says: "At what was expected to be the last meeting of the present Legislative Council, Sir Noel Livingston (President) expressed the belief that the Council had done useful work. It had kept debate on a high level and had scrutinized bills with care. He felt that the Council had proved it was neither a 'rubber-stamp' nor an organ of reaction, and he personally would look back with pride and pleasure on his association with all its members. The Attorney General (Hon. T. H. Mayers) stated that the Hansard reports showed clearly enough that the Council was no rubber stamp, and he was satisfied the House had served a most useful purpose, by affording an opportunity for scrutiny and revision of measures accepted in principle 'elsewhere.' The Council had over and over again made useful amendments. Mr. Mayers referred to Sir Noel as 'an ideal President.' The Hon. Douglas Judah also referred warmly to Sir Noel's services, and hoped that he would again be President of the Council. Nominated members in particular, he said, could feel that they had taken a useful part in a historic venture—the new constitution. Mr. Judah observed emphatically: 'The new constitution has not failed, and we can feel that, perhaps in a small way, we have helped to make it work.' The value of a Second Chamber had been demonstrated. Mr. Judah added that unofficial nominated members would wish it to be known that however anxious Government had been for a measure to be carried the whips had never been put on them; and however harsh their criticism had been, Government had never chidden them for their severity.

"A dinner was subsequently given at Myrtle Bank by members in honour of their President, who has previously made a practice of entertaining members at the end of each session.

The House of Representatives

"The House of Representatives held its last meeting on November 23rd, and passed without discussion the Legislative Council amendments to four Bills. Sir Harold Allan, Leader of the House, claimed that 'this house has demonstrated that we are ready for a further advance in the constitution of Jamaica, and we trust that it will ere long be forthcoming.'

"Hon. F. A. Pixley, Minister for Social Services, apologized for the absence of Mr. Bustamante on account of illness, spoke in praise of the Speaker for the dignity he had displayed in his office, and claimed that the House had done more for the country in 4 years and 11 months than the previous five legislatures put together.

"Hon. E. R. D. Evans, Minister for Agriculture, declined to say whether the Government had done better than previous governments, but declared that it had done the best it could under the circumstances. He felt that the party system had worked well. The Hon. J. A. McPherson and Messrs. Simmonds, Henry

and Newland, all complimented the Speaker as did Miss Iris Collins, the only woman member of the House.

"Messrs. Linton and F. L. B. Evans, representing the opposition, spoke of the tolerance which members had learned to display towards each other and the need for extending that tolerance still further. Mr. C. M. Aitchison, Speaker, felt that every member of the House had at some time or the other upheld the traditional dignity of the Legislature, and he was sure that every member had an abiding desire to do the best for the country. There had been criticisms of the House as if it were lacking in dignity, but he felt that these criticisms were unjust and that worse scenes might be witnessed in the House of Commons. The Bishop of Kingston, and his Chaplain, the Rev. R. O. C. King, closed the session of the House with prayer."

Publications Received

The Harrisonian, July, 1949. An entertaining number, of special interest as it marks the change of headmastership by tribute to the service rendered to the school during 25 years of office by Mr. H. N. Haskell and a welcome to Mr. J. C. Hammond, the new Head.

Proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, Vol. XLIX, Part I, Quarter ending March, 1949. Included in this issue is a note on cocoa virus disease in Trinidad which emphasizes the importance of not minimizing its dangerous potentialities, and refers to experiments planned in Maracas to obtain decisive information on the effects of virus on yield.

Kew Bulletin, No. 3, 1949. A further instalment of Dr. Cheesman's notes on the classification of the bananas deals with *Musa laterita* and *M. textilis*.

West Indian Review, November 5th, 1949. Miss Esther Chapman is to be congratulated on the high level of interest she maintains in this weekly magazine. A feature of the issue is a centrepiece entitled Golden Jubilee of the Banana, commemorating fifty years of existence of the United Fruit Company. The conception and arrangement of this small memorial to the banana are unusual and striking.

Monthly Bulletin No. 103, Empire Industries Association and British Empire League, November, 1949. Under the heading of "Planning Run Wild" the publication discusses devaluation, which the association sees as a step forced on the United Kingdom Government by the mistakes of its own policy, "not the least that of endeavouring to conduct the affairs of Great Britain in isolation from those of the other countries of the Empire on which it depends for its continued existence as a figure of importance in the world.

"In so far as the Colonial Empire is concerned, the cheapening of their goods should, in theory, permit them to sell increased quantities in the dollar area, but this is theory only. . . . The net result . . . is likely to be that the same quantity of colonial produce will be sold for a smaller value in dollars, for we do not see the prospect of any substantial increase in colonial production taking place in the immediate future."

Venture, the Journal of the Fabian Colonial Bureau,

Vol. I, No. 10, November, 1949. This issue contains an article on Caribbean Development by a West Indian correspondent which takes note that "not even the most carping critic of British colonial administration could truthfully say that Britain has fallen short of her duty in making progressive political reforms and preparing the way for others in the British West Indies in the past fifteen years," but points out that "economic development lags far behind political advance, and there is danger of the apex of the pyramid raising its head aloft before the foundations are well and truly laid."

The writer goes on to complain that the Colonial Development Corporation, by giving priority to the one of the recommendations of the Evans commission which would employ the smallest amount of labour, seems to have shifted the emphasis from finding employment for surplus West Indian population to developing the forest resources of British Guiana.

Implementation of the recommendation in the Evans Report, that a public development corporation should be established in each of the two continental colonies to plan and direct development of the industries recommended, is regarded as essential if unemployment in the British West Indies is to be tackled successfully.

The Dairy Products Trade of the Caribbean. Caribbean Commission, External Trade Bulletin No. 5, Washington, D.C., 1949. Price \$1.00. Gives statistics of Caribbean trade in butter, cheese and milk over the years 1935 to 1947. The statistics are of considerable interest in that, except for exports from Jamaica to the Cayman and Turks Islands and the Bahamas, and for ships' stores provided by Martinique and Trinidad, they are confined entirely to imports, and thus give a measure of the scope for development of dairy industries in the area.

The Meat Trade of the Caribbean. Caribbean Commission, External Trade Bulletin No. 6, Washington, D.C., 1949. Price \$1.00. Here again the statistics, covering the years 1935 to 1947, refer almost entirely to imports, apart from British Guiana exports to British West Indian islands, ships' stores, and a few odd consignments. Bulletins 5 and 6 together thus provide basic data for an assessment of the room for expansion, if other circumstances permit, in the Caribbean livestock industry.

Sir Ralph Milbanke

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death, in tragic circumstances, of Sir Ralph Milbanke, Bart., M.C. He died at his home in London on November 24th.

Sir Ralph was a well-known figure in Mayfair and had represented on this side the rum interests of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica), Ltd., since the opening of the London office in 1946. Previously he had represented Jamaica on the Rum Propaganda Committee.

Sir Ralph was the twelfth baronet and succeeded his brother in 1947. He was the younger son of the late Lieut.-Colonel Sir John Milbanke, V.C., who was killed in action at Gallipoli. He served with distinction in the recent war as a major in the Armoured Corps and later as a parachutist, and saw service in France and North Africa.

B.E.P.O.

Luncheon to Visitors from Overseas

THE British Empire Producers' Organization, on November 29th, entertained to luncheon representatives of Dominion and colonial governments and overseas members of the Organization visiting London. Mr. A. D. Dodds-Parker, M.P., its chairman, presided, and the principal guests were Mr. A. Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mr. Philip Noel-Baker, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations. The luncheon was held in the historic hall of the Worshipful Company of Armourers, Coleman Street.

In the course of his speech in proposing the toast of "Our Guests," Mr. Dodds-Parker said: "It is our constant endeavour to find means to benefit primary industries of the Commonwealth. There is an example before your eyes. The wines and spirits of Australia, South Africa and the West Indies, and the cigars of Jamaica. Here are great and valuable industries. The restricting effect on consumption of the very high duties imposed by the United Kingdom on wine, brandy, rum and cigars are seriously affecting sales in this country with damaging consequences to producers in the Dominions and colonies. This is causing us much concern.

"Further it is clear that the reduced level of consumption must entail a very substantial loss to United Kingdom revenue, amounting to many millions of pounds a year. With the co-operation of our associations we have analysed the damaging effect of high duties on trade and employment in these great industries and are preparing a further memorandum on the subject. Products of this kind must be allowed to expand and to enjoy a market and consumption in keeping with their obvious excellence."

Mr. Creech Jones said that the members of the Government were faced with the double responsibility of looking after the interests of the people of this country and of doing full justice to the producers in other parts of the Empire. Their task was therefore of considerable difficulty but they would discharge it to the best of their ability. We could not attain economic health unless there was the fullest co-operation between this country and the various parts of the Commonwealth. The prosperity of the Commonwealth depended on sound economic development and we could not meet our responsibilities to, and raise the standard of life of, the colonial peoples unless their economies were strengthened. We had a very direct interest in building up the economies upon which the colonies depended. He identified himself with this movement to secure a fair return for the primary producer in regard to prices and quantities and unless these guarantees were forthcoming he could not see him looking very far ahead in his planning. Much was being done to investigate the possibility of obtaining greater quantities of colonial products and increasing their uses. The Government appreciated the contribution which the primary producers of the Empire were making and he believed that this work could be turned to mutual advantage.

Mr. Noel Baker said that in this country we were increasingly conscious of the fact that our economic well-being depended as never before on the prosperity of the

other parts of the Empire. It was true that there was a conflict between the short-term interests of the consumer and producer but our people were coming to understand, and quite certainly the Government Departments understood, that the long-term interests of producer and consumer did not conflict.

1950 Test Matches

Offer to West Indies

AT a meeting on November 15th at Lord's, the Advisory County Cricket Committee of England accepted a recommendation, made by the Board of Control of Test Matches at Home, that the decision made in March, 1949 to allot three days only to the test matches against the West Indies in 1950 be rescinded, and that the hope be expressed to the West Indies that they would accept five days without prejudice to the future, either in regard to the duration or number of test matches to be played in any tour.

This proposal, which has been accepted, will give the West Indian touring team four five-day matches against England teams during the coming season.

It has for some time been felt, in many quarters, that under modern conditions a longer period must be allotted to test matches to give greater assurance of a decisive result in these games. The test matches played with New Zealand during the past season emphasized the need for such modification as may be possible without further interference with the County championship matches. On a modest showing, the results of the M.C.C. tour of the West Indies in the winter, 1947-48, go to prove that the West Indies will provide the England teams with opposition more than strong enough to justify the trial of five-day test matches next season, and all will look forward to an interesting series of games.

Population of Trinidad

The Annual Report of the Registrar-General on the Vital Statistics of Trinidad and Tobago for the year 1948, gives the estimated population of the colony, on December 31st, 1948, as 602,814, of whom 573,471 were resident in Trinidad and 29,343 in Tobago.

The density of the population per square mile was 308 in Trinidad, and 253 in Tobago.

Ten years before, on December 31st, 1938, the densities per square mile were 234 in Trinidad and 246 in Tobago, the estimated population of the former being 436,333, and of the latter 28,556.

Ammonium Sulphate and Sugar-cane

In the *Proceedings* of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago for the quarter ending December, 1948, Mr. R. Ross, acting Sugar Agronomist to the Department of Agriculture, reports that in a long-term experiment in operation in the Naparimas since 1931 there is no evidence that the increase in yield due to sulphate of ammonia is decreasing with time.

Notes of West Indian Interest

"Two darg fe one bone, two women fe one house,
ncher 'gree long."

* * *

MR. H. HAYGARTH JACKSON, M.C., a director of the Bleachers' Association, has been appointed a member of the Cotton Board from November 1st, 1949.

* * *

MR. AND MRS. A. MOIR REID AND MRS. D. MCCOLLUM have left Jersey. Their address after February 1st will be 1, Addison Gardens, W.14.

* * *

THE Trinidad cost-of-living index figure, which rose to 228 as at October 1st, after having remained at 227 since June 1st, 1948, showed no change at November 1st.

* * *

ESTIMATED production of sugar in Mauritius during the crop season 1949-50 is 410,000 metric tons. Exports are expected to be 391,000 metric tons.

* * *

THE King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Alexander Raphael Cools-Lartigue, Attorney General, Windward Islands, to be a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands.

* * *

REPRESENTATIVES of the United Kingdom Cotton Board left for New York on November 19th for a conference with representatives of the American cotton textile industry on problems of mutual interest.

* * *

MR. HAROLD HALSALL, the well-known West Indian commercial representative, is at present on a visit to London. He expects to return to the West Indies early in the New Year.

* * *

HENRY LANGRIDGE & CO., of 34, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2, announce that Mr. S. D. Jupp, Mr. H. A. Rapson and Mr. W. E. Swain have been admitted as partners in the firm. Mr. S. D. Jupp is the son of the head of the firm, Mr. A. L. Jupp.

* * *

THE engagement was recently announced of Mr. P. A. Barber, of Trinidad, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Barber, of Gloucester Court, London, W., and Kathleen May, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Westwood, of The Croft, Wimbledon.

* * *

THE Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica), Ltd. announce that their London office at 40, Norfolk Street, W.C.2. was closed on December 1st. Inquiries for publicity material should be addressed to the advertising agents, Mather & Crowther, Ltd., Brettenham House, Strand, W.C.2.

* * *

THE Oil Committee of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (O.E.E.C.) has estimated the total annual increase in the consumption of petroleum

products in Europe between 1949-50 and 1952-53 at roughly 9 per cent. The annual increase in business activity, for industry, is estimated at 6 per cent, and for agriculture at 10 per cent.

* * *

BARCLAYS BANK (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) have opened an office at Park Street, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. This sub-branch will be under the control of the main branch at Marine Square in that town. The Bank has also opened a sub-branch at Mandeville, Jamaica, which will be under the control of the Kingston branch.

* * *

MR. J. L. WORLEDGE, Director General of Colonial Audit, has arrived back in London after a three months' tour of inspection of the audit departments in the Leeward and Windward Islands, British Honduras, British Guiana and Trinidad. His itinerary necessitated calling at Jamaica where he was Auditor-General from 1936 to 1941.

* * *

DIRECT radiotelephone service between Jamaica and Bermuda was opened by Cable and Wireless (West Indies), Ltd. on November 28th. Ten years ago Cable and Wireless (West Indies) operated only two radiotelephone services in the West Indies; today, nearly 40 direct services are operated, with extensions to some 50 countries in all parts of the world. Barbados is the main relay centre for extensions.

* * *

MR. NIALL PATRICK SHERLOCK, who was married on November 15th to First Officer Margaret Maud Bray, M.B.E., W.R.N.S., is the second son of the late Sir Alfred Sherlock, and of Lady Sherlock, of Caterham, Surrey. His bride is the second daughter of the late Colonel Hubert Bray, and of Mrs. Bray, of Twyford, Hampshire. The ceremony took place at St. Mary's Church, Twyford, and on the following day Mr. and Mrs. Sherlock left for New York, en route for the West Indies and British Guiana.

The Pictorial Pages

Some 240 delegates from non-Communist trade union organizations, representing about 50,000,000 workers, met at County Hall, London, on November 28th. Their object is to form a new international body which will be a rival to the Communist-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions.

M. Paul Finet, of Belgium, presided, and Mr. H. L. Bullock, chairman of the T.U.C., welcomed the delegates, among whom were six representatives from the West Indies. The talks are proceeding as we go to press.

The photograph reproduced on the first of the pictorial pages was taken as Mr. Bullock was making his opening address.

The illustrations on the second page are referred to on page 280.

Concessions Granted by Canada at Annecy

THE issue of *Foreign Trade* of October 15th discusses the results of the negotiations on rates of duty and preferences at the third session of the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade held at Annecy from April 11th to August 13th.

The list of tariff concessions made by Canada contains 138 items or sub-items. These include bindings of items at the rates agreed to at Geneva in 1947; re-

ductions below the rates agreed to at Geneva in 1947; bindings at pre-1947 rates of duty; reductions in items or sub-items which were not negotiated at Geneva in 1947; and reductions in items or sub-items which were bound at pre-1947 rates at Geneva.

The appended table gives particulars of bindings or changes in respect of products which might interest British West Indian producers.

Part I.—Most-Favoured-Nation Tariff

Tariff Item	Description of Products	Old Duties	New Duties
15	Beeswax <i>ad val.</i>	15%	15%
20	Cocoa paste or "liquor" and chocolate paste or "liquor," not sweetened, in blocks or cakes per lb.	3 cents	3 cents
21	Cocoa paste or "liquor," and chocolate paste or "liquor," sweetened, in blocks or cakes, not less than 2 lb. in weight per lb.	4 cents	4 cents
28	(i) Coffee, green, when imported by manufacturers of coffee extract, for use exclusively	2 cents	1 cent
29	in the manufacture of coffee extract, in their own factories per lb.	2 cents	2 cents
Ex 30	(ii) Coffee, green, n.o.p. per lb.	5%	5%
Ex 31	Chilli pepper, unground <i>ad val.</i>	3 cents +	7½%
	Chilli pepper, ground per lb.	10%	
69 (a)	Cattle food containing molasses <i>ad val.</i>	20%	15%
89	Vegetables, prepared, in air-tight cans or other air-tight containers, the weight of the containers to be included in the weight for duty:— Ex (b) Tomatoes per lb.	2 cents	2 cents
90 (d)	Vegetable pastes and hash and all similar products composed of vegetables and meat or fish, or both, n.o.p. <i>ad val.</i>	32½%	25%
Ex 97	Pineapples per lb.	Free	Free
98	Bananas per stem or bunch	50 cents	50 cents
101 (a)	Lemons	Free	Free
105 (a)	Lemon, orange, grapefruit and citron rinds, fresh, frozen, dried, sulphured, or in brine ...	Free	Free
109	Nuts of all kinds, n.o.p., shelled or nut per lb.	1 cent	1 cent
Ex 134	Sugar, produced from sugar cane or beets	(a)	(a)
Ex 135	(a) The Government of Canada undertakes, with respect to sugar dutiable under tariff items 134, 135 and 135(b), not to impose rates of duty higher than those in effect on July 1st, 1939, but reserves the right to revise the wording of the said tariff items, provided that under any such revised wording the over-all incidence of import duties and taxes shall not be greater than that in effect on July 1st, 1939.		
Ex 135 (b)			
136 (a)	Molasses of cane, testing by polariscope under 35 degrees but not less than 20 degrees per gal.	1½ cents	1 cent
142	Tobacco, unmanufactured, for excise purposes under conditions of the Excise Act, subject to such regulations as may be prescribed by the Minister:— (a) Of the type commonly known as Turkish:— (i) Unstemmed per lb.	30 cents	30 cents
	(ii) Stemmed per lb.	40 cents	40 cents
	(b) N.o.p.:— (i) Unstemmed per lb.	20 cents	20 cents
	(ii) Stemmed per lb.	30 cents	30 cents
	Provided that the duty under this item shall be levied on the basis of "Standard leaf tobacco" consisting of 10 per centum of water and 90 per centum of solid matter.		
Ex 156	Spirituous or alcoholic liquors (subject to the provisions attaching to tariff item 156) viz.:— (v) Liqueurs per proof gal.	\$4 50	\$4 50
	And in addition thereto, under all tariffs, \$7 00 per gallon of the strength of proof.		
507	Single-ply, sliced or rotary-cut veneers of rosewood, mahogany or Spanish cedar, not over ¼ in. in thickness, not taped or jointed <i>ad val.</i>	10%	Free
507 (b)	Veneers of wood of any kind, not over ¼ in. in thickness, taped or jointed <i>ad val.</i>	25%	20%
599	Hides and skins, raw, whether dry, salted, or pickled; and raw pelts	Free	Free
680 (a)	Sponges of marine production <i>ad val.</i>	15%	12½%

Part II.—British Preferential Tariff

Tariff Item	Description of Products	Old Duties	New Duties
Ex 26	Coffee, roasted or ground per lb.	3 cents +	2 cents
Ex 31	Chilli pepper, ground per lb.	7½%	
		3 cents +	5%
69 (a)	Cattle food containing molasses <i>ad val.</i>	7½%	
90 (d)	Vegetable pastes and hash and all similar products composed of vegetables and meat or fish, or both, n.o.p. <i>ad val.</i>	15%	10%
507 (b)	Veneers of wood of any kind, not over ¼ in. in thickness, taped or jointed <i>ad val.</i>	15%	7½%
		15%	10%

West Indies at Westminster

Sugar Subsidy. In a tabulated statement giving the subsidies on various foods, supplied on November 1st in answer to a question by Captain Hewitson, Mr. Strachey pointed out that the estimated subsidy on sugar for 1949-50 would amount to £8,100,000. The subsidy was 1d. per lb., and the current retail price was 5d. Without the subsidy the consumer would be charged 6d.

Stowaways. Mr. Logan asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was aware of the illicit traffic in stowaways from the West Coast of Africa and the West Indies to Liverpool, and if he would hold an inquiry with a view to ending it.

In a written reply of November 8th, Mr. Creech Jones said that he was well aware of the problem and in consultation with other Departments was about to propose further measures to the Colonial Governments concerned. Until those Governments had received and considered his suggestions, he thought it would be premature to consider the necessity for an inquiry.

U.S. Geologists. Mr. R. Robinson asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 9th, whether he had completed his negotiations with the Economic Co-operation Administration with regard to the attachment of 28 American geologists and associated scientists to the Colonial Geological Survey Service; when recruitment would begin; and to which colonies would those geologists be sent.

Mr. Creech Jones replied in the affirmative, and said that he hoped recruitment would begin very shortly. Only 26 geologists were now required, of whom one was to go to British Guiana.

Development Schemes. Sir Peter Macdonald asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 9th, (1) how long he expected the salt production scheme in the Turks and Caicos Islands to be under way before it began to pay its way, and how much would have been expended by that time; and (2) the expenditure so far on the development of timber in British Guiana, and how many foreign experts and technicians would be associated with it.

Mr. Creech Jones regretted that he did not have that information, and referred Sir Peter to the Colonial Development Corporation, who were carrying out those schemes.

Maude Report. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what stage had been reached in the consideration of Sir John Maude's report on Barbados; and what prospect there was of a speedy implementation of the important recommendations with regard to local government.

In a written answer of November 10th, Mr. Creech Jones said that the report had been accepted in principle by the Governor in Executive Committee and legislation to give effect to its recommendations was being prepared.

Jamaican Stowaway. Mr. Driberg asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what authority Glanville Thompson, a Jamaican, recently sentenced to imprisonment as a stowaway at the Thames Court, had been refused permission to stay in Britain.

In a written reply of December 1st, Mr. Edc said that the man had been refused leave to land in this country in accordance with the usual practice, under which leave to land was refused to stowaways who were unable to establish that they were British subjects.

East Indians' Illiteracy. In reply to a question by Mr. Hynd, Mr. Rees-Williams said on November 23rd, that the latest estimate of the percentage of illiteracy among the East Indians in British Guiana put the figure at 40 per cent. The colony's ten-year development plan provided for the extension of primary education, and an experimental literacy campaign had been carried out in 1948, and was being continued.

Housing for Civil Servants. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what progress was being made with the provision of official housing for locally recruited Government servants in the colonies having regard to complaints being received from such territories as British Guiana and Hong Kong that rentals now exceeded 30 per cent of salary in many cases.

In a written reply dated November 16th, Mr. Creech Jones said that conditions varied from territory to territory, but

generally speaking official housing was not provided by colonial Governments for locally recruited staff, whose position as regarded housing was no different from that of other members of the general public.

British Guiana Airfield. Mr. Platts-Mills asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on what date the air base at Atkinson Field, British Guiana, had been evacuated by United States Air Force personnel; and if he would give an assurance that that airfield would be used only by British personnel.

Mr. Creech Jones replied in a written answer on November 16th, that the United States Air Force personnel had been withdrawn from Atkinson Field on August 1st, 1949, when the British Guiana Government had assumed responsibility for the maintenance and control of the airfield for civil use. In accordance with the provisions of the International Civil Aviation Convention, the airfield must be equally open to use by the aircraft of all contracting States on a non-discriminatory basis.

British Guiana Rice. Mr. R. Robinson asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 9th, whether the two American agricultural experts with experience of modern methods of rice cultivation and milling, who had recently visited British Guiana under the technical assistance programme of the Economic Co-operation Administration, had now completed their assignment; whether he had received their report; and what action he proposed to take with regard to it.

Mr. Creech Jones answered that those experts had completed their visits to British Guiana but their report had not yet been received.

Jamaica Metals Agreement. Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 9th, whether he had any statement to make on agreements reached between the Government of Jamaica and the Permanente Metals, Inc., of California, in view of the extensive projects envisaged.

Mr. Creech Jones replied that he had no later information than that given to Mr. Skinnard on August 30th, 1948, but he was making inquiries of the Governor.

In answer to a further question from Mr. Skinnard, Mr. Creech Jones agreed that it was important to safeguard the agricultural value of the land, leaving it as little disturbed as possible, and said that he had impressed the Governor as to that aspect of the matter, and the latter was keeping it in mind.

Sugar Supplies. Mr. Frederic Harris asked the Minister of Food, on November 21st, to what extent he estimated that he could now obtain sufficient sugar from non-dollar countries to meet the consumption requirements in this country for all purposes at its present rate and if sugar rationing were withdrawn, respectively.

Mr. Strachey replied that he estimated that in 1950, owing to the need to supply Commonwealth importing countries, there would be approximately 525,000 tons short of sugar from sterling sources. If sugar were de rationed, he estimated that they should require a further 700,000 to 750,000 tons.

In a reply to a further question by Mr. Harris, Mr. Strachey said that on the question of de rationing, they felt they must work to a higher figure than the pre-war average of 105 lb. a year per head of population, owing to the redistribution of income which had taken place.

British Guiana Survey. Mr. Roland Robinson asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 9th, what arrangements he had made for an aerial survey of British Guiana.

Mr. Creech Jones said in reply that he hoped that photography in British Guiana and the Caribbean area generally could be undertaken next year by the Royal Air Force in co-operation with his Directorate of Colonial Geodetic and Topographical Surveys. In the meantime a contract had been placed with a private firm on behalf of the Government of British Guiana for the air photography of 4,000 square miles covering the areas of the colony which the British Guiana Government most urgently desired photographed.

In reply to further questions from Mr. Robinson, Mr. Creech Jones said he gathered that the private firm was a British company, called "The Air Survey Co., Ltd." and he believed it was using British aircraft.

British Guiana Franchise. Mr. Rankin asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 23rd (1) if he was aware that a candidate for election to the Legislative Council of British Guiana must have an annual income of £250 or possess property value £208 in order to be eligible for nomination; and what steps he proposed to take to abolish these qualifications; (2) if

he was aware that a voter in the election of the Legislative Council of British Guiana must be literate and possess three acres of land or property of £31 5s. in value, or pay £10 rent, or Income Tax of £4 3s. 4d., or have an income of £25 per year; and that steps he proposed to take to make the franchise more democratic.

Mr. Rees-Williams, who replied, said that Mr. Creech Jones had agreed to appoint a special commission to visit British Guiana in 1950 to make recommendations on the franchise, the composition of the Legislative Council, and related matters.

Sugar Estate Housing, British Guiana. In reply to a question by Mr. Hynd, Mr. Rees-Williams said on November 23rd, that according to the latest figures available, some 6,000 families, of a total of some 76,000 residents on the estates, were still housed in ranges. The colony's ten-year development plan provided for co-operation between Government and the sugar industry for their rehousing.

Mr. Hynd then asked whether, if an increase in the sugar price were allowed, a proportion of it could be allocated toward the housing of the workers.

Mr. Rees-Williams replied: "That is a possibility, but I must point out that those 6,000 people are not workers on the estates. They are residents on the estates, not workers. Therefore, the Government feel that the primary responsibility for their rehousing rests on the Government there."

Sugar Refining Costs. Mr. Charles Smith asked the Minister of Food how the sugar refining costs adjustment was calculated; what the machinery was for distributing it among sugar refiners; and what sums had been paid to the sugar refining industry in respect of that adjustment in each year since its inception, indicating what sum per cwt. of refined sugar each annual payment represented.

Mr. Strachey, in a written answer dated November 18th, said that the sugar refining costs adjustment was calculated by relating current costs to pre-war costs after taking account of the effect of the level of production on overhead costs. Payment was made to individual refiners at a rate per cwt. of refined sugar produced. The costs adjustment was based on an investigation of the costs of one firm of sugar refiners. It would not, as he had explained on July 19th, 1948, be in accordance with general practice to give figures which would disclose the operations of one individual concern.

Sugar and Cocoa Prices. Mr. De la Bère asked the Minister of Food why, in view of his exhortation to manufacturers to increase exports of foodstuffs so as to facilitate the importation of more raw materials, on September 22nd, the price of sugar was increased to manufacturers from 54/6 to 59/6 per cwt., and cocoa from 107/- to 143/- per cwt., these increases being for export purposes to dollar countries.

In a written answer, of November 1st, Mr. Strachey said that the price of 54/6 per cwt. for refined sugar issued for use in exports had been based on the cost of raw sugar purchased from dollar sources, the cheapest then available. Had they retained this basis after revaluation a substantial price increase would have resulted. They therefore used the normal price for sugar issued to manufacturers, 59/8 per cwt. As that price contained a duty element of 21/- per cwt., which was recoverable on export, the effective price for export purposes was 38/8.

The price of cocoa beans used in export to dollar and other desirable markets was fixed on the basis of New York market quotations. Both the original price of 107/- and the current price of 143/- per cwt. represented those quotations at the dates when they had been fixed. There was a duty drawback on these prices of 11/8 a cwt.

Jamaica Reservoir. Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 23rd, the original estimate for the construction of the Mona Dam in Jamaica; to what extent that estimate had been exceeded by the time the dam had been completed; how much had been spent in patching it up since its completion; and how much more expenditure he anticipated would be necessary before the dam would hold water permanently.

Mr. Rees-Williams, who replied, said that the original estimate and loan in 1942 had been £382,000. In January, 1945, a second loan of £80,900 had been made. Since the completion of the reservoir in August, 1946, drains had been put in to diminish the effects on the structure of leakage. He had no figures for the cost of works done after the building of the reservoir. It was not yet possible to say how much it would cost to make the reservoir permanently watertight.

When Mr. Gammans asked whether it was not a fact that the reservoir had never held water at all, and showed no sign whatever of being likely to hold water, Mr. Rees-Williams said that he believed it did not hold water very securely [see page 295].

British Honduras Dollar. Major Ramsay asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 23rd, what benefits he expected British Honduras to experience as a result of H.M. Government's policy not to devalue the colony's dollar.

Replying, Mr. Rees-Williams, the Under-Secretary of State, said that the British Honduras dollar had been linked by law with the U.S. dollar since 1894. Largely because so much of the colony's imports (at present about 70 per cent) come from American account countries, no change had been made in that position last September.

Major Ramsay then said that unemployment in British Honduras was on the increase, and that development as envisaged in the Evans Report would have no chance of success unless some provision was made for that arrangement.

When Mr. Rees-Williams said that he understood the decision on the whole had received a welcome in the colony, Mr. Ramsay stated that, as the fact that he and the Under-Secretary had appeared to differ so widely, he would raise the matter as soon as possible on the adjournment.

Students' Air Passage. Commander Maitland asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 9th, why eight agricultural students who had been due to take a course at the Tropical College in Trinidad commencing in October had been sent there by air at a cost to the country of approximately £1,408 when they had been available for a sea passage.

Replying, Mr. Creech Jones said that the decision to send those agricultural probationers by air was taken only because all efforts to secure sea passages by which they would have reached Trinidad by October had failed. Normally such probationers were sent by sea, and it was hoped that the shipping difficulties which had been encountered this year would not recur in future.

Commander Maitland then asked whether it would not have been known for some time ahead that those probationers were going to the West Indies? Would it not have been possible to engage passages for them if it had been planned ahead?

Mr. Creech Jones replied that he had made inquiries into that point and he assured Commander Maitland that such arrangements could not have been made. The men had not finished their course at Cambridge until the middle of August. There had been no loss of time so far as his department had been concerned.

British Sugar Corporation. Mr. C. Smith asked the Minister of Food what amount of refined sugar had been produced in each of the years 1946, 1947 and 1948 by the British Sugar Corporation; what proportion this had constituted of the total production of refined sugar in the United Kingdom in each of those years; and what percentage of the refining capacity of the United Kingdom in each year had been controlled by the British Sugar Corporation, reckoning for that purpose the campaign production capacity based on normal yield plus the realistic off-season refining capacity as constituting the total refining capacity controlled by the British Sugar Corporation.

In a written answer of November 9th, Mr. Strachey replied that the information was as follows:—

	1946	1947	1948
	(000 tons)		
Sugar produced by British Sugar Corporation—			
During campaign	268	296	283
From off-season refining	110	161	211
Total	378	457	494
	per cent	per cent	per cent
British Sugar Corporation production as a proportion of the total amount of refined sugar produced in the United Kingdom	23	23	21.5
Percentage of United Kingdom refining capacity represented by British Sugar Corporation campaign capacity and realistic off-season capacity	25	24	23.3



The Homeward Mail



ANTIGUA

BY CABLE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT. *November 30th.*

DISTINGUISHED visitors staying at Government House this month were Sir John Huggins, Governor of Jamaica, and Lord Listowel. Mr. Sweany, private secretary to Lord Listowel, is acting as colonial secretary in this colony until the arrival of Mr. P. D. McDonald in the new year.

Recitals given by Mr. Frederick Fuller, the well-known singer, and sponsored by the British Council, have delighted audiences of all ages. Mr. Fuller gave not only public recitals but sang to children of primary and secondary schools.

The Antigua Beach Hotel is due to reopen next month under new management.

Weather. A correspondent, in a letter from St. John's of November 19th, says: "The last three weeks of October were unusually wet, most places receiving at least one heavy shower every day. Since the beginning of November conditions have been much more normal and the weather has been bright, but showers have continued to fall at intervals.

Sugar and Cotton. "The 1950 sugar crop shows great promise as compared with those of the last two years; the unofficial estimate is now given as 28,000 tons. Despite the heavy rain, the newly planted cotton crop is on the whole good. In some areas planted lands were subjected to heavy wash but there has been sufficient time for replanting to be undertaken.

Remembrance Sunday. "On November 6th a small crowd assembled at the War Memorial at St. John's for Remembrance Day service. The Administrator placed a wreath of Flanders poppies on behalf of the Government and afterwards he presented framed scrolls to the next-of-kin of three local men who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. They were Pilot Officer P. B. Nanton, R.A.F., Pte. L. Samuel and Pte. J. Carlisle, both of the South Caribbean Regiment.

"The Governor, Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, was absent from the island from November 1st to 12th, attending a conference of B.W.I. Governors in Barbados. Lord Listowel, Minister of State for the Colonies, arrived in Antigua on November 18th and is a guest at Government House where an At Home was held on the afternoon of his arrival in order that he might meet members of Council, heads of Government Departments and prominent citizens.

"Mr. Justice D. E. Jackson of British Guiana, who has been appointed Puisne Judge for the Windward and Leeward Islands, arrived here on the 16th instant."

BRITISH GUIANA

New Hospital Wing. A correspondent, writing from Georgetown on November 20th, says: "A new wing, said to be the most modern in the Caribbean and erected at a cost of \$200,000, has just been opened at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Georgetown.

Constitutional Reform. "Sir Charles Woolley has

announced in the Legislative Council that a special 'outside' Commission is expected to arrive in the colony in a year's time to examine the question of constitutional reform.

Shortage of Medical Officers. "The grave shortage of medical officers in the medical department and particularly at the Public Hospital, Georgetown, is causing serious alarm.

Revision of the Laws. "Mr. Justice Duke, formerly Solicitor-General of the colony and now a Puisne Judge in Trinidad, has been appointed to undertake the revision of the colony's laws.

Amerindian Development. "The Legislative Council has approved the introduction of a bill dealing with the rights, duties and privileges of over 16,000 Aboriginal Amerindian inhabitants of the colony. Whilst continuing the principle of Indian reserves the bill will make provision for the gradual 'westernization' of tribal life and the assumption by the Amerindians of full citizenship with all its rights and responsibilities.

Visit of Minister of State. "Lord Listowel spent nine days in the colony from October 27th to November 5th, four of which were employed in a tour of the hinterland. In the course of his visit he said amongst other things: 'In spite of the economies the British Government was making, there would be no reduction in the money allocated for the development of the colonies' . . . 'The (British) Government was serious about the desirability of establishing secondary industries in the colony' . . . 'The Colonial Office would do all it could to support the case to be put forward for a reasonable price for sugar during the coming negotiations' . . . 'I believe the colony has a splendid future. The latent wealth of British Guiana will be used to ease the heavy burden of those who toil with their hands. The colony will advance steadily towards a more complete and equal partnership with the Mother Country in the great family of nations. This would depend on the capacity of the many races who have mingled for centuries in this land, to live and to work together as brothers, whatever their differences of racial origin, religion, creed, colour or language'."

BRITISH HONDURAS

Medical Service. Captain M. S. Metzgen, in a letter from Belize dated October 25th, says: "At a recent meeting of the Legislative Council a member delivered a scathing criticism of the medical service of the colony, stating that the service had never been at such a low ebb in over 20 years. He also wondered whether the Council would agree not to vote a salary for the S.M.O. under the present conditions. The Governor appointed a visiting committee to the hospital, and the public is invited to lodge complaints against the institution with the secretary.

Agricultural Experiment Station. "A critical state of affairs exists at Baking Pot Agricultural Experi-

ment Station. Members of the Legislative Council are not satisfied. When the matter was put before the Council, the Governor stated that he would take full responsibility for the experiment. Members stated in Council that they were now afraid that heads of Government Departments would not heed criticism from the Council or the public, as the Governor would protect them.

Development Board. "At a recent meeting of the British Honduras Development Board, of which the Governor was chairman, the Board were informed that the Secretary of State for the Colonies was willing to increase the Evans Commission grant of £750,000 to £850,000, if the Board agreed that the Feeder Road project be transferred from the Colonial Development and Welfare Organization to the Evans Commission allocation, thus releasing £100,000 of C. D. and W. money for current development and welfare not related to the Evans Report. The Board agreed, and also requested that experts be asked to advise on hydro-electric power, port facilities, and a new out-patient block at Belize Hospital.

"**Unemployment relief** schemes are in operation throughout the colony.

"**An Agricultural Policy Committee** has been formed, with wide terms of reference, hoping to encourage and assist agriculture generally.

Telecommunications. "A loan of \$21,000 to defray the cost of centralizing the telecommunications for Belize Airport has been fully subscribed. All telecommunication activities will be centralized at the terminal building at Stanley Field, Belize Airport. It is planned to erect suitable buildings near the site for the staff of telecommunication as well as the airport. This arrangement should result in considerable savings in administration costs and greater efficiency in general service.

Crown Film Unit. "A team from the Crown Film Unit visited the colony during September. They took shots of general domestic interest for a film of the Caribbean colonies.

Teachers' Exam. "The Director of Education reports a low standard of work at the recent teachers' examination which causes concern, and said that the standard of practical teaching had declined.

Devaluation. "Conditions since the devaluation of the pound have been unsettled in the colony. The colony dollar is still on par with the American dollar. Churches and financial undertakings financed by sterling want the colony dollar devalued, but the general public, with visions of a lower cost of living, want the colony dollar to remain at par. The Government has now issued a statement that the colony dollar would not be devalued. Owing to the devaluation of the pound the colony trade in pine lumber with Jamaica has been suspended temporarily.

Import Control. "Although Britain wants overseas trade, imports into the colony are still harassed by import control regulations.

"**Lord Listowel**, Minister of State for the Colonies, accompanied by Mr. W. D. Sweany, arrived in the

colony on October 11th and left on the 18th. Whilst in the colony he inspected the Out-Districts, and met the combined Councils, who asked him to assist the colony in distress, and also to use his influence not to devalue the local dollar. The public hope for the best, but wonder whether any good will arise from the visit."

DOMINICA

Devaluation. Writing from Roseau on October 31st, a correspondent signing himself "Wintergreen," says: "Rather a painful impression has been caused here by the devaluation of the £, in view of the repeated statements of Sir Stafford Cripps that this would not be done. Town eggs are offered at 5d. and on Saturdays at 6d. each; Quaker Oats (U.S.A.) has vanished from the shops; while an English firm have a tin pack of 1 lb. medium ground oatmeal selling at 1s. 9½d. Australian butter from Victoria in an attractive tin is 4s. 2d. per lb. and flour, which we draw from Canada, is sold to the retailer at £2 0s. 11d. the half-bag. It is said that the purchases of flour are on a pre-war basis but the penny bread continues at 2½ ounces.

"**Banana money** continues to be distributed and is changing our outlook altogether. The sight of \$10,000 (paper dollars) being paid out in a bank for distribution means something.

Bank Charges. "The practice of adding such words as 'and all other bank charges' in bills of exchange proceeding from the U.K. is increasing and as the words appear to be the work of the forwarding banker, merchants in general take it with rather a bad grace. Again, all containers are now charged separately.

Town Council. "Roseau Town Council cast rather a bomb-shell among us when on the 21st it passed a motion asking the Government for dissolution. The Council, under Mayor Dupigny, has worked strongly to effect needed improvements in the town, control of the milk supply, scavenging, sanitation and a full-time fire brigade. These things all cost money and the Council are running into debt on their revenue account. The immediate cause of the motion for dissolution was the refusal of the Government to sanction a tax on all goods sold in the shops, the tax being payable to the Council. No mention is made of any free revenue from the Goodwill Estate, acquired a year or two ago. It is to be hoped that a middle way will be found out of this impasse."

JAMAICA

Election of Bishop. Our correspondent, Mr. H. P. Jacobs, writing from Kingston, on November 24th, says: "After a long sitting at Ramson Hall on November 17th (formerly St. George's Hall now renamed in memory of the late Archdeacon Ramson), the Anglican Synod elected the Rev. Basil Montague Dale, Rector of Hatfield, Hertfordshire, Bishop of Jamaica by 128 votes, out of a total of 143. The Bishop-elect has for some time been chairman of the West Indies Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Jamaica House. "The Council of the Chamber of Commerce has adopted a proposal for the establishment of a 'Jamaica House' in each of the larger West Indian colonies to publicize and sell Jamaican products.

Garrison. "The 1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers arrived on November 14th to take over from the Gloucesters.

Election. "Government has stated that 'strong measures will be taken by the police in the event of disturbances of public order' during the election campaign, and has asked citizens to do their duty in keeping order by reporting all untoward incidents direct to the police. The Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew had 146,219 voters in 1944: it will have 180,124 in the present year.

Electrical Service. "A representative of the Jamaica Public Service Co., discussing with the St. Catherine Parochial Board the delay in extending electrical service in the parish, mentioned that street-lighting equipment ordered from England took two years to arrive, and then came without brackets. None the less, improved lighting could be expected in four St. Catherine towns before Christmas.

Mayorial Election. "A legal difficulty has arisen over the elections of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation Mayor. It has proved impossible to elect a chairman for the election proceedings, a tie having taken place in the voting and the law not providing for a casting vote. It will now be necessary for some voter (not a member of the Council) to move the Supreme Court for a mandamus for a new election date.

Mona Dam. "The report of Messrs. Howard Humphreys and Sons, consulting engineers, on the Mona Dam is not yet released for publication, but is understood to describe the Dam as 'an unfortunate error of judgment' and to recommend that it be written off as a dead loss for the time being.

Censorship. "Bitter opposition to the censorship of outward mails (to detect illicit currency transactions) has been voiced by the Chamber of Commerce and some sections of the Press. Reasons alleged against it are that it delays mails, repels tourists, is an attack on a sacred principle of liberty, and is unnecessary now that devaluation has enabled the legal rate of exchange to beat the black market.

"**Dissolution** of the legislature took place on November 24th (with November 28th as Nomination Day and December 20th as Election Day).

"**New immigration regulations** have been promulgated to check a possible immigration of Chinese nationals as a result of the revolutionary war in China. The regulations restrict the entry even of students and tourists of Chinese nationality if they come direct from China.

"**Devaluation** makes likely an increase in electricity rates, since fuel oil has risen sharply in price. The increase which is likely to come in January is not expected to be large, but is a reversal of the policy of the Jamaica Public Service Co., which actually reduced its rates during the war. Gasoline has risen by 4d. a gallon. But the full effects of devaluation cannot yet be gauged.

Emigration. "The impulse to emigrate remains strong. England is now the favourite destination, largely because it is easier to reach and enter than America or Liberia, but also because of some degree of

disillusionment in the case of Liberia. Many of the more thoughtful, while condemning indiscriminate emigration and stowing away, think that much could be done through planned emigration. A number of young women recently left to take assured posts in domestic service in England.

"**Professor J. H. Parry**, author of two important publications on Spanish America in the 16th century, has arrived to take up the post of Professor of History at the University College of the West Indies.

"**Lady Huggins**, wife of the Governor, is at present on a lecture tour in the United States. She is expected to return to Jamaica about December 19th.

"**Mr. J. T. Calder**, who has been acting Custos of St. Elizabeth for about 12 years, has been appointed Custos."

TRINIDAD

Lord Listowel. Our correspondent, in a letter from Port-of-Spain, dated November 24th, says: "The Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, Lord Listowel, accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. Sweaney, visited the colony from October 20th to 27th. In a full programme of engagements, he visited Tobago on October 23rd.

Governors' Conference, Barbados. "The Acting Governor, the Hon. P. M. Renison, left the colony for Barbados on November 6th to attend a conference of the Governors of the British Caribbean Colonies. Mr. J. O'Connor, Assistant Colonial Secretary, administered the Government in the absence of the Acting Governor. On his return from Barbados on November 13th, the Acting Governor was accompanied by Mr. G. F. Seel, Assistant Under Secretary of State in the Colonial Office. Mr. Seel left the colony for Jamaica on November 15th.

B.W.I. Sugar Delegation. "The Hon. Harold Robinson, chairman of the B.W.I. Sugar Association, left the colony by air for the United Kingdom on November 5th, as leader of the B.W.I. Sugar Association's four man delegation to the U.K. to continue negotiations with H.M. Government for an increased price for sugar exported to the U.K. in 1950 and a long-term purchase guarantee for British West Indies sugar. Mr. Robinson was accompanied by Mr. K. McCowan, secretary of the B.W.I. Sugar Association, who is performing secretarial duties for the delegation. Mr. H. A. Cuke, representing Barbados, was an in transit passenger on November 12th to join the delegation in the U.K. Mr. A. A. Shenfield, Government Economic Adviser, left for the United Kingdom on November 4th to support the B.W.I. delegation.

"The Legislative Council on November 18th unanimously passed a resolution put up by the Hon. Dr. Patrick Solomon fully supporting the cause of the B.W.I. Sugar delegation.

Arrival of "Sealand" Amphibian. "B.W.I.A.'s first Short 'Sealand' Amphibian—to be named R.M.S. 'St. Vincent'—arrived in the colony by the s.s. 'Novelist' on November 3rd and has been undergoing preliminary flight tests under the supervision of Flight Captain E. R. Kershaw. Mr. J. Kenny, technical manager of B.O.A.C., Mr. Smart, an engineer of the

(Continued on page 300)

Company Reports and Meetings

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas)

At a meeting of the directors held on November 21st, it was decided to recommend for the year ended September 30th, 1949, a final dividend of 4 per cent actual on the "A" stock and on the amount paid up on the "B" shares, making 8 per cent for the year, less income tax.

The net profits for the year amounted to £666,879, against £649,874 in the preceding year.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd.

MR. KENNETH A. E. MOORE, moving the adoption of the report and accounts [reviewed in last CIRCULAR] at the annual meeting held in London on October 25th, said: "While all sorts of things are happening in the outside world which directly or indirectly impinge upon our fortunes, the work of the company—the search for, and production of, oil in Trinidad—goes on steadily and energetically.

"Thus, in the past year, we have pressed on with the routine production of oil from existing wells, with the work of drilling new wells, both in proven and non-proven areas, and with preparations for the extension of the search for oil to the Moruga district. We have also taken the opportunity to acquire oil rights on additional territory, a policy which, over the last twelve years, has more than doubled the area over which we are free to operate. All the time constant geological investigation is going on with the object of adding to our knowledge of our potential reserves of oil and of improving our chances of obtaining commercial production therefrom. . . .

OIL PRICES

"During the past financial year the most notable of such occurrences was the exceptionally mild winter in the Eastern States of North America, which led to a glut of heavy fuel oil and so to a substantial fall in the Gulf Coast export price for that class of oil. As a result, the effective price received for our production began to decline in December, 1948—a decline which persisted right up to the end of the financial year. To counteract the consequential fall in our profits we took the old-fashioned but politically unpopular course of doing our best to increase production and to reduce expenditure.

"Success was achieved under both heads, with the result that the profit for the year, though inevitably reduced by the fall in price, was by no means unsatisfactory, and has enabled us, while maintaining our dividend, to add £50,000 to general reserve. In this we were helped by the fact that, at long last, our liability for taxation, including wartime taxation, was finally agreed down to July 31st, 1948, at a figure rather less than the reserves built up over the years to meet the estimated liability.

DEVALUATION OF THE £

"Since the end of the financial year something has occurred which very materially affects our fortunes—namely, the devaluation of the pound in relation to the dollar as from September 18th, 1949.

"Oil is international in character—almost a currency in itself—since it can be shipped to any country and sold for the currency of that country by reference to basic world prices, which, for most practical purposes, can be taken to be the Gulf Coast export prices.

"We sell our oil by reference to those prices and, therefore, in terms of U.S. dollars, thus the immediate effect on our fortunes is that, in terms of sterling, we are, since September 18th, receiving some 43 per cent more for our oil than we were immediately before devaluation.

"It is necessary to bear in mind that a proportion of our expenditure, notably that for Trinidad Government royalties and for purchases of plant in the U.S.A., is on a dollar basis, but our remaining expenditure—by far the larger proportion—is in sterling. It is, therefore, obvious that, all other things being equal, devaluation is likely substantially to increase our trading profits until the inescapable secondary effects of devaluation make themselves felt. In the meantime I need hardly remind you that with the increased profits tax imposed last month, taxation will take an even heavier toll than in the recent past.

OIL RESERVES

"With regard to our reserves, we have for years past been adding to the area over which we hold oil rights, which now amounts to 55,780 acres, and it is the view of our geologists that, in the proved areas alone, which cover only about one-third of the total area, there are reserves sufficient to cover the present rate of production for many years to come. These reserves, we hope, will be increased by our exploration of the Moruga district and other areas which will be drilled up in due course.

"Relations with labour have continued to be good during the past year and our workers greatly appreciate the improved medical and welfare arrangements which we have been providing increasingly in recent years as our progress justified. We have extended Dalley Village during the past year and built a number of additional houses, and you may rest assured that as employers, we are pursuing an enlightened policy in these matters.

"Commander Lavington and Lord Rothes visited the field earlier this year and were well satisfied with the state of our organization there. It is, I can assure you, a credit to the company and is making an important contribution to the economic and general welfare of Trinidad.

"Summing up, I think it fair to say that the affairs of the company are in good shape—we believe our reserve position to be satisfactory, our financial position is strong, and we have a most competent and devoted team in Trinidad carrying on the day-to-day work of the company."

Caroni, Ltd.

In their report for the year ended June 30th, the directors state that the profits of the company (including its subsidiary), after providing for depreciation and taxation, amounted to £120,822, to which has been added the balance of £25,663 brought forward, making a total of £146,485. Out of this, £20,000 has been transferred to reserve for replacement of fixed assets; £15,000 to future crops expenditure reserve; £12,000 to reserve for contributions under the staff pensions scheme; and £28,000 to general reserve, leaving a balance of £71,485.

The dividend on the £580,000 6 per cent cumulative preference stock paid for the year ended May 31st, less income tax, absorbed £19,140, and out of the balance of £52,345, the directors recommend the payment of a dividend on the £420,000 ordinary stock at the rate of 2d. per 2s. unit, less income tax, absorbing £19,250, and leaving £33,095 to be carried forward.

The 1949 sugar crop amounted to 44,600 tons, against 33,859 tons in 1948.

In his annual statement, which accompanies the report, the chairman, MR. J. GORDON MILLER, says: "I am happy to report further substantial improvement in the financial position of the company. Your directors have adhered to the limitation of dividend policy. They continue to build up reserves, which, you will agree, is sound practice, particularly in these days of crises.

"It is now proposed to initiate a new reserve by setting aside £20,000 as a first instalment in building up provision to meet requirements for advancement in efficiency. Present costs of new plants and replacement are, at least, two and a half times what they were pre-war. This established level of values seems unlikely to recede materially in the near future, and delays in deliveries still necessitate the placing of orders well ahead of actual needs. It is but wisdom to be prepared for contingencies which may arise at any time.

"Turning now to the year under review; favourable weather prevailed during the months of harvesting, and played a large part in the achievement of a record sugar crop. The final output of 44,600 tons exceeded the previous year by 10,741 tons. We are, at last, reaping the benefit from expansion of the acreage devoted to new planting and a general improvement effected in our cultivation. The froghopper did little damage during the past growing season, and our efforts continue for the steady elimination of this pest.

"There is good reason for satisfaction with the results of the crop year under review. The higher tonnage of sugar and full efficiency work in fields and factories enabled a fair return to be made from the main product, while deliveries of rum and molasses, sold earlier at remunerative prices, brought additional

'grist to the mill.' There has, since, been an almost complete cessation in the demand for 'bulk' rum and a severe slump in the price of molasses. That is likely to involve us in a serious drop in revenue from those sources.

"The set-back in values of the by-products disturbed West Indian producers of sugar, who had visions of the return of a world 'surplus' sugar position arising by the time their agreement with the Ministry of Food expired in 1952. They decided to press again, and urgently, for a positive declaration now with regard to extension of the period of the existing agreement. After recent years of experience with security of market and stability of economic prices, no colonial sugar producer could contemplate with equanimity any possibility of a drift back to the so-called 'free' market, which brought 'dumped' sugars here from Cuba and elsewhere at well under cost in the period between the two wars, lowering the standard of living in the British West Indian islands and British Guiana, and reducing those colonies to the state of depressed areas. And so a delegation from the British West Indies Sugar Association arrived here in July, followed shortly thereafter by political representatives of the Government of Jamaica. The latter added emphasis to the representations made for a continuance of stability for an agricultural industry which had developed rapidly within recent years, and is now all important to that island's economy. The discussions on this side (in which the West India Committee joined) brought forth renewal of the pledge by His Majesty's Government 'to maintain and improve the economy of the colonial territories,' acknowledgment of the fact 'that the prosperity of the sugar industry is vital to the maintenance of an adequate standard of living in sugar producing colonies such as the British West Indies,' and a declaration that 'it is their intention to make long-term arrangements which will give to the efficient producer in these areas, and elsewhere in the Commonwealth, firm assurances of markets for agreed tonnages of sugar at reasonably remunerative prices to be negotiated with the producers.'

"Another important conference has been called for November which will include representatives from all sugar areas within the British Commonwealth. There can be little doubt now that, within the Commonwealth itself, some method will be devised to ensure, for the primary producers of sugar, continuance of economic stability and a fair return for their labour, to planters, farmers, and workers alike. Be that as it may, the policy laid down by your directors, at the formation of this company, is still the main objective, namely, constant vigilance and determination to achieve and maintain the most up-to-date efficiency, thereby establishing lowest possible production costs while, at the same time, providing the best conditions for employees.

"With regard to bagasse, we have continued to meet the requirements of wallboard manufacturers. Our productive capacity for bagasse, however, far exceeds the present outlet, and we are now endeavouring to find additional outlets.

"Our new wharf at Brechin Castle, to which I referred in my last annual statement, came into operation for the first time and handled, with satisfaction and saving, the whole of our sugar and bagasse exports this year. I should like to record that the success of this scheme has largely depended upon the ability and enthusiasm of our traffic manager.

"Considerable progress has been made recently in housing. Some of the rigid government regulations on building have been relaxed, and we have encouraged our workers to build their own houses on lots provided by the company. The response has been remarkable.

"You are aware that we already provide on the estates a resident doctor, and admirable health services complete with clinics and child welfare centres. We have, also, a whole-time welfare officer (a former member of the West Indies cricket team) who, in addition to other duties, devotes his energies to maintaining physical fitness among our employees. It will interest you to know that, within the boundaries of our estates, there are actually 32 cricket teams and 8 soccer teams formed on self-help lines. Indeed, I venture to express the belief that we have now, within the organization, amenities for staff and labourers second to none in the British West Indies.

"All these endeavours help to promote the healthy environment conducive to a happy and contented community. We believe in the 'personal touch,' and all are imbued with the determination to maintain the atmosphere of good will and understanding so important for the smooth working of an industry such as ours. Relations with our employees are excellent. They are co-operating loyally in all our efforts. Success in

this respect has been assured by the men on the spot, responsible for the local management of the company's affairs, in whom we are, indeed, fortunate."

Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.

In their report for the year ended June 30th, the directors state that the profit was £186,545, which, with the balance brought forward of £50,104, amounts to £236,649. From this £110,000 has to be deducted for provision for taxation, and £43,087 for transfer to general reserve. Out of the remainder of £83,562, the directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent, free of income tax, absorbing £20,988, leaving £62,574 to be carried forward.

Sugar production was a record amounting to 63,275 tons. Of this total the Ste. Madeleine factory produced 55,592 tons, the balance of 7,683 tons being produced at the newly acquired Reform factory, negotiations for the purchase of which were successfully concluded in February of this year.

All the raw sugar for export was sold to the Ministry of Food at the same price as that for the 1948 crop, i.e., £24 10s. per ton, c.i.f., plus £2 15s. per ton to be held by the Trinidad Government as provision for Sugar Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Social Welfare.

The Rehabilitation Fund, to which the company will have contributed a total of approximately £128,000 in respect of the past three years by the time all sugar proceeds for this year's crop are realized, has been drawn upon to the extent of about £57,000.

Mr. M. S. Moody Stuart has been appointed a director of the company.

Stockholders are being asked to increase the borrowing powers of the company, and an extraordinary general meeting has been called for this purpose.

In his annual statement, which accompanies the report, the chairman, Mr. J. M. Du Buisson, says: "Since last year we have to welcome to the board Mr. Mark Moody Stuart. As some of you no doubt remember, Mr. Moody Stuart took over the factory and estates in Trinidad when they were bought from the previous owners and was, for several years, manager. Since then, he has made many visits to Trinidad and the other West Indian islands, and has a long and extensive knowledge of our problems.

"The past crop has been a record for the company, and the result has been very satisfactory. This is due principally to the fact that there was a 10 per cent increase of sucrose in the cane, and our own estates produced an average of over 5 tons of cane more per acre. These factors alone would account for the increase in profit over 1948. The weather during crop time and, in fact, throughout the growing period was excellent and estate labour worked with a will, so that the cane supply was more regular than for some years. There is one point which is causing us considerable inconvenience and some loss, that is the number of cane fires set either maliciously or by accident which makes it impossible to reap fields in their proper order. It also results in a lot of cane being sent into the factory in a very stale condition, which has an adverse effect on the factory work.

"Weather conditions in Trinidad play a very important part in the duration of the grinding period and, in recent years, we have been concentrating on getting the factory into a position to deal with 50,000 tons sugar in a normal crop period of 4½ months. In that time this year, we have managed to deal with 10 per cent more, but we cannot always rely on such favourable weather conditions, nor can we do much more to increase our present factory capacity. I mentioned last year that negotiations were then proceeding for the purchase of a small factory and estate lying on our boundary. During my visit at the beginning of this year I was able to complete the deal and, as arrangements had already been made for grinding, we were able to start up almost immediately. The factory made 7,683 tons of sugar, the canes for about one-third of which were supplied from our own estates and farmers. From every point of view your directors are satisfied that the purchase has already been, and will continue to be, of great benefit to the company.

"There was again a big rise in farmers' canes, the total being not far short of the record quantity purchased in 1937. These canes cost us considerably more than our own cane. While practically all farmers' canes were reaped, we had to leave standing for next crop some 1,100 acres of our own cane, which would have given us about 3,000 tons more sugar.

"I mentioned in 1946 that the question of taxation on certain land sales was under discussion with the Inland Revenue. We have at last been able to come to an agreement which leaves us

liable for taxation amounting to £25,000. As foreshadowed, this has been charged to capital and the Taxation Reserve covers the liability.

"The report of the Commission under Lord Soulbury was published early this year. The main recommendations concerned cane farmers and Government action with regard to housing and medical services. The problem of housing estate labour at present living in barracks is the responsibility of the Government. It is undoubtedly a thorny problem and the prospects of a solution are not improved by the utterances of local politicians.

"As for future prospects, producers throughout the B.W.I. have been, and still are, pressing for a long-term purchase agreement with the British Government, which will give to efficient producers an assurance of markets at reasonably remunerative prices. Although no agreement has yet been reached, I am hopeful that we shall achieve our object eventually. We estimate that we have about as much cane as we had for the past crop, but we cannot foresee what the weather will be or how much sucrose there will be in the cane. It must, however, be borne in mind that the revenue from by-products is considerably less than last year and is not likely to show any decided change for the better in the near future.

"I am afraid stockholders may be a little disappointed at the dividend in view of the large increase in production, but so much has to be reserved for taxation and as the capital required for financing the crop continues to increase, a heavy strain is placed on the company's finances. The board feel that until a favourable opportunity presents itself for increasing the capital of the company, it is necessary to conserve our resources. In the meantime, it has necessitated our calling an extraordinary general meeting to obtain the necessary authority for increasing our borrowing powers."

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

The directors, in their report for the year ended June 30th, 1949, state that, after charging £681,387 for depreciation and providing £1,485,000 for taxation and £139,836 for contingencies, the profit was £548,134. The interim dividend of 2.4d. per 5s. stock unit, free of income tax, amounted to £65,578, leaving £482,556. The directors have transferred £200,000 to exploration and plant replacement reserve, and £100,000 to general reserve, and from the remainder of £182,556, recommend the payment of a final dividend of 6d. per 5s. stock unit, free of income tax, which will require £163,945. The remaining sum of £18,611, added to the balance brought forward of £204,548, will leave £223,159 to be carried forward.

The results for the year, compared with those of the preceding year, were unfavourably affected by lower market prices and heavier working expenditure, offset in some measure by an increase in the volume of sales.

As in previous years, depreciation has been provided for on a conservative basis, which the directors consider necessary, having regard to the nature of the company's business and the high cost of replacement.

Comparative figures for the last four years are as follows:—

	1949	Year Ended June 30th		
		1948	1947	1946
Footage drilled:				
Own fields	114,595	154,853	132,683	152,617
Joint interest fields	19,071	22,640	30,002	4,000
Crude oil produced	6,130,900	6,172,600	6,480,400	6,419,800
Crude oil purchased and from joint fields	9,824,300	8,446,900	5,870,100	6,012,800
Total crude oil	15,955,200	14,619,500	12,330,500	12,432,600

Routine operations and developments, state the directors, were again handicapped by delayed delivery of materials and equipment, although the position has eased slightly in some respects as compared with recent years. Operations generally continued to be adversely affected by currency restrictions.

The volume of crude oil refined by the company for its own account was 14,194,600 barrels as compared with 13,951,400 barrels in the previous year. In addition, South American crudes continued to be processed on behalf of the Texas Petroleum Company. An increased quantity of crude was exported to the company's Canadian subsidiary—Trinidad Leaseholds (Canada) Limited.

The company continued to operate the Cruse and Wilson Fields of Trinidad Central Oilfields Limited and the Morne Diablo area of Siparia Trinidad Oilfields Limited on a joint interest basis.

The total area in Trinidad controlled by the company at June 30th, 1949 (excluding joint venture holdings), was 123,869 acres, of which 122,320 acres comprised oil rights.

These include the company's participation in North Venezuelan Petroleum Company Limited, Siparia Trinidad Oilfields Limited, Trinidad Northern Areas Limited, Regent Oil Company Limited and the "Tricana" group of companies for chemical manufacture.

Brigadier R. S. G. Stokes has retired from the board to take up an appointment in South Africa. Mr. R. Beaumont has resigned from the board on retirement from business. Mr. Simon J. Vos has been elected chairman and Major Kenneth Gordon has been appointed managing director. Mr. T. Muir Warden has been appointed a director.

The chairman, Mr. SIMON J. Vos, in the course of his annual statement, which accompanies the report, says: "The year under review has been one of steady progress for the company. The refinery throughput has increased. Regent Oil Company Ltd. continues to make extremely satisfactory progress.

"The latter half of the period under review was marked by a severe drop in fuel oil prices, which is largely responsible for the reduction in the profits of your company to below last year's level.

"Although these prices have recovered somewhat they are still considerably below those ruling a year ago. We should therefore expect even further reduced profits in the current year, but this may be offset, to some extent, by price changes resulting from the devaluation of the pound. With regard to this factor, we cannot at the moment make any comment except that it is clear that, for some time to come, oil prices throughout the world must remain tied to American prices. Realizations in terms of sterling currencies should therefore rise accordingly. Working costs have already risen because of the consequential increase of royalties and the rise in price of purchased oil. There is bound also to be an increase in costs due to secondary effects of devaluation, but it is too early to express any opinion as to the extent to which these factors will offset the higher realizations."

FIELDS OPERATIONS

After dealing with the accounts the chairman continues: "Our total production has remained approximately constant. The supply of equipment needed for production has, to some extent, improved and the number of wells awaiting equipment has been reduced. During the year three of the latest types of heavy drilling rigs were purchased. The first of these is in operation, the second is rigging up and the third is expected to be in use before the end of 1949. This new equipment will enable us to speed up the rate of drilling, and we hope it will make profitable the exploitation of oil sands at considerably deeper levels than those at present producing. We have also been able to make more rapid progress in drilling, through the development by our staff of an oil base drilling mud which is particularly suitable for some of the difficult rocks encountered in the island.

"Work on repressuring the fields has continued and it appears to be profitable if only from the point of view of its value as a method of recovery. It is hoped that it will also improve our ultimate recovery and reserves, but we will have to wait until a later date before assessing its value in this respect.

"The costs of production have again risen, and the increase is due partly to the high royalties now payable to the Trinidad Government. In view of the small size of the oil reservoirs in Trinidad compared with those which are found in other parts of the world, it is essential that we maintain our operating costs at the lowest possible level, and also that we are not unduly burdened with high royalties.

"The Clarke Road well, which was referred to last year in the chairman's statement, ceased flow due to a casing collapse a few days after production started. It was successfully redrilled and produced 25,000 barrels of oil in the last two months of the financial year. With a depth of 10,087 feet, it is the deepest producer in Trinidad. We hope that further drilling in this region will indicate some increase in our reserves of oil.

"Work continues in the Guayaguayare region, but although the test well at Lizard Springs has proved the existence of a reservoir, so far, commercial production of oil has not yet been achieved. A second test well in the upper cretaceous rocks in the same region at Beach Field is in progress.

REFINERY ACTIVITIES

"The refinery throughput has continued to increase through the removal of bottlenecks and the increase in storage and handling facilities. The efficiency and cost of refining have

remained satisfactory. During the year there were two fires in the refinery, firstly the destruction of a tank full of naphtha and secondly a fire on the reforming plant during overhaul. The fire on the reformer did not do much material damage, but I regret to say that it unfortunately resulted in the death of three employees, and injuries in varying degrees to twenty-seven others.

"During the year under review, a record throughput was reached. Rather less than half of this throughput consists of indigenous oil produced by us, or purchased from other companies operating in the island. During this period we have negotiated a new long-term contract with the most important of our suppliers of indigenous crude oil, Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields Ltd.

"The imported crude oil is supplied under contract by the Creole Petroleum Corporation, or processed on behalf of the Texas Petroleum Company. In view of the probably limited extent of the oil supplies in the island, we regard the development of our refinery for processing imported crudes as an important part of the economy of both your company and the colony.

"I am pleased to report that our approaches to the Trinidad Government have resulted in exemption from duty, subject to reasonable conditions, for oil imported for a period of 25 years. This will enable us to make contracts for processing imported crudes many years ahead, and was helpful to the board in coming to a decision to sanction the large capital expenditure for the modernization of the refinery.

"The capacity of the refinery, now in excess of 2,000,000 barrels a month, cannot be utilized economically as the capacity of our cracking plant does not match this throughput. The position will be worsened in the course of the next two or three years by the need which will arise to take out of service our two oldest cracking units. The board has therefore decided to embark on an extensive programme for modernization. The most important part of this scheme is the installation of a fluid catalyst cracking plant with a capacity of 15,000 barrels a day, with its attendant vacuum distillation column for feed preparation. It is expected that this work will be completed in 1952. Government approval is still awaited.

"When the new plant is in use not only will we have ample cracking capacity, but also we will be able to make petrol to meet any likely gasoline specification required by the market anywhere in the world. To the extent that gasoline of the highest grade is not needed, then the gasoline from this plant can be equally profitably utilized by taking advantage of its quality for blending up gasoline of lower grade, thus avoiding reforming. The product will be improved both in octane number and in volatility, and make unnecessary the purchase of natural gasoline for blending. The plant will also help our manufacture of aviation spirit and some of the chemical operations in which we are engaged.

"It is expected that nearly all the equipment needed for this refinery extension can be purchased in this country, and that our dollar requirements will therefore be reduced to a minimum. The Board of the Company is satisfied that the increased proportion of gasoline that will be made should result in an ample financial return on the heavy capital outlay, which we estimate at £4,000,000 approximately.

"This figure illustrates the high cost of modern refining equipment today, and confirms the need for a conservative financial policy. It also demonstrates the harmful effect of present day high taxation on profits. All industry, like ourselves, must re-equip with the most modern plant, which has to be purchased at today's high prices. Funds provided by depreciation of equipment at pre-war values are inadequate and must be supplemented by reserves accumulated from taxed profits.

"The company has for many years been a royalty-paying licensee of Universal Oil Products Company for thermal cracking processes. We have been successful in negotiating a new contract with this company, under which we undertake to pay them in substitution for royalties an annual minimum sum entitling us to the use of their research, technical and engineering services. This arrangement is expected to be of great benefit to your company, providing as it does the technical facilities of one of the best petroleum engineering firms in the United States, and at the same time effecting a substantial reduction in our expenditure and dollar payments. Government approval is still awaited."

[The remainder of the speech of Mr. Vos will appear in next issue. Ed.]

West Indian Passenger List

Booker Line

Sailings to British Guiana, in s.s. Arakaka (Captain J. McIntyre), from Liverpool, November 23rd :-

Mrs. H. Bowman	Miss V. I. Hing	Mr. J. B. Reece
Mrs. C. F. Costello	Mr. H. A. Hing Cheong	Mr. & Mrs. G. M. Strang
Mr. H. L. Goodrick	Mrs. A. M. Kemlo	

Home arrivals from British Guiana, in s.s. Arakaka (Captain J. McIntyre), at Liverpool, November 11th :-

Mr. T. Anderson	Mrs. Crossland-Hinchcliffe	Hon. W. L. Heape
Mr. G. Bowser	Mrs. M. Davies	Mr. & Mrs. J. Lawrence
Mr. N. Clegg	Mrs. M. A. Griffiths	Mr. W. McKinnon

Fyffes Line

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Manistee (Captain H. J. Robinson), from London, October 4th :-

Mrs. D. Edmonds	Mr. D. Marphail	Miss M. Wilson
Miss G. Fraser	Mr. & Mrs. Scott	Mr. & Mrs. Zaus
Mr. & Mrs. Lopes		

Sailings to Jamaica and Trinidad, in s.s. Cavina (Captain S. A. Sapsworth), from Avonmouth, November 3rd :-

Mrs. H. M. Adams	Mr. R. W. Eyre	Miss J. P. Lawson
Rev. J. W. Birkby	Mr. & Mrs. V. L. George	Mrs. M. C. Marchallick
Mr. D. M. Bourne	Mr. B. Gonsalves	Miss O. V. Markland
Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Drennan	Mrs. E. M. Gulland	Mrs. E. Matthews
Mrs. M. H. Brown	Mrs. M. Hammond	Mrs. M. L. Mulkeru
Mrs. E. M. Burgess-Webb	Mr. & Mrs. K. Houghton	Mr. T. D. Ogier
Mr. K. H. Burt	Major S. W. Henwood	Mrs. P. M. Ratchiff
Mr. & Mrs. K. H. Coleman	Miss D. H. Holden	Capt. & Mrs. C. Rathkiss
Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Collier	Mr. & Mrs. H. Humphrys	Mr. & Mrs. D. G. Semple
Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Dale	Mrs. A. U. Irving	Prof. C. Y. Shepherd
Mrs. H. C. Dallmeyer	Miss A. J. Jelfers	Mrs. G. Thompson
Mr. K. J. Davidson	Mr. & Mrs. E. Johnson	Mrs. M. S. Walcott
Capt. & Mrs. E. De Pass	Mr. K. M. Kinnison	Miss D. M. Waley
Mr. L. Edwards	Miss J. M. Lange	Mrs. C. L. Yearwood

Sailings to Jamaica, in s.s. Bayano (Captain R. A. Thorburn), from Avonmouth, November 17th :-

Mr. & Mrs. L. P. Albergo	Dr. & Mrs. W. Farquarson	Mr. J. McLoughlin
Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Archer	Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Farquarson	Mr. H. Owen
Mr. S. Bird	Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Filby	Miss I. Owen
Mr. C. V. Black	Mrs. E. D. Griffiths	Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Palmer
Mr. W. Bliss	Mr. & Mrs. L. G. Harrison	Mr. & Mrs. D. G. Perkins
Mr. & Mrs. A. Boughton	Miss J. Hartnell-Deavis	Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Plevs
Mrs. I. E. Boughton	Mr. J. Jaquet	Mr. & Mrs. R. V. Sara
The Hon. Mrs. R. Boyle	Mr. & Mrs. W. Langenegger	Mrs. S. Simons
Miss L. J. Calder	Mr. B. Levy	Mr. & Mrs. M. N. Staight
Mr. & Mrs. W. de M. Clarke	Mrs. M. M. Lindo	Mr. & Mrs. G. C. Stubbs
Mrs. A. Edwards		Mr. & Mrs. A. Tic Ten
Mr. R. J. Enderseley		Queec

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Manistee (Captain H. J. Robinson), at London, November 3rd :-

Mrs. A. Hewitt	Miss I. Redmond	Mr. & Mrs. Simpson
Miss D. M. Peart		

Home arrivals from Jamaica and Bermuda, in s.s. Bayano (Captain R. A. Thorburn), at Avonmouth, on November 7th :-

Mr. & Mrs. G. Barrett	Mr. J. G. Jeffery	Mr. L. W. Milligan
Mrs. S. M. Brothers	Mr. & Mrs. W. Kilpatrick	Mrs. G. O'Brien
Mr. S. J. Brown	Mrs. E. Landsberg	Mr. C. V. Parker
Mr. C. Burkett	Mr. & Mrs. L. Landsberg	Mr. R. A. Rangel Bron
Mr. M. A. Courtenay	Mr. & Mrs. R. Lees	Mrs. E. N. Wailes-
Mr. C. Davies	Mrs. A. I. Lowe	Kazimirski
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Dowse	Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Mason	Mr. J. W. White
Mr. J. C. Duncan	Mr. & Mrs. A. D. McLean	Mr. P. J. Woodley
Mr. J. E. Fullbrook	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Miller	

Home arrivals from the West Indies, in s.s. Ariguana (Captain G. S. Gracie), at Avonmouth, November 21st :-

Mrs. E. Adams	Miss M. M. Haig	Mr. D. G. Moncrieff
Mr. A. Anderson	Miss T. Hales	Mrs. M. C. Murray
Mr. S. M. Bullinoria	Mrs. A. V. Hayes	Miss E. L. Parker
Mr. W. Birrell	Mrs. H. Hunter	Miss B. M. Powell
The Hon. K. L. Bradshaw	Mrs. G. I. Ingram	Miss V. R. Ricketts
Mr. G. E. Clyne	Mr. A. E. Jones	Mrs. M. J. Rowe
Miss L. Cook	Mr. C. W. Kingham	Mrs. A. Sang
Mrs. D. S. Cozier	Miss M. Lawson	Miss D. M. Shipman
Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Fadden	Mr. A. W. Long	Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Smyth
Mr. C. W. Fishlock	Mr. & Mrs. E. F. Maingot	Miss A. A. Thomas
Mr. C. J. Fleming	Miss I. Metz	Mr. & Mrs. H. Townrow
Mr. D. Govao	Mr. H. A. Middleton	Mr. L. T. Winkler
Mr. A. D. Greene	The Hon. E. C. Mitchell	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. Eros (Captain R. C. Vigners), at London, November 24th :-

Dr. & Mrs. F. R. Allen	Miss E. F. Gray	Miss G. Shand
Miss P. M. Brown	Maj. R. L. Hill	Mr. A. L. Taylor
Rev. & Mrs. W. L. Burton	Miss W. C. Jones	Capt. J. E. Townend
Mrs. R. V. Findley	Mr. & Mrs. H. Kay	Mrs. E. C. Willoughby
Miss N. Forrester	Mr. R. R. Schubert	

Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

Home arrivals from the West Indies, in s.s. Boskoop (Captain J. J. Jansen), at Plymouth, September 28th :-

Mr. T. N. Blades	Mrs. A. S. Duncan	Mrs. M. J. Mull
Miss E. A. Burlingbaum	Miss A. M. Harkness	Mr. & Mrs. R. Pearson
Mr. R. Connolly	Mr. P. Keevil	Mr. D. A. Williams
Miss C. Cook	Mr. H. A. McIvile	

The Markets

December 2nd, 1949

STOCKS AND SHARES. The latest prices and those of a year ago are shown below:—

Dividend for Latest Year		Latest Quotation	Price Year Ago
2½	Consols	72 74xd	79 81xd
3½	War Loan	93½ 95½	103 104
20	Angostura Bitters	77/6 82/6xd	85/- 95/-
10	Angostura Bitters Par. Pref.	32/6 35/-xd	41/3 46/3
—	Antigua Sugar Factory	11/6 12/6	14/- 15/-
*30	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields 5/-	35/7½ 38/1½	44/3 45/8
8	Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) "A"	46/- 51/-xd	55/6 59/6xd
*11½	Booker Bros. McConnell 10/-	25/- 27/6	30/-† 35/-†
6	Booker Bros. McConnell 6% Pref.	23/9 26/3	29/4 31/10
5	British Guiana Cons. Gold 3/9	1/7½ 2/1½	1/7½ 2/1½
8½	Caroni Ltd. 2/-	2/9 3/6	3/3 4/3
4	Caroni Ltd. 6% Pref.	20/- 22/6	22/6 25/-
*7½	Jamaica Sugar Estates 2/6	3/9 4/9	5/6 6/6
12½	Kern Oil Co. 3/4	11/- 12/-	11/9 12/9
10	Linnner & Trinidad Asphalt. Ord.	40/- 42/0	48/9 51/3
—	Premier (Trinidad) Oilfields 2/-	-/6 1/6	1/6 2/6
11	Royal Bank of Canada 3/0	185/- 205/-	160/- 180/-
*17½	St. Kitts (London) Sugar	59/- 61/-	60/- 70/-
*3	Ste. Madeleine Sugar	16/3 18/9	17/9 19/-
10	Trinidad Central Oilfields 10/-	18/- 19/-	20/6 22/-
—	Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields 4/-	-/6 1/6	3/- 4/-
*14	Trinidad Leaseholds 5/-	23/6 25/-	30/6 32/-
*16½	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 5/-	24/- 25/6	29/9 31/3
6	Trinidad Pet. Dev. Co. 6% Pref.	21/3 22/6	22/- 24/-
7½	Trinidad Sugar Estates 5/-	4/9 5/9	5/3 6/3
8½	United British Oilfields 6/8	21/6 23/-	22/3 23/9
5	West Indies Sugar	18/9 20/-	18/8 19/6
6	West Indies Sugar 6% Pref.	22/6 25/-	23/9 25/-

* Free of Income Tax.

† £ 1 Shares.

Honey. The Ministry of Food recently agreed to lift the price control from honey. There is no West Indian offering at the moment; there has been no alteration in the price of other descriptions available here.

Pimento. Owing to the estimated short crop in Jamaica, the island is not offering at the moment. The c.i.f. quotation remains unaltered at 119/-, but holders of small quantities on the spot are asking 1/2½ per lb. ex wharf. There is a good inquiry from the Continent and the home trade awaiting satisfaction.

Ginger. A small sale of Jamaica No. 3 on the spot was made at 352/6 per cwt. ex wharf. It is reported that new crop No. 3 has been offered at 275/- c.i.f., without buyers showing interest. New crop African is offered at 250/- c.i.f.

Nutmegs. There is very little inquiry either from the Continent or the United Kingdom. The Grenada Association increased their prices during the month and sound unassorted is now quoted at 1/10 per lb. c.i.f., 80's at 2/6 and defective at 1/6.

Mace. The Grenada Association has again increased its prices and whole pale is now quoted at 5/6 c.i.f., No. 1 broken at 4/6 and No. 2 broken at 3/10. There is very little demand on the spot with holders asking 6/- for whole pale, and 1/- to 4/6 for broken descriptions according to quality.

Sugar. The Board of Trade Returns for October are as follows:—

Imports of Unrefined	tons	Month of October		January-October	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
Mauritius	...	27,599	44,919	97,885	171,747
Australia	...	41,794	45,133	98,419	239,482
Piji	...	—	—	8,195	4,432
British West Indies	...	4,269	1,380	252,411	272,029
British Guiana	...	6,387	1,503	57,198	70,641
Other British Countries	...	5,419	15,515	5,420	37,685
Dutch East Indies	...	—	—	4,616	—
Cuba	...	14,012	64,962	681,453	569,688
Hayti	...	—	—	18,665	16,341
Dominican Republic	...	2,233	5,622	192,929	337,315
Mexico	...	—	1,935	96,339	66,540
Peru	...	13,778	—	48,525	12,569
Other Foreign Countries	...	—	—	—	9,877
Total		115,491	180,969	1,562,055	1,808,426
		Month of September		January-September	
Consumption Refined	...	2	1	88	16
Unrefined	...	100,448	206,740	1,698,762	1,675,274
Total		100,450	206,741	1,698,850	1,675,290
		Stocks (end of September)			
Home Grown Beet	...	11,500	13,150	—	—
Imported Refined	...	325,300	348,050	—	—
Imported Unrefined	...	—	—	—	—
Total		336,800	361,200	—	—

Rum. The Board of Trade Returns for October are as follows:—

Imports	proof gallons	Month of October		January-October	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
Union of South Africa	...	306,129	180,635	1,105,934	1,119,201
Mauritius	...	80,885	74,686	1,999,469	1,892,659
British West Indies	...	288,718	24,589	2,595,462	3,045,658
British Guiana	...	253,634	242,713	1,694,805	2,314,664
Other British Countries	...	27,896	—	163,812	22,480
Foreign Countries	...	—	26	5,503	6,115
Total		957,280	522,623	7,564,985	8,400,987
		Exports			
Exports	...	13,899	26,322	168,153	307,787
		Consumption			
Consumption	...	172,654	149,945	2,461,029	1,267,569
		Stocks (end of September)			
Stocks	...	6,959,000	12,666,000	—	—

Cocoa. The Board of Trade Returns for October are as follows:—

Imports	cwt.	Month of October		January-October	
		1948	1949	1948	1949
British West Africa	...	17,258	71,609	1,839,714	2,743,212
British West Indies	...	—	—	61,973	57,623
Other British Countries	...	—	—	9,069	8,018
Foreign	...	16,911	31,369	40,871	128,974
Total		34,169	102,978	1,951,627	2,937,827
		Exports			
Exports	...	—	—	—	—
		Consumption			
Consumption	...	82,613	173,583	1,926,186	2,711,456
		Stocks (end of September)			
Stocks	...	1,000	39,000	—	—

(Continued from page 295)

company, and Mr. Shaw, a representative of the De Havilland Aircraft Company's engine division, have also been present during assembly and tests. The aircraft successfully completed the first of her tropical tests for Air Registration Board purposes on November 19th. It is expected to go into service on December 1st.

Cricket. "By taking six wickets for 18 runs at Queen's Park Oval on November 13th for Mr. Gomez' XI against Mr. Stollmeyer's XI in one of a series of trial games for the selection of the Trinidad team to play against Jamaica here in January, fast bowler Frank King is likely to have gained himself a place not only in the Trinidad team but also in the West Indies team to tour England in 1950. The 23-year old Barbados professional (now living in this colony) was coached by Herman Griffith while he was a groundsman at the Empire Club in Barbados.

"Sir Geoffrey Heyworth, chairman of Lever Brothers and Unilever, Ltd., accompanied by his brother, Mr. J. L. Heyworth, who is a director of Lever Brothers, and Mr. J. P. Stubbs, visited the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture on November 14th. On arrival at the college they were met by the Principal, Mr. H. J. Page. They then inspected the library and the departments of Botany, Entomology and Chemistry and Soil Science, and were shown around by the heads of these departments. The party then drove through the college grounds to the college farm buildings."

Trinidad Oil Industry

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. For the month of October production of crude oil and casing head gasoline amounted to 252,017 barrels.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. Production for the four weeks ended October 31st was 437,051 barrels.

Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. The crude oil output for October was 258,544 barrels.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. For the month of October crude oil production, from own fields only, amounted to 534,206 barrels.